



Board of Directors Meeting
May 5th, 2014
ELC Board Room

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

Board Absentees: Theresa Axford; David Williams, Jr.; Roderick E. Beasley; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.

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; M. Altmann, United Way Center For Excellence; Maria Triesha, Miami Dade County Public Schools; Gail P. Gregg, Florida International University; Wendy Salomon, Family Central

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 sixteen (16) 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: J. Abilio Rodriguez.
- A. Rodriguez stated that in 1991 he started working with Head Start, after working in prisons as a psychologist. Centro Mater has been around serving economically disadvantaged children for 39 years. My children started in Head Start, and I had to learn to eat healthier because they learned through this program how to eat healthy. Another time, my daughter kept asking questions. It was a long day, and I was tired. I asked her why she kept asking so many questions. She told me, that without asking questions, she wouldn't be able to learn. I allowed her all the questions she wanted. She now graduated from FIU, with honors. Early learning works.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC Board Attendance
 - Letter to Shan Goff from Octavio Verdeja, Jr.
 - Provider Appreciation Day: Friday, May 9th is National Provider Appreciation Day. Every year, the Friday before Mother's Day is set aside to acknowledge the important work of early childhood professionals. This is a day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. It's a day to show appreciation for the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. In your packets, you'll find a copy of the proclamation by Governor Rick Scott declaring May 9th, 2014, Provider Appreciation Day in the state of Florida. Also in your packets, you'll find a letter from Executive Director Shan Goff to all our early learning providers. Shaleen



Fagundo, Abilio Rodriguez, and Helene Good were presented with plaques in appreciation of the work they do.

- A. Alfonso introduced a short video on Mayor Tomas Regalado recognizing our very own Judge Cindy Lederman for her work in bettering the lives of children in our community.
- A. Alfonso announced The University of Florida's Bob Graham Center for Public Policy named our very own David Lawrence Jr. as its 2014 Citizen of the Year winner, along with Vance Aloupis as the 2014 Young Floridian award recipient. Lawrence and Aloupis spend their days advocating for children, creating early intervention programs and looking at ways to secure health insurance for all kids. Lawrence and Aloupis will be recognized June 3 at the Annual Graham Gathering at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando.
- A. Alfonso announced that the ELC was announced the winner of the prestigious Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce 2014 Technology Leader of the Year award in the category of the Technology Project. We were up against some pretty big private sector companies who have much more flexibility, and we still managed to be recognized for the technology advances that are now being rolled out in other Early Learning Coalitions. Leading this role was CIO. Fred Hicks. Fred and his team are well known for moving mountains in order to get the task done. We couldn't be prouder for being recognized as innovators in front of the Miami-Dade business community.
- A. Alfonso stated that the eagerly anticipated early learning bill focused on improving health and safety standards died on the very last day of session. We are disappointed, but I am sure not as disappointed as bill sponsor Marlene O'Toole who spent so much time and was so focused on making Florida's child care safer for children. We hope that the bill will be taken up next year.
- A. Alfonso stated that the news is good in terms of budget. We always need and want more, but I think the entire advocacy community, including our ELC, deserves tremendous credit for the progress made this year. Evelio will provide details a bit later as part of his report.
- A. Alfonso stated that based on the continued reports of child care environments that may not be appropriate for children, he has asked Evelio to bring together a group of stakeholders to create contracting standards for providers in Miami-Dade. We are not able to change the statewide contracts or add attachments or addendums, but it looks like based on the capacity that we have in Miami-Dade, we should be much more selective about who we contract with, as long as we offer every type of care in every community, as required by federal guidance, and continue to support providers to help improve programs. I am asking our board counsel to provide support and conduct research and would also like to appoint our three provider representatives as co-chairs to lead the discussion under the Program Policy & Provider Services Committee and would hope that we can implement a better contracting process effective with the July 1, 2015, contract year. My hope is that we obtain as much community input as possible on this very complicated matter and that the community help us decide what standards should be in place before we contract with a provider. I think to do nothing is just not good for the very same children we are trying to serve.
- A. Alfonso announced that Pam Hollingsworth, Senior Director Strategic Initiatives and Program Development for the ELC will be presenting on the Early Head Start Grant.
 - The presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.elcmdm.com/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR050514.pdf



II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from April 2014.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Finance Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 04302014-01 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute Lease Agreements listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - C. Auslander seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 04302014-02 to negotiate and execute the renewal of the following contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - C. Auslander moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
 - H. Mogul declared a Conflict of Interest.
- Motion to approve Resolution 04302014-03 that presents RFP#ELCMDM2014-001 (Curricula Materials, Training and Enhancement Program Services) Evaluation Committee's (the "Evaluation Committee" scoring results of the Request for Proposal to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation of vendor selection to the Board of Directors. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 04302014-04 that presents RFP#ELCMDM2014-002 (Quality Materials) Evaluation Committee's (the "Evaluation Committee") scoring results of the Request for Proposal to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation of vendor selection to the Board of Directors. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - P. Gassman seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 04302014-05 that presents RFP#ELCMDM2014-004 (Provider Portal Hosting and Enhancement Services and Dashboard Hosting and Enhancements for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties) Evaluation Committee's (the "Evaluation Committee") scoring results of the Request for Proposal to the Finance Committee for review and recommendation of vendor selection to the Board of Directors. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - A. Rodriguez seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.



IV. Program Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

Shaleen Fagundo

- S. Fagundo stated that E. Torres provided an update on the Early Learning Bill, including: The Early Learning Performance Funding Pilot Project- an approach to tiered reimbursement that will provide a funding differential incentive for high need populations, a professional development system to improve teacher quality, a research based observational system to improve teacher child interaction and alignment with Early Learning Florida to improve the consistency of technical assistance.
- S. Fagundo stated that E. Torres provided an overview of the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership. The ELC is crafting a partnership agreement with the United Way. The Early Head Start Funding Opportunity Announcement has not yet been released.
- S. Fagundo stated that a newly funded home visiting program was presented. The Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence-based, community health program run by nurses who work with vulnerable first-time mothers living in poverty. These moms are visited by trained nurses who follow them prenatally through their child's second birthday. Mothers receive an array of services to improve outcomes for both themselves and their children including: prenatal care, parenting classes, economic literacy and the like.
- S. Fagundo stated that C. Hughes presented an update on the ASQ Provider Portal for school readiness providers. As part of the School Readiness Contract, all providers must complete an Ages and Stages Screen on all School Readiness funded children with 45 days of enrollment and thereafter on the child's birthday. The ASQ Provider Portal continues to evolve with the addition of color coded cues relating to child screening status and email reminders for children due to be screened.
- S. Fagundo stated that K. Allen presented an overview of the activities of the newly mobilized VPK trainers and monitors funded by a grant from DOE. The staff is working with providers to support the entrance of VPK assessment scores into the Bright Beginnings website and assisting POPs (providers on probation) with the development of their Improvement Plans.

V. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The CEO Report is available at the following link:
http://www.elcmdm.com/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR050514.pdf

VI. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

VII. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso