



Board of Directors Meeting
April 2, 2012; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez; Magaly Abrahante; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (Treasurer); Theresa Axford; Yolando Borroto; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.; Shaleen Fagundo; Esther Jacobo; Yvonne Johnson, M.D.; Commissioner Barbara Jordan; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Harve Mogul; Yesenia Perkins; Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq.; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Ann Karen Weller (R.N., B.S.N.); David Williams, Jr.; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees: Rick Beasley; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Lisa Martinez; Jane McQueen

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Christina Vila; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Carol Brogan; Aileen Martinez; Bethany Sands; Humberto Franquiz; Sandra Gonzalez; Jackye Russell; Mercy Castiglione; Georgia Thompson; Oderay Veliz; Melody Thelwell; Fiorella Altare; Eddy Copin; Christina Sabater; Kerry Allen; Trish Alonso; Ileana Vallejo; Mary Williams, (via conf. call); ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Milton Silvera

General Attendees: Sally Shay, MDCPS; Dolores Mendoza, MDCPS; Phyllis Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Tonnette Collins, Sweet Vine; Rachel Grant, HYCCF; Gail Gregg, Florida International University; Rochelle Boreland; Alejandra Vivenco; Antonia Llorens, Centro Mater East; Holly Zwerling, Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida; Daryl Greenfield, University of Miami; Mercy Nyman, FUMCS; Debra Schwartz; Juliette Bernard, Miami-Dade; Jorge Napoles, Kids Kollege/County Club; Sara Morales, Miami-Dade; Angela Messina, Miami-Dade; San Juanita de la Cruz, MDCPS; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Veronica Fernandez, University of Miami; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Jeremy Glazer, The Children's Trust; Barbara Thomas-Robinson, CDS- Miami-Dade; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade; Myria Morgan, South Florida Workforce; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Rolanda Scott, HeadStart; Linda Carmona, AECE; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade; Tracy Goodman Rogers, Miami-Dade; Lori Hanson, The Children's Trust; Adam Winsler, George Mason University; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House Family Services; Giselle Dove, Miami Children's Initiative; W.J. Blechman, M.D.; Lidia Esther Almanz, EDS F.S.R.; Elizabeth Bezos, RCA; Alberto Parjus, CAHS; Gladys R. Montes, United Way Center for Excellence; Jacq Cotya, The Children's Trust; Carmen Gutierrez, Miami-Dade; Rose Marie Insemi, Quality Counts Career Center; Champagne Girten, Legal Services of Greater Miami; Maritza Alonzo, Miami-Dade County



I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Christina Vila called roll and a quorum was established with eighteen (18) voting members.
- O. Verdeja welcomed Dr. Adam Winsler, who would be presenting later on in the meeting.
- He introduced the three departing Board Members, Danny Armstrong, Jessy Perkins and Gerry Schwartz. These three individuals have been incredibly supportive and have done a lot for this organization. Evelio Torres also said a few words of thanks, calling them three really exceptional Board members. They were presented with plaques in honor of the hard work they do. Each had a chance to speak. New board members were named, Monroe Commissioner Heather Carruthers and Doug Blomberg, President and CEO of Wesley House Family Services. Doug stated he is looking forward to the position and appreciated the opportunity to serve.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 3/05/12.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Joint Governance and Bylaws/Nominating Committee Meeting

Alan Eckstein, Esq.;

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.

- Dr. Johnson reviewed the nominations for the new board members, voted on by the Nominating Committee. Brought it to the board for a full vote.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Per bylaws changes, we will continue to have Commissioner Jordan and Lisa Martinez serving as non-voting ex-officio members.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - O. Verdeja seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- O. Verdeja named appointees for new officer positions: Cindy Lederman for Vice Chair, Esther Jacobo for Treasurer and Lucy Pinero as Secretary. Asked the board for a vote to approve these nominations.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Y. Johnson seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- O. Verdeja announced an almost complete turnover of the Finance Committee members. Thanked the departing members of the committee, Y. Perkins and D. Armstrong. Asked the Board to approve the appointments of Esther Jacobo (Chair), Harve Mogul, Theresa Axford, and Octavio Verdeja.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- A. Eckstein was not at the meeting, so E. Torres provided an update on the Bylaw Committee. They will be sending out an update on changes being made to the bylaws and will be voting on the revised bylaws during the May meeting.

IV. Audit Report/Monitoring Report	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
---	---------------------------------------

- O. Verdeja presented the Auditing Report and the Harvey, Covington and Thomas (Office of Early Learning) monitoring report. Both reports are clean, with no findings or observations on either report. Congratulated Mercy Castiglione and her team for allowing us to receive a great report from our auditors. M. Castiglione stated it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the ELC staff.

V. Finance Committee Report	Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.
------------------------------------	--------------------------------

- D. Armstrong stated the finances are absolutely right on target. Variance is at 2 percent, except in Grants and Contracts where it is at 4 percent. Finance team is doing an excellent job managing things.
- Motion to approve Resolution 032912-01, authorizing the President and CEO to execute the first amendment to contract, C11-111, with Miami-Dade County to provide School Readiness Subsidized Childcare Services. The contract amount is \$95,483,960.00. This amendment adds an additional \$852,355.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$96,336,315.00, subject to availability of funding.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 032912-03, authorizing the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C11-117, with United Way of Miami-Dade, Inc., to provide additional training sessions for the Quality Counts program. The current grant/contract amount is \$286,815,000.00. This amendment adds an additional \$71,525.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$358,340.00, subject to availability of funding.
 - Y. Johnson moved to approve the motion.
 - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed, with the recusal of H. Mogul.



