



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

Board Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley; Doug Blomberg; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; Helene J. Good; Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; Commissioner Barbara Jordan (Rochelle Boreland); David Lawrence, Jr. (by phone); Harve Mogul; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr. (by phone); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D. (Nikolai Vitti22164); Lisa Martinez (by phone)

Board Absentees: Esther Jacobo (Treasurer); Jane McQueen; Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq. (Secretary)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Christina Vila; Tarnell Carroll; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Mary Williams; Kristina Alonso; Christine Hughes; Jose Hernandez; Humberto Franquiz; Aileen Martinez; Georgia Thompson; Carol Brogan; Fiorella Altare; Milton Silvera; Sandra Gonzalez; Kendra Link; Milton Silvera

General Attendees: Rose Marie Insemi, QCCC; Bob de la Fuente, Tew Cardenas; Jose Ruiz, J. Ruiz Learning School; Ardene Estrada, Miami Dade County; Ana P. Benedetti, Rainbow Intergenerational; Maria E. Alvarez, Family Central; Nikolai Vitti, MDCPS; Peter Gorski, TCT; Marie Woodson, MDC; Phyllis Saunders, MDC; Norman Herdocia, AECE; Rochelle Boreland, Commissioner Jordan; Yolanda Borroto, Exploration Station; Laura Haim, United Way; Linda Carmona, AECE; Meagan Heller, United Way; Maria Alcazar, Great Discoveries Learning Center; Brian Shaefer, YMCA; Maritza Alonso, MDC

I. Welcome and Introductions	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- C. Lederman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Christina Vila called roll and a quorum was established with sixteen (16) voting members.
- O. Verdeja announced that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item, to see Christina Vila for a conflict of interest form.



- O. Verdeja called for Board volunteers to lead the Strategic Planning Committee. G. Cortes-Suarez was chosen as the Chair of the Committee. H. Good, M. Abety, D. Blomberg, S. Fagundo, and C. Lederman volunteered for the Committee.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- C. Lederman called for the approval of the meeting minutes from August 6, 2012.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Mogul seconded motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- A. Parrino presented the Finance Committee Report to the Board.
- Resolution 09042012-01 authorizing the President and CEO to receive and execute the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Refugee Subsidized Childcare Services grant/contract. The current grant for the fiscal year 2012-2013 is \$2,500,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by C. Lederman
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- Resolution 09042012-02 authorizing the President and CEO to execute a sub-contract agreement for Refugee childcare services with Miami-Dade County. The current contract for the fiscal year 2012-2013 will not exceed \$2,328,629.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09042012-03 authorizing the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to the following sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution. The original total contracted amount was \$103,229,739.00. This amendment shall reduce the amount of funding for the sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution by a total of \$1,778,362.00, for a new total amount not to exceed \$101,451,377.00, subject to the availability of funding.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by H. Good.
 - Motion passes, with recusals from A. Eckstein, D. Blomberg and H. Mogul.
- Resolution 09042012-04 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to the following vendor contracts listed within the background section of this resolution. The original total contracted amount was \$309,475.00. This amendment shall reduce the amount of funding for the vendor contracts listed within the background section of this resolution by a total of \$8,032.00, for a new total amount not to exceed \$301,393.00, which is subject to the availability of funding.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09042012-05 Authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the Quality Rating Improvement System ("QRIS") grant/contract with the Children's Trust. The current grant/contract for the fiscal year 2012-2013



is in an amount not to exceed \$3,699,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.

- C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
- Motion seconded by R. Beasley.
- Motion unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09042012-06 Authorize the President and CEO to renew the sub-contract agreements for the Quality Counts programs listed within the background section of this resolution. The total amount for the sub-contract agreements will not exceed \$1,521,483.92 for the program year 2012-2013, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09042012-07 Authorize the President and CEO to renew contract PSA11-127 with The WELS Foundation, LLC to provide continued system management for the Quality Counts program. The total amount for the contract will not exceed \$349,000.00 for the program year 2012-2013, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09042012-08 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a settlement agreement with Goldstein Schechter and Koch, P.A. The settlement agreement is not to exceed \$21,692.00.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by H. Good.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- A. Parrino presented the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

IV. Program & Strategy/Provider Services Committee Report
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David Williams, Jr., the Hon. Cindy S. Lederman, Gina Cortes- Suarez

- C. Lederman stated the Board would be hearing two appeals from providers.
- Bob de la Fuente stated the Board had several choices:
 - Uphold the decision of the Program & Strategy/Provider Services Committee
 - Reverse the decision
 - Modify the decision
 - Send the matter back to the Committee

J. Ruiz Learning School

- B. de la Fuente presented an overview of the case for J. Ruiz Learning School
- J. Ruiz, owner, presented his case to the Board.
- J. Ruiz said the teacher involved in the incident was fired, which was the only thing they could do when they learned what happened. Also increased the number of required in-service hours for teachers.
- C. Lederman stated the incident was not reported by the center, and that the Committee had unanimously decided to revoke School Readiness funding.
- J. Ruiz stated that the parents had not filed any charges with DCF.
- H. Mogul moved to uphold the Committee's decision to revoke School Readiness funds.



- Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
- Motion unanimously passed.

Great Discoveries Learning Center

- B. de la Fuente presented an overview of the case for Great Discoveries Learning Center.
- Committee had decided to suspend School Readiness funding for 12 months.
- M. Alcazar, owner, presented the case for the school.
- C. Lederman stated the Committee was concerned that the child was left unsupervised for a long time.
- Y. Johnson asked how DCF found out about the incident.
- M. Alcazar stated someone called DCF. She stated she did not know who called, but believe it may have been a setup.
- H. Mogul asked about the closeness in timing between the incident and the call.
- C. Lederman and B. de la Fuente stated this had not been brought up in the Committee meeting.
- M. Alcazar stated the DCF report was not filed until June.
- S. Fagundo stated that there are conflicting requirements between fire codes and DCF regarding children being able to open doors.
- B. de la Fuente provided the list of prior violations to the Board.
- C. Lederman stated this is the second time the provider comes before the Board with a Class 1 violation.
- The provider had the parents of the child sign an accident/incident report stating that one more incident with the child was grounds for a transfer from the center.
- H. Carruthers asked if the June violations were related to the April incident, but they are separate.
- Linda Carmona stated that DCF has 24 hours to send someone. The fact that it happened within 2 hours means that someone was probably in the area.
- H. Carruthers asked if there were other penalties besides suspending funding for a year.
- O. Verdeja stated his concern about the lock being there from the fire perspective.
- O. Verdeja stated that there is still a question as to how long the child was outside.
- H. Carruthers asked if the call to DCF had been recorded.
- E. Torres stated those calls are protected and not released to the public.
- T. Axford stated that the blame was being placed on the child when this was an adult problem.
- A. Eckstein asked if the phone call information would be available to see how quickly the incident was responded to.
- R. Beasley stated it was not our responsibility to gather the facts but to review the facts the provider brings.
- H. Mogul moved to return the issue to the Committee to gather more facts from DCF and have the center inspected.
 - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - 8 members voted for the motion, 8 members voted against the motion
 - Motion failed because of the tie.
- Y. Johnson stated that our role is to review the facts from DCF and not to act as an investigative body.
- H. Good stated her concern with the comment that the child would have to be transferred. Responsibility lies with the people taking care of the child.
- O. Verdeja stated the Board was not condoning the Committee's decision, just trying to get more information.
- G. Cortes stated that the provider's solution did not address the real problem, which was the lack of supervision.



- A. Eckstein moved for 1-year probation with no Class 1 or Class 2 violations and 30 days to show that they have made some changes to increase supervision or SR funding will be revoked.
 - Motion seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion passes with G. Cortes', M. Abety's, H. Good's and C. Lederman's dissent.
- Provider stated she understood the motion and agreed to its conditions.

V. Governance and Bylaws Committee Report

Alan Eckstein

- A. Eckstein provided an update from the Governance and Bylaws Committee meeting.
- A. Eckstein discussed the number of private sector positions required on the Board by statute. The ELC is currently out of compliance because we are awaiting appointments by the Governor.
- A. Eckstein stated the Committee decided to move forward with the Parent Representative position suggested by the Nominating Committee.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by S. Fagundo.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- A. Eckstein stated it would be up to the Nominating Committee to decide what the requirements would be.
- S. Fagundo suggested the candidate be a parent of a child receiving or eligible for our programs.
- E. Torres suggested it be sent back to the Nominating Committee to draft some guidelines for the position.

VI. Nominating Committee Report

Dr. Yvonne Johnson

- Y. Johnson provided a report for the Nominating Committee.
- Y. Johnson stated interviews were being held on September 10 for the Monroe Private Sector position and for the representative of faith-based providers. There were two candidates for each position.
- Y. Johnson provided an update on the status of the Governor appointments. The ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe has not been prioritized yet, but will be after the ELAC meeting.

VII. Quality Counts Report

Christine Hughes, PhD

- C. Hughes provided an update on the Quality Counts program.
- The presentation is available at www.elcmdm.org.
- S. Fagundo asked if Deveraux has started using the Quality Counts 2.0 model.
- C. Hughes stated that programs are currently being rated in the provisional method.
- M. Abety stated that next year's budget allocated an additional \$500,000 to Quality Counts, targeting schools that do not have adequate reading levels by third grade.

VIII. CEO Report

- E. Torres presented the CEO Report.
- The presentation can be viewed at www.elcmdm.org.

IX. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair



- L. Carmona thanked the Board for allowing the long deliberation for the provider appeals.
- L. Carmona stated that regarding the funding formula, it does not make sense to take childcare away from low-earning families.
- L. Carmona stated that in regards to Quality Counts, we could not continue to require increases in quality without recognizing that these are minimum wage workers with only 45 hours of trainings.
- H. Carruthers stated that Monroe Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to restore funding.
- Nikolai Vitti recommended adding the funding issue to the agenda for MDCPS.

X. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair