



Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 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); Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq. (Secretary); Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez (sent Peter Gorski as substitute); Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley; Doug Blomberg; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Lucia Davis-Raiford; Ed.D.; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Holly Estes; Shaleen Fagundo; Helene J. Good; Yvonne T. Johnson, Commissioner Barbara Jordan; M.D.; David Lawrence, Jr. (attended via conference call); Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., MBA-HSM; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Lisa Martinez

Board Absentees:

Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.

Staff Attendees:

Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Ana Rodriguez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Milton Silvera; Sandra Gonzalez; Kendra Link; Eduardo Copin; Yesenia Reyes; Christine Hughes; Georgia Thompson; Ileana Vallejo; Tamara Ryland; Yasmin Wong-Peraza; Teri Carbajal; Ody Veliz; Elizabeth Machado

General Attendees:

Bob de la Fuente, Tew Cardenas; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Ileana Acosta, Miami-Dade County; Sara Morales; Miami-Dade County, CCR&R; Peter Gorski, The Children's Trust; Elena Guerra. Small Wonders of Miami; Javier F. Rodriguez, IDAS Network; Lazaro Fernandez, IDAS Network; Evelyn Jordan, Miami-Dade County; Nirvian Rodriguez, New Aladdin Learning Center; Lisette Orta, Nuevo Amanecer; Jose Vila; Rachel Spector, The Children's Trust; Rochelle Boreland, Commissioner Jordan's Office; Bill de la Sierra, Kidworks USA; Terry Rutherford, TOUCCH; Marisol Amorande, The Advent School; Ayllet Febrega, A Small World Learning Center IV; Katherine Mitchell, Skipper Chuck's; Aurelio Mesa, Jiny's Learning Center; Mr. James, Christ Children Academy; Rolanda Scott, HeadStart; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Linda Carmona, AECE; Alberto Parj, Miami-Dade County; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Armando Guerra, Small Wonders South, Inc.; Gail Gregg, FIU; Miriam Alltman, United Way; Norman Herdocia, AECE; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Angela Messina, Miami-Dade County; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Amaury Amarante, Kayleen's Learning Center; R. Harris, MDC CDS; Alex Morrell



I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- C. Lederman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- C. Vila called roll and a quorum was established with twenty (20) voting members.
- C. Lederman stated that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board, to declare the conflict and see Christina Vila for a conflict of interest form.
- E. Torres stated Blythe would be leaving the ELC in January, called her a friend to the community.
- B. Robinson presented the Board a donation of \$500 for the Early Learning Children's Initiative
- O. Verdeja announced Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez would be retiring. He thanked her for her tireless efforts for our community. G. Cortes-Suarez stated it was an honor to serve on the board on behalf of the college. She stated this board exhibits integrity and transparency and hopes they continue on those terms.
- O. Verdeja congratulated B. de la Sierra for the award he received from the Children's Trust.
- O. Verdeja announced the Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! racecar events taking place December 5.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- C. Lederman called for the approval of the meeting minutes from Nov. 5, 2012
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Good seconded motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Strategic Planning Retreat Report (Part I)

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- E. Torres presented his CEO Report.
 - The full report can be found at http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR122012.pdf.
- The first several slides reviewed the Strategic Planning Retreat Outcomes.
- E. Torres reviewed all the recommendations for current contracts, stating that not all contracts are being recommended for bringing in-house.
- E. Torres stated the Coalition would be bringing services in-house for the Teenage Parent Program as a pilot beginning on January 1.
- A. Eckstein asked if improvement in provider relations would extend to Monroe and if services would remain with partners.



- E. Torres stated we have a managing director in Monroe and staff who are good with providers, but there is just not enough money to continue the contract with Wesley House.
- L. Martinez that her hope was that Miami-Dade County would have an opportunity to speak more in-depth about their services.
- D. Lawrence stated that Evelio's plan was generally impressively thought out. The plan has integrity and will serve more children and make the ELC more efficient.
- B. Jordan stated we needed to maximize the service delivery system to maximize the number of children we serve. But it takes time to build relationships. She asked to allow both counties, which have spent time to build relationships, time to make the necessary changes as long as we are on target.
- L. Davis-Raiford requested an opportunity to present a new plan.
- C. Lederman stated that we met with the County months ago and have not been presented with a report.
- E. Torres stated we met with the County on Oct. 24 and at the Strategic Planning Retreat and discussed the need for developing a plan.
- R. Beasley asked if there was a letter sent to request a plan.
- O. Verdeja stated that as a board, we can shift our directive whenever we want to. Being courteous is fine, but we can shift if we need to. We were created as a nonprofit so we could make our own decisions. We can always choose to bring our services in-house. There are new opportunities with ELIS. We should not be the last Coalition to switch over to an in-house model, but be leaders in something like this. I would like this to happen if it is something that will help the kids.
- S. Fagundo stated that the County had been told this in meetings since October and they said they would provide a report. She commended ELC staff for exceeding the expectation to put children first and put money back in the community where it was taken from them. The County has done a good job maintaining provider relationships, but so has the Coalition under Evelio's leadership. This is an opportunity for the Coalition to implement something to a large number of providers at a high standard of quality.
- H. Estes stated that as a Monroe representative she has concerns about the uniqueness of the community and its relationship with Wesley House.
- E. Torres stated we met with Doug last week, and the numbers just do not add up.
- D. Blomberg stated he had discussed the situation with Evelio, and it is expensive to operate in Monroe. He asked for a transition phase so it would be less hurtful for the providers.
- L. Davis-Raiford stated she hoped the County would get an opportunity to show the report in the next Finance Committee Meeting.
- Y. Johnson stated that our mission is Children First. We want to make our decision based on that premise. Whatever model provides the most slots most efficiently should be chosen.
- L. Martinez stated we needed time to make a thoughtful decision. It needs to have a clear timeline and needs to be ambitious and aggressive, but we need to have sufficient time to make comparisons. The mayor would support a process that has been thoroughly analyzed.
- C. Lederman stated we are at a crossroads where we need to make changes. Our fiduciary responsibility is not to a partner but to parents and providers.
- B. Jordan asked for the opportunity for the County to make a presentation in order to have all the information necessary to make a decision.



- H. Good stated this is not based on quality of services they have been providing, but about efficiencies.
- A. Eckstein stated he supported the Judge's comments about our fiduciary responsibility being taking care of the children and the taxpayers, but was still concerned about the relationships with providers in Monroe.
- O. Verdeja stated he understood all the concerns. Nothing Evelio has done has been done poorly, everything is always thought out thoroughly. He would not even propose this if he did not think he could do it well. If Evelio is asking for this, he knows he can carry it out. It does not say anything about any vendor. It means we can do it better and serve more children.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Esther Jacobo, Esq.

- E. Jacobo presented the Finance Report to the Board.
- Resolution 112812-01 authorizing the President and CEO to bring services in house for the Teenage Parent Program (TAP) subsidized childcare services grant/contract funded by School Board of Miami-Dade County
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion
 - Y Johnson seconded the motion
 - Motion passed, with R. Beasley's opposition and L. Davis-Raiford's recusal.
- Resolution 112812-02 authorizing the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a sub-contract agreement for the Teenage Parent Program (TAP) technical assistance services with University of Miami's Linda Ray Center.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion
 - A. Eckstein seconded the motion
 - Motion passed unanimously
- Resolution 112812-03 authorizing the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the Second Amendment to contract C12-110 with the Children's Forum, Inc. to provide additional funding towards the career advisor position that services early care and education providers enrolled in the Quality Counts program.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion
 - C. Lederman seconded the motion
 - Motion passed unanimously
- Resolution 120312-01 authorizing the President and CEO to bring services in-house for School Readiness, Voluntary Prekindergarten, and Refugee Services for Miami-Dade County as further specified in the background section of this resolution.
 - C. Lederman motioned to approve the resolution.
 - E. Jacobo opened the floor for public comments
 - B. de la Sierra stated the ELC had before it the opportunity to send the message that it really cares for the children. This is not about special interests, the County or any other organizations. This is about kids.
 - L. Martinez stated there might be value in recognizing the short turn-around time in providing this analysis.
 - E. Jacobo stated that if the motion passed today, it did not disallow the County from coming back with information or proposals, but we don't have time to wait. They can bring it to the Finance Committee. If they Committee wants to, they can refer it back to the Board.
 - B. Jordan stated voting today and believing there would be a reconsideration was a disservice to the County. She requested a delay in