- D. Armstrong presented an update on the Snapshots. There has been an increase of 496 slots. At this point, we are comfortable that we will be able to manage this. Our school-aged numbers have dropped in the eligibility category. Some of the older children will remain; children who are currently enrolled will be grandfathered-in. Finance committee expressed concern on how we would continue providing care for the older children. Other issues affect the way the monitor reviews the finance committee and reviews enrollment. New legislation gives us a little less of an ability to keep track adjust. In Miami-Dade, the plan is to enroll as we have people leave the system, pretty much 1:1.
 - Monroe County is right on target. They will not need additional funds.
 - Staff is doing a phenomenal job tracking data and finances.

VI. Program & Strategy	David Williams, Jr. & Hon. Judge Cindy Lederman
-----------------------------------	--

- E. Torres stated that there are three standards we would like to support. Part of the discussion is that we want people to be approved by NAEYC because they have the highest standards. Have determined with the Office of Early Learning to make sure that those 3 are OK and not the 14 accrediting organizations the state has. These are the three with the highest standards and are nationally recognized. Standards are high, but not unattainable.
- D. Lawrence asked what this would mean for Quality Counts, the consequences it would have on the program.
- E. Torres stated that the state's Department of Children and Families is authorized to choose the accrediting organizations in Florida (the 14 mentioned). All the ELC wants to do is support less.
- H. Mogul asked Evelio what he meant when he used the word "support."
- E. Torres stated it meant that contracts would be very specific and intentional. By supporting them, it meant we would fund them. We would work very intentionally with providers who would want to become NAEYC accredited.
- Most of our centers are APPLE accredited. We would need to be more specific as to what we expect.
- S. Fagundo added that there would be repercussions to this. Participation in Quality Counts should be considered, and the fact that there are limited funds for Quality Counts. It is not an open door for every provider in the community who want to be in QC. Providers accredited by APPLE will flood to Quality Counts' doors. Pursuing NAEYC accreditations is not feasible for business for centers in low-income communities. There is not a significant return on investment. It's a huge kick in the gut.
- D. Lawrence believes we need a full, rigorous discussion involving the whole board. We need to talk to providers to ask for their opinion. We need to embrace, include providers in discussions. What are the implications? At the



heart of this, we believe high quality brings real and positive outcomes. Is it legally possible to do? Wants a Board Discussion reserved for this topic.

- As a Board, we have to have a real stand on standards for early childhood education. Shaleen is talking about available financial resources. We need a larger group discussion to take into account resources that we have. Having said that, I believe the Programs committee is moving in the right direction by making this statement. It started a good conversation
- Commissioner Jordan agrees with full discussion. A concern she has is that if we come up with a standard, there should be a consistency of a single standard this board is selecting. Parents should be able to see that this is the standard that has been served by this board. As stated by Shaleen, you have to look at the ramifications of going forth. Ideally, all of us would like to see the gold seal standard, but is it reasonable? Is it achievable for the majority for the providers who want to get there? Do they have the staff or resources?
- H. Mogul stated we need to reflect and start thinking about what support means. We have the ability of holding up to the community our opinions about the best. We need to get past “fund or don’t fund.”
- Y. Borroto stated it would have to be a discussion where the individuals knowledgeable of accreditations have to be present at the table. Some accreditations measure quality and some measure quantity. None of them are impossible. If we are going to support this quality, we need to look at the very best and start from there.
- D. Lawrence: there are 14 standards set by statute. We need a healthy moment of understanding all the questions.
- Dr. Johnson stated we need to educate the public through the website of the different accreditations and what they mean.
- D. Lawrence said this is still an extraordinary opportunity for a learning discussion.
- Commissioner Jordan stated we need additional clarification. We consider NAEYC the premiere standard, so is APPLE not an acceptable standard? That is what I am not clear on. We have 14 that are inclusive on the gold seal, so where can the community go to see where they rank each center? My point is that we need to come up to a point that parents can say, this is a certified site voted upon by this board. If 14 is a range, then we have no space, just a range.
- D. Lawrence made a plea for the meeting, but he will be in Mississippi on May 7. Asked, personally and professionally, for a meeting he can attend.
- S. Fagundo has concerns that this conversation will be fuel to this fire.
- O. Verdeja suggested an educational meeting to learn about the 14 accrediting bodies.



VII. CEO Report	Evelio. C. Torres, CEO
------------------------	-------------------------------

- Please refer to www.elcmdm.org for the presentation.

VIII. Child Research, Evaluation, Data & IT Services	Dr. Adam Winsler
---	-------------------------

- Please refer to www.elcmdm.org for the presentation.

IX. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
----------------------------	--------------------------------

- Providers would like the meeting discussed in the Program and Strategy section to be open to providers with enough notice so they may attend. This is a crucial discussion they want to be a part of. A couple of weeks notice would be great. It would help them see where they stand in regards to star rating in Quality Counts.
- Linda Carmona stated that it should not be about discontinuing accrediting, but about whether we will continue to fund through Quality Counts. Some of the low-performing providers may be duplicated on the lists. She stated that providers are not absolved from the pre-filled forms. She stated to Dr. Winsler that perhaps Latinos gravitate to family childcare home because of the extended hours and the cost.
- L. Carmona stated that improving quality involves improving the reimbursement rate
- L. Pinero requested information from Dr. Winsler on welfare statistics.

X. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
-------------------	--------------------------------