



Board of Directors Meeting
November 4th, 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; Mary Vaden Brock on behalf of Robert Eadie; Holly Estes; Shaleen Fagundo; Philip Gassman (attended via conference call); Helene J. Good; Eric Knowles; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

Board Absentees: Lucia Davis-Raiford; Lisa Martinez; Eric Knowles

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: Bob De La Fuente, Tew Cardenas; Michele Watson, Watson Policy Solutions; San Juanita De La Cruz, MDCPS; Gladys R. Montes, United Way Center for Excellence; Miriam Altman, United Way Center for Excellence; Florreyn J. Vickers, MDC Head Start

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 nineteen (19) 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 we'll be starting our Board Meetings every month with a Board Member Spotlight. A Board Member will be pre-selected to say a little something about anything they want. They can read something inspirational, say a quick story of something that happened to them that relates to the ELC or our overall mission, etc. This can be a way to get to know people more and have constant reminders about the impact that we have on children and families.
- M. Zapata shared a personal reflection. She stated that a lot of people believe that understanding and supporting young children is simple, but it's very complex. She shared an analogy of company that was famous for their blueberry ice cream. The ELC is an organization we should all be proud to be a part of.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC News Alert
 - Council for Exceptional Children Article: Patterns of Referral Recommendations for Ethnically Diverse Children in Subsidized Child Care by Jennifer Crane, Adam Winsler from George Mason University, and Bethany Sands of the ELC.
 - Unique Me Magazine Article: Featuring Evelio C. Torres as a Community Leader.



- Toys for Tots Program: The ELC will be participating in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program this year. Please join us in collecting toys for underprivileged children in our communities. Toys donated must be new and unwrapped. Donations will be accepted until December 11th. If you are interested in participating, please contact Leana Sanchez.

- A. Alfonso stated that the Annual Board Retreat will be held on Monday, December 2nd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Abby Thorman, of Thorman Strategy Group, who we currently contracting with, has agreed to facilitate our retreat. Michele Watson, who is a state expert on provider reimbursement rates, will also join us for the retreat. She is here today to do a presentation on provider rates as a primer to the board retreat. One of the approaches that we may want to consider is a tiered reimbursement system that rewards providers for improving the quality and performance of their programs. This could be instead of the flat 20% Gold Seal rate or on top of that rate. As part of the retreat, Joe Centorino, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, will be conducting an ethical standards training for board members. In the packet, you will find his biography and a draft of the training manual that will be used. Feel free to review it so that you are familiar with the material.

- A. Alfonso stated that a conference call was held with Governor's staff regarding the challenges that we have with our current paper system. Since the state has not been able to develop a data system and they are back to the drawing board, we requested support for locally developed technology modules that are easily transferable from one county to another. Examples include the provider portal, the VPK online system, the electronic attendance system, and the yet to be developed family portal. Evelio will provide more specific information on these modules during his presentation. The other important technology item is our current inability to electronically upload data to the state's data system. The current manual process is tedious, labor intensive, expensive and prone to human error. The bottom line is that we can't continue to operate with a paper system since the technology is within our reach.

- A. Alfonso stated that the Policy Committee of the Early Learning Advisory Council met on October 29th. You may have seen the very positive article about the important recommendations made by our committee. The recommendations include:
 - Standardizing licensing and staffing requirements for childcare, School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs
 - Tiered reimbursement plan to reward high performing programs
 - Stiffer training requirements for people working with preschool children so that they do not have a 90-day window to enroll in a 40-hour training course
 - Recommend a minimum age of 18 for people who lead/supervise a group of preschoolers
 - Age-appropriate training for people working directly with children so that if someone took the 10-hour specialized training for 3 year olds and now they are going to work with infants, then they should be taking the specialized training for infants
 - The changes are consistent with the focus of the House Education Committee chaired by Rep. Marlene O'Toole who declared during an Oct. 10th meeting that she intended to focus on childcare and pre-k programs during the 2014 legislative session
 - Representative O'Toole also called on Early Learning Coalitions and other groups to step forward with recommendations
 - And, it also reached a consensus on age-appropriate training for people working directly with children
 - A draft proposal will be sent to the committee by staff from the Office of Early Learning for a committee vote. If the subcommittee approves the draft it would still need to be voted on by the Early Learning Advisory Council then sent to the Office of Early Learning before being sent to the House Education Committee.

- A. Alfonso stated that the Funding Allocation Formula Committee is scheduled to meet December 5th in Tallahassee. Our recommendation remains:



- Hold coalitions who have a wait list of children 0 – 5 harmless from funding shifts to other counties
- Apply the funding formula only to new dollars
- Before applying new dollars to the new formula distribute a percentage of each coalition's base school readiness budget to each coalition with a waiting list
- These recommendations have been shared with the governor's office

II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from October 7th, 2013.
 - A. Alfonso noted a change in the minutes, correction from O. Verdeja to A. Alfonso.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the minutes.
 - S. Fagundo seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Finance Committee Report

Gilda Ferradaz

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 1029213-01 to authorize the President and CEO to release the request for proposals (RFPs) for the goods/services listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - 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. Program Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman
Shaleen Fagundo
David Williams, Jr.**

- The Program Policy and Provider Services Committee met on Tuesday, October 29th to consider the recommendations from the Provider Peer Review Panel (October 14, 2013) relating to Class One (1) violations received by Little Hands of America and Excel Kids Academy.
- Little Hands of America (Daisy Mendoza): During a complaint inspection of 6/7/2013, the facility was cited for a violation of Standard 5: Supervision, as one or more children were not adequately supervised in that a child swallowed a harmful substance which can cause significant injuries, imposed an imminent threat to a child, or could result in death or serious harm to the health, safety or well-being of a child. Miss Mendoza informed:
 - The child (2 years old) was on antibiotics at the time of the incident
 - The child was observed to become 'sicker' while in attendance and the parent was called for pickup
 - The child was not observed to have swallowed a harmful substance either inside the building or on the playground
 - The provider closed the playground for several days after the incident
 - The provider was not apprised as to the child's condition or what (if any) substance had been swallowed by the child
 - The provider no longer administers medications to children
- The Provider Peer Review Panel heard Ms. Mendoza's statement and voted to recommend 3 months' probation, during which time no DCF licensing violations can be incurred.
- Excel Kids Academy (Shawntravia Pointville): During a complaint inspection of 2/13/2013, the facility was cited for a violation of Standard #12: Child Discipline as a method of discipline was used at the facility that was severe, humiliating



or frightening to children in that one child was beaten with an object that left several bruises on her back. Miss Pointville informed:

- A parent pointed out bruises on her child (1 year old)
- The provider investigated and viewed film on the classroom camera
- A teacher was observed hitting the child
- The provider discharged the teacher and filed a police report
- Criminal charges are pending against the teacher
- The child continues to attend Excel Kids Academy

- The Provider Peer Review Panel heard Ms. Mendoza’s statement and voted to recommend 3 months’ probation, during which time no DCF licensing violations can be incurred.
- G. Ferradaz stated she would look into having DCF present at these meetings.

V. School Readiness Market Rate and Payment Rate Overview **Michele Watson, Watson Policy Solutions**

- The full presentation can be found at:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/MarketRatePresentation110413.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/CEOR110413.pdf

VII. Public Comments **Adrian Alfonso**

VIII. Adjourn **Adrian Alfonso**