



Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 2013; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Esther Jacobo (Treasurer); Lucy C. Pineiro, Esq. (Secretary); Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley (attended via conference call); Doug Blomberg; Commissioner Heather Carruthers (attended via conference call); Holly Estes; Lucia Davis-Raiford; Shaleen Fagundo; Helene J. Good; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; David Williams, Jr.; (attended via conference call); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Lisa Martinez

Board Absentees: The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Ana Rodriguez; Leeana Sanchez; 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; Christine Hughes; Ileana Vallejo

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Tew Cardenas; Elizabeth Stamp, Elizabeth Stamp LFCCH; Giselle Dove, MDCPS; Adela Navas, RCMS Centro Villas; Aydelin Roman, QC Career Center; Yaquelin Jimenez, Yaquelin Jimenez LFCCH; Elizabeth Ramirez, Countryside Learning Center; Brian Sheaffer, YMCA; Graciela Lacayo, The Guardian Angel Preschool; Evelyn Borreu, FIU; Silvia De La Torre, Town Center Pre-School; Contessa S. Bryant, Lenora B. Smith Elementary; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Aymara Aguiar, RCMA; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Kim Roy, MDCPS; Erika Berger, Children's Resources; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Evelyn Jordan, MDC; Marisol Amorante, Kayleen's Learning Center; Anette Vargas, The Giving Tree; Wendy Mendez, Little Steps II; Michele S. Kaplan, Devereux; San Juanita De La Cruz, MDCPS; Carmen Losorio, Town Center School; Flor Juanchi, Redlands CDC; Gretel Pernas, RCMA; Julie Dech, Pinecrest Presbyterian; Norman Herdocio, AECE; Vivian Rodriguez, Village Learning Center; Alison Davi, Swans Daycare; Maritza Alonso, MDC; Alfred Bunge, JPMC

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- 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 L. Sanchez for a conflict of interest form.
- O. Verdeja stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC News Alert & ELC Parent Link
 - Friend of Foster Care Review featuring Fred Hicks
 - Letter to Mayor Gimenez & letter to Octavio from Mayor Gimenez
 - Legislative Session Has Big Wins for Early Learning Programs Article
 - Resignation of Commissioner Jordan
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- O. Verdeja stated that ELC Staff Member Georgia Thompson has been appointed to the Accreditation Council of the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). The Accreditation Council develops and approves the policies that govern the NAFCC accreditation system and reviews and revises the Quality Standards for NAFCC Accreditation. NAFCC accreditation is a well known benchmark for high quality and is the only family child care accreditation recognized in the state of Florida and nationally. Georgia will be formally inducted at the NAFCC national conference in Scottsdale, AZ, this summer. With this prestigious appointment, Georgia joins an elite group of 11 other professionals from across the country, including former ELC staffer, Nicole Lopez, who was appointed to the Council while with the Coalition's Quality Counts team two years ago. NAFCC has specifically cited Georgia as 'an emerging leader' in the family child care world. During the 18-month period that Georgia supervised the Quality Counts family child care team, NAFCC accreditation reached an all time high. Additionally, Georgia has become an NAFCC verifier and is well on her way to becoming a trainer of verifiers.
- O. Verdeja stated that Dr. Contessa S. Bryant, Principal of Lenora B. Smith Elementary, would be presenting later.
- O. Verdeja stated that this is the first day of National Teacher Appreciation Week. Tomorrow, May 7, is Teacher Appreciation Day. On this day, thousands of communities take time to honor their local educators & acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education. The ELC would like to thank all teachers for the work that they do.
- O. Verdeja stated that National Provider Appreciation Day is May 10. This is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers, and other educators of young children everywhere for their tireless efforts. We have newly accredited providers and new Five Star Quality Counts providers here today that we would like to recognize. We will do the recognitions in partnership with The Children's Trust.
- M. Fernandez introduced the partners that helped in the accreditation process; Quality Counts, Family Central, Career Center, Dereux, Florida International University, The Children's Trust, and The Children's Forum.
- R. Spector stated that she appreciates the hard work of providers in improving early child care.
- M. Fernandez stated that the 5 Star Centers did a lot of hard work for the past 18 months to move to higher standards. These providers were recognized.
- M. Fernandez stated that the first time accredited centers were also being recognized today. These were centers that were accredited between July 2012 and April 2013.
- W. Solomon stated that it takes so much to achieve accreditation. It's a national standard, benched against other child care centers all over the state of Florida. It takes a tremendous amount of work.
- O. Verdeja made the following appointments:
 - David Lawrence has agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
 - Heather Carruthers has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee.
 - Charles Auslander, Lucia Davis-Raiford, and Robert Eadie, have agreed to serve on the Program & Strategy Committee.
 - Gerald Schwartz has agreed to serve as Chair of the Governance and Bylaws Committee.
 - Holly Estes has agreed to serve on the Governance & Bylaws Committee.



II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from April 1, 2013.
 - T. Axford moved to approve the minutes.
 - D. Blomberg seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Nominating Committee Report

David Lawrence, Jr.

- D. Lawrence stated that Adrian Alfonso, Audit Committee member, was recommended by the Nominating Committee to the Governor's office as Chair of the Board.
- D. Lawrence stated an appointment letter for Charles Auslander was in the packet.
 - S. Fagundo moved to appoint C. Auslander into the Board.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- D. Lawrence stated that Robert Eadie had been interviewed by the Nominating Committee and was recommended for a 4-year term.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- D. Lawrence stated that two new private sector members had been interviewed by the Nominating Committee and both were recommended to the Board.
- Appointment of Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott, South Miami Children's Clinic, for a 4-year term
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Blomberg.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Appointment of Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. for a 4-year term
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Blomberg.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Esther Jacobo, Esq.

- Motion to approve Resolution 04242013-01 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contracts, contract amendments, and/or purchase orders for the Service Transition-related procurements listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion seconded by T. Axford.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- E. Jacobo reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.

V. Lenora B. Smith Elementary

Dr. Contessa Bryant, Principal

- E. Torres stated that he received a grand tour of Lenora B. Smith Elementary after hearing about the great work they are doing at the school. Dr. Bryant understands the importance of early learning. There is a lot of work being done trying to engage the parents for the transition to kindergarten.



- M. Abrahante stated she is very excited to hear this presentation. This school has done an amazing job to improve services. They are unique and do a phenomenal job and will continue to do so.
- The full presentation can be found at:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/LenoraBSmithElementarySlideshow.pdf

VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The full presentation can be found at:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR050613.pdf

VII. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- S. Fagundo stated that there were questions on who providers would be contacting for VPK, School Readiness, etc. She thanked E. Torres for providing an informative and positive meeting.
- E. Torres stated that providers would be given one representative to deal with all issues.
- L. Piñeiro congratulated the ELC on doing a remarkable job of having things ready for the transition July 1.
- E. Torres introduced Max the ELC Community Outreach bear.

VIII. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.