the vote or a withdrawal of the motion to give the County the opportunity to present.

- R. Beasley presented a friendly amendment to the motion, for the County to present an item.
 - C. Lederman denied the amendment, but stated she would accept E. Jacobo's suggestions to allow them to present to the Finance Committee.
 - O. Verdeja stated the board should empower Evelio and the team to do what they need to do.
 - G. Cortes-Suarez seconded the motion
 - Motion passed after being put to a vote, 13 For, 4 Against, with L. Davis-Raiford's recusal.
- Resolution 120312-02 authorizing the President and CEO to bring services in-house for School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten for Monroe County as further specified in the background section of this resolution.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion
 - E. Jacobo opened the floor for public comment.
 - D. Blomberg asked for the same opportunity to present to the Finance Committee.
 - T. Axford stated Monroe schools have taken severe budget cuts in the last three years and services to kids are suffering. Her concern is that we look at this on an ongoing basis and look at the services provided by Wesley House and Miami-Dade County.
 - Y. Johnson stated that Monroe is a special situation. We need to understand that there will be secondary effects.
 - Wesley House will bring presentation to the Finance Committee Meeting.
 - O. Verdeja seconded the motion
 - Motion passes with **D. Blomberg's recusal**, and with opposition from R. Beasley and Y Johnson
- Resolution 120312-03 authorizing the President and CEO to bring services in-house for Child Screening and Assessment for Miami-Dade County as further specified in the background section of this resolution.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion
 - A. Eckstein seconded the motion
 - Motion passed, with R. Beasley's opposition and L. Davis-Raiford's recusal
- Resolution 120312-04 authorizing the President and CEO to release a request for proposals (RFP) for Inclusion Services for Miami-Dade County as further specified in the background section of this resolution.
 - O. Verdeja moved to approve the motion
 - L. Pineiro seconded the motion
 - Motion passed
- Resolution 120312-05 authorizing the President and CEO to release a request for proposals (RFP) for the Data Management Services for Miami-Dade County as further specified in the background section of this resolution.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion
 - S. Fagundo seconded the motion
 - Motion passed



- Resolution 120312-06 authorizing the President and CEO to release request for proposals (RFPs) for the Quality Programs listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion
 - S. Fagundo seconded the motion
 - Motion passed

V. Program & Strategy/Equity Committee Report	The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman
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- C. Lederman provided an update on the Provider Services Committee.
- C. Lederman stated that the committee and providers would benefit tremendously from the peer review panel.
- C. Lederman stated G. Cortes-Suarez was excellent on this committee.
- One of the goals is to go back and establish prerequisites for School Readiness funding.

VI. Legislative Committee Report	Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq.
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- L. Pineiro provided an update on the Legislative Committee.
- The Committee met and considered priorities from partners across the state.
- The Committee came up with a list of local and statewide priorities for the ELC, which L. Pineiro presented to the full board.

VII. Strategic Planning Retreat Report (Part II)	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- Due to time constraints, voting on changes to the Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals will take place at the board meeting on February 4, 2013.

VIII. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- O. Verdeja called for public comments.
- L. Carmona stated that in regards to Executive Resolution 4, there needs to be more support services for inclusion.
- O. Verdeja stated that everything is about opportunity. We had the opportunity for Miami-Dade to come up with a great proposal, and for the ELC to come up with a great proposal.

IX. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- O. Verdeja adjourned the meeting.