



Board of Directors Meeting  
October 1, 2012; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:**

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Esther Jacobo (Treasurer) (attended via conference call); Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq. (Secretary) (attended via conference call); Dr. Peter A. Gorski representing Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley (attended via conference call); Doug Blomberg; Commissioner Heather Carruthers (attended via conference call); Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Shaleen Fagundo (attended via conference call); Helene J. Good; Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; Rochelle Boreland representing Commissioner Barbara Jordan; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Dr. Marisel Elias Miranda representing Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Holly Estes (Appointed); Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez (Appointed)

**Board Absentees:**

Alan Eckstein, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:**

Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; 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

**General Attendees:**

Bob de la Fuente, Tew Cardenas; Luther Brewster, FIU; Ardene Estrada, MDC; Miriam Altman, United Way; Rachel Spector, Children's Trust; Ana Sejeck, WELS Foundation; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Gail Gregg, FIU; Norman Hendocia, AECE; Juliette Bernard, MDC; Rolanda Scott, Headstart; Phyllis T. Saunders, MDC

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair**

- O. Verdeja called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanchez called roll and a quorum was established with eleven (11) voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board, to declare the conflict and see Leeana Sanchez for a conflict of interest form.



- O. Verdeja stated that the MDCPS Superintendent was supposed to be a guest speaker today, but had to cancel at the last minute. We will try to get him rescheduled for a future Board meeting.
- O. Verdeja reminded the Board of the Annual Board Meeting & Strategic Planning Retreat which has been scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> in Marathon and will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be held at the Key Colony Inn. There is no overnight stay required, so costs will be kept to a minimum and being in Marathon allows our Monroe County providers and partners an opportunity to attend.
- O. Verdeja stated the following items could be found in the Board Packet:
  - ELC News Alert & ELC Parent Link
  - Miami Herald Article: Child Care operator slipped through cracks in 2 states
  - Monroe County Board of County Commissioners Resolution
  - Key West Citizen Article: School Board chairman wants answers about lost after-school funding
- O. Verdeja thanked Commissioner Carruthers for sponsoring a resolution addressing the allocation formula and requesting that SR dollars be restored. The resolution was unanimously approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.
- O. Verdeja thanked Commissioner Jordan for sponsoring a resolution addressing the allocation formula and requesting that the SR dollars be restored. The resolution is pending approval by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.
- O. Verdeja reminded the Board that OEL will conduct a School Readiness Allocation Workshop in Miami on Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It will be held at the United Way Ryder Room. OEL is inviting our legislative delegation and will also be sending out an invitation to community partners. We would like a good turnout from Board members, so please do your best to attend.
- O. Verdeja requested approval from the Board to apply for the VPK Assessment Implementation grant from DOE. The grant provides an allocation of \$10 per child in the VPK program to assist with implementing the VPK Assessment during the 2012-13 program year.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve.
  - Y. Johnson seconded motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

<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 September 4, 2012.
  - Y. Johnson moved to approve the minutes.
  - C. Lederman seconded motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.



### III. Finance Committee Report

Esther Jacobo, Esq.

- A. Parrino presented the Finance Committee Report to the Board.
- Dr. Brewster presented FIU's Herbert Wertheim's College of Medicine nutrition/dietary program. The presentation is available at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).
- O. Verdeja stated he is on the FIU Advisory Board. He saw this process get started and thinks this is an amazing program.
- D. Lawrence was impressed with the presentation.
- C. Lederman asked about outcomes.
- Dr. Brewster stated this was a pilot year and the focus was research protocol. They now have systems in place on how to do this and the differences between each center and styles of curriculum.
- Resolution 09202012-01 authorizing the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim's College of Medicine to provide nutritional/dietary technical assistance to the early care and education providers in the northern section of Miami-Dade County.
  - T. Axford moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by H. Good.
  - Motion passed.
  - H. Mogul and C. Lederman opposed.
  - O. Verdeja and Y. Johnson declared conflict of interest.
- C. Lederman requested to see presentations with evidence based outcomes in the future.
- H. Mogul asked what is being funded by the ELC.
- E. Torres stated that the Board will get to address what are the real priorities at the Retreat.
- Resolution 092012-02 to approve the Coalition's Second Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2012-2013.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by D. Blomberg.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.
- A. Parrino presented the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.
- A. Parrino stated the drop in waiting list is a result of clean up and also part of the purge process, where families or child's name can only remain on the list for 6 months, unless information has been updated.
- H. Good stated this is a burden on families.



#### **IV. Audit Committee Report**

**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair**

- E. Torres stated that P. Morgan Hill continues to serve as the Audit Committee Chair, and the ELC is grateful for her participation.
- O. Verdeja stated that MBAF will start their audit on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The engagement letter is in the Board packet.
- O. Verdeja stated the Auditor General is still conducting their audit.
- O. Verdeja stated OEL fiscal monitoring with Harvey Covington and Thomas is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- O. Verdeja stated OEL programmatic monitoring is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup>. There are also two OEL desk reviews currently underway.
- O. Verdeja stated that during the Gold Seal audit, one provider was found to be out of compliance because they had lost accreditation. Payment of \$1,642.24 will be recouped via a provider reimbursement deduction.
- O. Verdeja stated that the administrative section of internal control survey was reviewed. We are making good process.

#### **V. Nominating Committee Report**

**Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.**

- Y. Johnson introduced Holly Estes from the News Barometer of Marathon, as the Monroe County Private Sector Representative for a 2 year term beginning October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2014.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by D. Lawrence.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
- H. Estes introduced herself. She is a foster parent and owns a newspaper in the Florida Keys. She sponsors many community events for children and takes on anything possible with children and children's rights in the Keys. She is glad to serve on the Board.
- Y. Johnson introduced Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez from Centro Mater Child Care Services as the Faith-Based Representative for a 4 year term beginning October 1, 2012, to September 30, 2016.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
- A. Rodriguez introduced himself. He has been in the field of child care for 22 years. He is honored to have been selected and looks forward to serving on the Board.



<b>VI. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>	<b>David Williams, Jr. &amp; Hon. Cindy S. Lederman</b>
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- C. Lederman provided the Program & Strategy Committee Report. She stated the Committee voted to suspend funding for J. Ruiz Learning Center. The Board had supported revocation. The center transferred ownership to another member of the family. The Committee voted once again to hold funding for this school.

<b>VII. CEO Report</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- E. Torres presented the CEO Report.
- The presentation is available at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

<b>VIII. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that in regards to providers possibly suing ELC's, no ELC in the State has the ability to close a center. The ELC has chosen to retain SR funding, resulting in center to close. It is the center's responsibility if they are not meeting standards.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez congratulated O. Verdeja for his participation at the last ELAC meeting. She had never seen him as strong and vocal and acting in blatant defense of the ELC.

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