

# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
June 4, 2012; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Esther Jacobo (Treasurer); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq.; Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley; Doug Blomberg; Yolanda Borroto; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; David Lawrence, Jr.; Jane McQueen; Harve Mogul; David Williams, Jr.; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Lisa Martinez

**Board Absentees:** Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; Commissioner Barbara Jordan

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Leana Pena; Christina Vila; Tarnell Carroll; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Oderay Velez; Melody Thelwell; Christina Sabater; Mary Williams, (attended via conference call); Kristina Alonso; Christine Hughes; Jose Hernandez

**General Attendees:** Bob De La Fuente, Tew Cardenas, LLP (Board Counsel); Rosa M. Gonzalez, RV Little Giant Day Care; Victor Gonzalez, RV Little Giant Day Care; Alissa Stein, HIPPY; Leo Carter, ATT; Carlos A. Garcia, DCF; Laura Haim, UWCFE; Jerome Levitt, Advanced Research Consulting; Ardene Estrada, MDC; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Carole Bernstein, HIPPY; Jeff Hurst, DCF; Lynda Colaizzi, HIPPY; Henry Green, HIPPY; Gail Gregg, FIU; Peggy Gaines, HIPPY; Gladys R. Montes, UWCFE; Rochelle Boreland, MDC Commission; Evelyn Jordan, MDC; Evelyn Schwartz, HIPPY; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Briana Sheaffer, YMCA; Juliette Bernand, MDC; Phyllis Saunders, MDC; Lidia Clarke, FCI

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with eighteen (18) voting members.
- O. Verdeja announced that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item, to see Leana Pena for a conflict of interest form.

- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC News Alert & ELC Parent Link newsletters were included in this month's packet.
- B. De La Fuente reviewed the Board member issues related to Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D. The Board asked if we could support her serving a full eight years, as she assumed the position of Norma Hendricks, who had only four months left on her term when Gina assumed her position. Gina became a Board member in December, 2007. Gina is eligible to serve two complete terms: Dec 2007-Dec 2011; and the second being December 2011-December 2015. The records regarding her membership should be corrected through Board approval.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve this motion.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- O. Verdeja stated he was proud to announce that the ELC has welcomed its 500<sup>th</sup> provider into Quality Counts, the county's Quality Rating Improvement System. This is an important accomplishment because as you know, Quality Counts is a voluntary five star-rating system that evaluates providers on factors such as an atmosphere that promotes learning; teacher certification; student/teacher ratios; and much more. Reaching the 500<sup>th</sup> mark demonstrates the dedication of these providers to provide a high quality early education. Quality Counts is so popular that we have over 150 providers waiting to join the program. Our ultimate goal is to work in partnership with provider, families and others to ensure all children are getting the best care and education to prepare them for success in school and life. Let's congratulate the Quality Counts team here at ELC and our funding partners at The Children's Trust for helping 500 early care and education providers improve their early care and education programs. We will have an official celebration with a cake at the conclusion of this meeting.
- O. Verdeja congratulated Ted Granger, President of the United Way of Florida, for being recognized by the Association of Early Learning Coalitions as Child Advocate of the Year.
- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC Family Summer Kick Off Event, held in partnership with the Healthy Start Coalition, will be held on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

<b>II. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the minutes.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

<b>III. Executive Committee Report</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- O. Verdeja stated that the Executive Committee reviewed the funding formulas proposed by the OEL. The OEL has not decided on a funding formula, but none of the currently proposed formulas are in benefit to the ELC.
- E. Torres stated that each of the proposed methods represents a comprehensive restricting of the current funding formula, and we are concerned over the lack of inclusion of key stakeholders in the process. It's critical that all our families, child care

providers, and other community partners fully understand the principles behind the methods, as well as the ramifications of each one.

- E. Torres stated that in lieu of the scope of these issues, we request consideration to delay the implementation of any change to the funding formula in order for coalitions to fully vet these models with the community at large. A letter has been drafted on behalf of Octavio and will be sent to the OEL today.

