



Board of Directors Meeting  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso (Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (Secretary); Charles Auslander; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley; Doug Blomberg; Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Lucia Davis-Raiford; Mary Vaden Brock on behalf of Robert Eadie; Holly Estes; Shaleen Fagundo; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good; Eric Knowles; David Lawrence, Jr.; Lisa Martinez; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

**Board Absentees:** Harve Mogul

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Kendra Link; Christine Hughes; Melissa Fernandez; Ana Rodriguez; Kerry Allen

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Tew Cardenas; San Juanita De La Cruz, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Miriam Alamano, United Way

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanchez called roll and a quorum was established with twenty two (22) voting members.
- A. Alfonso 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.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
  - ELC News Alert & ELC Parent Link
  - Daily Business Review Article: Judge Cindy Lederman Speaks Out on the Child Welfare System
  - MDCPS Letter of thanks to Fred Hicks. A. Alfonso congratulated F. Hicks on his good work.
  - Office of Early Learning, Overview of 2014-2015 Legislative Budget Request
  - Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Board Development Seminar
- A. Alfonso stated H. Mogul's wife, Alesia Mogul, had passed away. The Board of Directors took a moment of silence in her honor.
- A. Alfonso stated the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Board Meeting would be used to hold the annual Board Retreat. The meeting will be extended to 12:30 p.m.
- A. Alfonso stated that in support of the Parent Leadership Ambassador Training (PLAT) commissioned by the Florida Office of Early Learning on behalf of the Florida State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has partnered with the United Way of Miami-Dade and The Children's Trust and their newly established Advocacy Institute for Children, a non-profit, non-political initiative seeking to build a loud voice to advocate for the needs of children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The efforts will focus on engaging parents



meaningfully in the areas of advocacy, evaluation, program development and outreach. This will all be done in close coordination with other local initiatives and organizations, much like we have already been doing for a number of years, but in a much more organized manner.

- Radio Program: Part of the effort includes a weekly Spanish language radio program - Luchando Por Nuestros Hijos (Fighting for Our Children) - hosted by former state Senator Rudy Garcia. The first program/pilot was last week and we are scheduled to air every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. on WQBA, 1140 AM. Evelio and Senator Anitere Flores were guests on the first program. We are now going to play an audio clip of the promo for the program in Spanish. A. Alfonso introduced Senator Rudy Garcia.
- Senator R. Garcia stated that having children changed his life tremendously. As a legislator, you understand issues but sometimes you need to hear it in a different way. He is in support of the work that D. Lawrence has been doing for years. He thought a radio program would be a way to talk to legislators and parents and to teach them what to ask for. As a father, he learned he had a lot to learn. That's what this radio program is about. The details that people don't always talk about.
- A. Alfonso stated that the State Surgeon General has appointed Robert Eadie as Interim Director of the Division of Emergency Response and Community Support. He will be unable to attend the ELC Board Meetings until February. He has appointed Mary Vanden Brook to represent him until he has returned. Congratulations to Robert, and welcome to Mary Vanden Brook.
- A. Alfonso reminded the Board of the importance of Board members attending Board and Committee meetings. Please remember we cannot achieve quorum unless the majority of the members are present. Your attendance is both important and valuable, as we cannot move on action items without quorum. This has been a particular challenge in the Finance Committee.
- A. Alfonso announced new Committee Appointments:
  - Doug Blomberg to Audit Committee
  - Philip 'Flip' Gassman to Finance Committee
  - Lisa Martinez (Chair) of Legislative Committee
  - Eric Knowles and Gerald Schwartz also appointed to Legislative Committee
  - Magaly Abrahante to Nominating Committee
  - Dr. Mara Zapata and Abilio Rodriguez appointed to Program & Strategy Committee. This Committee will merge with the Provider Services Committee to create some efficiencies. Shaleen Fagundo will join David Williams and Cindy Lederman as the third committee co-chair. The Governance & Bylaws committee will meet to amend the bylaws to reflect this change.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from September 9, 2013.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the minutes.
  - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Gilda Ferradaz**

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- G. Ferradaz stated that there was equipment that was in surplus. There is a process when this happens. First, we must make sure that the equipment is made available to coalitions around the State, and allow a 10-day advertisement. Most of these items are obsolete computers or printers, some not even working anymore. We can't sell these things, OEL has a mandate, and we have to donate it. We can put it into shelving, into a file system. DCF has a way of recycling things; we can get some dollars from that. A vote is needed to confirm that these items will be surplus.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve.
  - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.



- Motion was passed unanimously.

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.

**IV. CEO Report**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- The full presentation can be found at:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR080513.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR080513.pdf)
- L. Sanchez introduced the VPK spot that was created in collaboration with Comcast. She stated this commercial was recorded at one of our 5 Star Quality Counts centers, Get Smarts Kids Academy in North Miami Beach. It will be running for two weeks on various local channels on the network, including Lifetime, Discovery, CNN, Oxygen, among others.

**V. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**VI. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**