



Board of Directors Meeting  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso (Chair); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (Secretary); Marisel Elias Miranda on behalf of Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Charles Auslander; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley (attended via conference call); Russell Benford; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Robert Eadie (attended via conference call); Shaleen Fagundo; Philip Gassman; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

**Board Absentees:** Helene J. Good

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Christine Hughes; Melissa Fernandez; Ana Rodriguez; Trudy Azarsepandan; Kerry Allen; Mary Williams (attended via conference call)

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Lisa Blair, Read to Learn Book Club; Joe Centorino, Miami-Dade County

**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 seventeen (17) 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 introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Phillip Gassman.
- P. Gassman stated that his relationship with the ELC started about 8 or 9 years ago, when he was coaching his older son's baseball team. The mother of one of the kids worked for the ELC, and encouraged him to meet with Evelio. E. Torres and A. Parrino came to me to start a relationship with Gibraltar. At that point, I was leaving the bank. They made the decision to follow me to Coconut Grove Bank. That leadership and commitment is what matters in the business world. It set the tone to becoming a Board member. I'd like to acknowledge Evelio and Angelo for that leadership and commitment they've shown to me. Now that I'm on the Board, I have a couple of observations. Particularly with this executive management, there are always changes to the rules mandated by statute. This doesn't affect me in my daily life, but it changes the way management has to manage. My take on the Board is that we have a lot of very smart people here, and I'm very proud to be amongst them. Finally, I was asked to attend a luncheon in Tallahassee with Evelio and D. Lawrence. A neuroscientist spoke, it was fascinating. D. Lawrence is an excellent speaker, and I am thankful for being invited to attend with him.
- D. Lawrence stated this was a significant event. Governor Scott has a growing interest in the subject of early learning.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
  - ELC Board Attendance



- ELC News Alert
- ELC Parent Link
- Russell Benford Appointment Letter
- Governor Rick Scott Press Release; Continued VPK Gains

- A. Alfonso recognized the Nemours/ELC Spot: P. Hollingsworth introduced the video.
- A. Alfonso recognized Interamerican Learning Center. Board member Shaleen Fagundo has developed a Family Cookbook with the children and families of her center. It's an amazing idea that gets the entire family involved, and there are some really good recipes in the book.
- S. Fagundo stated that they've done a family cookbook two years in a row at her center. 34 families participated this year and provided recipe cards with their children's favorite meals. We'll provide this to our families.
- A. Alfonso stated that on March 7<sup>th</sup> he and Evelio attended the Early Learning Advisory Council in Tallahassee. The Office of Early Learning announced that they had finalized a VPK online application module that would allow all counties throughout Florida to process VPK applications fully online. This system is very similar to Miami-Dade's system. We expect to begin the process of merging to the state system by the end of the calendar year. This will save us the licensing fee that we pay for our current system. OEL is also working on an online system for the School Readiness program that will allow parents to apply online and Coalitions to process applications online. The other important item discussed at the meeting was the funding formula.
- A. Alfonso announced that there would be three presentations taking place today.
  - Joseph M. Centorino, the Executive Director and General Counsel for the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, will be conducting the Ethics Training. This training is recommended at least once per year for public boards.
  - Lisa Blair, the President for the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, will be presenting on the Read to Learn Book Club, a partnership between The Children's Trust, the Early Learning Coalition, and the Family Learning Partnership.
  - Kerry Allen, the ELC's Director of Training and Outreach, will be reporting on VPK providers on probation.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

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

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 03262014-1 to authorize the President and CEO to release the request for quote (RFQ) for legal services listed in the background section of this resolution.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
  - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.
- A. Alfonso reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.
- E. Torres stated we will see an increase in Miami-Dade's waitlist. As slots become available we'll enroll more children. We are looking for a little bit of a deficit this year, so requested surplus dollars.



#### IV. Program Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

- E. Torres provided an overview of the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership, a \$500 million federally funded grant opportunity to provide 100,000 high quality slots to high quality care for children birth to 37 months. The Coalition is well poised to apply for and receive this funding. The PP & PS Committee voted to give staff permission to move forward with activities relating to the pre-application and to apply for the funding once the RFP is released.
- C. Lederman stated that J. Russell presented an overview of current status of the TAP program which is under-enrolled and does not have a satisfactory number of children enrolled in accredited programs. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of continuing with the TAP program. The Committee voted to give the CEO the discretion to make a final, evaluative decision.
  - S. Fagundo moved to allow the CEO to make the final decision.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman stated the Provider Peer Review Panel met with Marcia Carty, owner of McDonald's Play World on March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the probationary status of her center's DCF license (through August 2014) and the center's history of licensing violations. The PPRP voted to recommend that the Coalition place McDonald's Play World on probationary status coterminous with its DCF probationary status. ADDITIONALLY, McDonalds Play World is (1) required to retain a credentialed Director while (2) training an alternate credentialed director, (3) enter into an agreement with Miami Children's Initiative to improve its licensing status and (4) report any Class 3 or 4 violations received by DCF to the Coalition. Failure to adhere to these requirements (between now and August 14, 2014) will result in the suspension of the program's School Readiness License.
  - M. Zapata moved to place the center on probation.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- K. Allen presented an overview of VPK providers on probation for 2014-2015. Some providers are on probation for the first time and others are entering their fourth year on probation and face losing their ability to continue the VPK program. Kerry also presented an overview of the VPK grant recently awarded to assist providers with administering the VPK Assessment. The Committee crafted the following language in response to a request from DOE to be sure VPK providers are administering the Assessments and entering the results into the Bright Beginnings website: The Program and Policy Committee passed a resolution to notify VPK providers of their non-compliance and provide a 30 day grace period to enter their scores on-line in not after the 30 day period their VPK contract will be terminated.
- C. Lederman stated the Committee discussed and voted on the following additions and revisions to the ELC Child Health and Safety Policy: **Transfer of ownership: Language lifted from the current Early Learning Bill**
  - The owner of a child care facility, family child care 408 home, or large family child care home may not transfer ownership 409 to a relative of the operator if the operator has had his or her 410 license suspended or revoked by the department pursuant to s. 411 402.310, has received notice from the department that reasonable 412 cause exists to suspend or revoke the license, or has been 413 placed on the United States Department of Agriculture National 414 Disqualified list. For purposes of this paragraph, "relative" 415 means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, 416 brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, 417 wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, 418 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, 419 stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half 420 sister. 421
- Depending on the seriousness of the violation, the Coalition's Executive Director has the discretion to bypass the Provider Peer Review Panel and bring the provider directly to Programs and Provider Services Committee.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the change in policy.
  - T. Axford seconded the motion.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.



**V. Read to Learn Book Club**

**Lisa Blair**

**Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership**

- Information on The Read to Learn Book Club is available at the following link:  
<https://www.thechildrenstrust.org/parents/initiatives/read-to-learn-book-club>

**VI. Ethics Training**

**Joe Centorino,**

**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust**

- The Ethics Training presentation is available at the following link:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/EthicsBriefingN04142014.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/EthicsBriefingN04142014.pdf)

**VII. CEO Report**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- The CEO Report is available at the following link:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/EthicsBriefingN04142014.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/EthicsBriefingN04142014.pdf)

**VIII. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**IX. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**