<b>IV. Finance Committee Report</b>	<b>Esther Jacobo</b>
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- E. Jacobo reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 060412-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Leverage and Local Match grant/contract for the Childcare Executive Partnership program from the Children's Trust.
  - M. Abety recused himself from this resolution.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by S. Fagundo.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-01 to authorize the President and CEO to renew and/or execute the following sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
  - D. Blomberg and H. Mogul recused themselves from this resolution.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by T. Axford.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-02 to authorize the President and CEO to renew the following vendor contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
  - E. Jacobo recused herself from this resolution.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-03 to authorize the President and CEO to release Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the services listed within the background section of this resolution.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-04 to approve the Coalition's Third Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2011-2012.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-05 to approve the Coalition's Initial Annual Budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.

- Motion was passed. unanimously
  
- Motion to approve Resolution 053012-06 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Second Amendment to contract, C11-111, with Miami-Dade County to provide School Readiness Subsidized Childcare Services.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  
- E. Jacobo reviewed the financial snapshots.
  
- E. Torres stated it was important to recognize how closely enrollment is managed. ELC Staff, Wesley House and MDC work very closely together to make sure numbers are right every month.

**V. Program & Strategy and Provider Services Committee Report**  
**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; David Williams, Jr.; and Gina Cortes- Suarez, Ed.D.**

- C. Lederman stated that about 10 providers showed up to review their license violations. One of the providers filed a grievance which is being brought to the Board today.
  
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that she had concerns about the quality of some of the providers. There were some providers that the Committee was very impressed with; they made changes to their schools and showed a genuine interest in improving the quality. There were other providers however, that the Committee was far from impressed by. She expressed her concern with the training of individuals running these schools and the Directors.
  
- C. Lederman thanked the Committee for taking these cases so seriously.
  
- The legal counsel for RV Little Giants stated that he hadn't yet done a full investigation of the incident that took place.
  
- C. Lederman stated that the current testimony differed from the testimony given at the Committee meeting.
  
- The legal counsel stated that this was one a time incident, the center paid the necessary fines, and didn't call rescue because they didn't think it was an emergency.
  
- C. Lederman suggested that this grievance be deferred back to the Committee.
  
- L. Pineiro expressed her concern with allowing them another chance to present their case. She stated that they were given this opportunity at the hearing. The Committee spent several hours reviewing these cases, and providers should be better prepared.
  
- B. De La Fuente reviewed the provider's past violation history.
  
- C. Lederman moved to defer this grievance back to the Committee.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Lawrence.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

- L. Pineiro stated she would like the letter that goes out to providers to clarify what the initial hearing will consist of, so that providers are better prepared.
- C. Lederman stated that the Committee ratified the decision to require licenses from summer camps.

<b>VI. (HIPPI) Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Dr. Henry A. Green; Lidia Clarke; and Wendy Salomon</b>
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- P. Hollingsworth introduced Dr. Green, Ms. Clarke, and Ms. Salomon.
- Please refer to [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for the presentation.

<b>VII. CEO Report</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- Please refer to [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for the presentation.

<b>VIII. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>
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- L. Martinez provided an update on the Head Start grant to the Board of Directors. She stated the grant was submitted August 30<sup>th</sup> and the policy council confirmed they were reviewing the application, and that it was viable. Upon further confirmation, they will start the preliminary steps of implementing a model. Once they are given confirmation in writing, then they will proceed in a delegation model.
- B. Sheafer stated that the YMCA is getting ready to serve 2000-2500 children on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Although they are exempt, they opted to license 46 programs in about 30 days, because their intentions are to serve the need. The issue comes up this summer, because there is no summer license segment. Luckily, they were able to move some of their programs back to the schools for the summer months. However, there will still be a group of children that will be forced to find care for the summer.
- J. Hurst stated that DCF does not have and statutory jurisdiction to license summer camps and it is a 90 day process. They do not have the authority to do it.

<b>IX. Adjourn</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>
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