



Board of Directors Meeting  
March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso (Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer) (attended via conference call); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (Secretary); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Charles Auslander; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Shaleen Fagundo; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul (attended via conference call); Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

**Board Absentees:** Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Lisa Martinez; Lucia Davis-Raiford; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Christine Hughes; Melissa Fernandez; Ana Rodriguez; Kerry Allen; Mary Williams; Amber Keller; Gerella Kenniston; Laurie Dunn; Trina Rodriguez

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Tew Cardenas; Aurora Gomez, Creative Learning; Juan Gomez, Creative Learning; Karen Mac Grory, Kreative Kids; John Dick, Monroe County School Board; Connie Chapell, Treasure Village; Arianna Nesbolt, Florida Keys Healthy Start; Kathleen Veach, Head Start MDCPS; Alan Eckstein, ELC Monroe County Advisory Council

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- C. Vila called roll and a quorum was established with fourteen (14) 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 C. Vila for a conflict of interest form.
- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Theresa Axford.
- T. Axford stated she is interested in opportunities for all children. In Monroe County, finding room for VPK children is a big issue for schools. Early learning is really important for every child. The more we can do to work with them in the early years, the less difficulties they will have. We need to refine our programs to make them high quality so we can help our children every day.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
  - ELC Board Attendance
  - ELC News Alert
  - South Florida Workforce Press Release
  - The Statewide Guardian ad Litem Program Press Release
  - Florida Department of Education: DCF "Who's Really Watching Your Child?" Campaign
  - Citizen Key West Article
- A. Alfonso recognized G. Ferradaz for being named DCF's Southern Regional Managing Director.



- A. Alfonso congratulated Miami-Dade superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho for being named the National Superintendent of the Year. He thanked the school board, including M. Abrahante, for their partnership.
- A. Alfonso recognized two Monroe providers: Kreative Kids Christian Academy and Community Cooperative Preschool. These are two providers that helped eliminate the waitlist. They stepped up with huge financial risk. They did it based on faith that they would have enough enrollments.
- A. Alfonso congratulated Lisa Martinez as being named the Miami-Dade County Mayor's new Chief of Staff.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from February 2014.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the minutes.
  - M. Zapata seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

## **III. TAP Update**

**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman**

- C. Lederman gave an update on the Teenage Parent Program. She stated that it is no longer required that children be placed in licensed programs. To educate young mothers on how to find high quality care is just no longer convenient. The ELC had a contract to provide accredited centers. This year, we have less than 60 enrolled. We asked for a meeting with Pierre Rutledge, who did not meet with us. We were able to meet with Magaly Abrahante. Lederman suggested that we give up the TAP contract as long as Mr. Rutledge is in charge of the program.
- M. Abrahante thanked the Board for asking for the meeting on this issue. The accreditation requirement is not part of the legislation that funds this program. The school district has been in the bind of making that part of the criteria, as it's not in the law. The program is voluntary. Numbers have come down, but we know many parents are choosing to keep their children with family members. Some actions will be taken by the end of the month.
- D. Lawrence stated that he would love to see Valtina Brown work on the TAP program.
- E. Torres stated he would look into current legislation to see if there's something that can be done. The other challenge is the other two providers that are contracted with the TAP program. Each of us takes different approaches with this contract.
- C. Lederman stated that the school board needs to take responsibility.
- M. Abrahante stated that this is an inappropriate place to discuss this as there is nobody here from the program.

## **IV. Finance Committee Report**

**Gilda Ferradaz**

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 02262014-01 to authorize the President and CEO to consent to the assignment of Contract PSA13-105 by Tew Cardenas, LLP in favor of Shutts & Bowen, LLP as further described in the background section of this resolution.
  - C. Auslander moved to approve the motion.
  - R. Beasley seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.



**V. Monroe County School Board Member**

**John Dick**

- A. Alfonso introduced Monroe County School board Member, John Dick.
- J. Dick stated he had two grandchildren who went through the VPK program. It was very enlightening to see education taking place outside regular classes. There is constant education, which is a testament to the programs being run by the ELC. Key West has issues finding locations for VPK classes. In Marathon, there is room but little involvement.

**VI. Monroe County Advisory Council Report**

**Alan Eckstein, Esq.**

- A. Eckstein stated he was glad the Board came down to visit Monroe County for some visibility. The Monroe County Advisory Council was established in 2005 after the merger with the Miami-Dade Coalition. The council includes: a private provider rep, a special needs rep, a Head Start rep, an afterschool care program rep and some ELC Board members. An advisory meeting would be taking place immediately after the Board meeting; all members are welcome to join. He thanked the Board for listening to his concerns.

**VII. Monroe County Update**

**Mary Williams**

- The Monroe County Update is available at the following link:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/MONROE%20ELC%20OVERVIEW%20PPT%203-3-14.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/MONROE%20ELC%20OVERVIEW%20PPT%203-3-14.pdf)

**VIII. Tiered Reimbursement Update**

**Melissa Fernandez**

- M. Fernandez gave an update on what has occurred and what we're doing next. Five (5) community meetings have been held thus far. There has been a lot of movement in Tallahassee since our last meeting. She reviewed information given in the CEO report.
- S. Echemendia recommends A. Alfonso allow E. Torres to submit a proposal to OEL for approval, since that is what is legally required.
- D. Williams asked if we've considered sending out a questionnaire to providers that haven't attended.
- E. Torres stated a survey has been conducted, but with a very low return rate.
- R. Eadie asked if we are going to be able to get data in place for a tiered reimbursement system that will provide results.
- E. Torres stated legislature is working on a statewide tiered reimbursement model with 4 components: Gold Seal, high-need differential, curriculum based assessment, and child teacher interaction.
- C. Auslander thanked M. Fernandez and E. Torres.

**IX. CEO Report**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- The CEO Report is available at the following link:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03032014.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03032014.pdf)

**X. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- D. Williams thanked E. Torres and J. Russell on a great job of the Miami Gardens Service Center.



- S. Fagundo stated that the ELC is a doing a great job. Providers are optimistically frustrated. We are moving in the right direction, but will take some getting used to.
- A. Alfonso thanked the Monroe County attendees for coming to the meeting.

**XI. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**