



Board of Directors Meeting
June 2, 2014
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Adrian Alfonso (Chair); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (Secretary); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Charles Auslander; Theresa Axford; Roderick E. Beasley (attended via conference call); Russell Benford; Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Robert Eadie; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez (attended via conference call); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Mara Zapata

Board Absentees: The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Shaleen Fagundo

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; 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; Milton Silvera; Diana Lane; Bethany Sands; Yasmin Wong-Peraza; Victor Caballero; Georgia Thompson; Heldy Hernandez

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Marisol Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Gaby Quintana, Aguamarina; Natalia Montano, Aguamarina; Roberto Salazar, Aguamarina; Maria Jimena Diaz, Aguamarina; Yaneiris Cepeda, Miss Carusi Learning Center; Jenelee Castillo; Kacie Mangler, ABC's Preschool; Maria T. Riesha, MDCPS; Gladys Montes, United Way Center for Excellence; Abby Thorman, University of Florida; Brian Guerdal, ELC Broward; Lina Rivera, Aguamarina; Luisa Montano, Aguamarina; Jackie Valdes, Aguamarina; Gina Bunn, Miss Carusi; Adriana Munguia, Holy Comforter; Melanie Lawton, Title I Migrant Education Program; Ana Benedetti, Rainbow Intergenerational; Vinita Chakravarty, Lindsey Hopkins; Margarita Loret de Mola, Homestead YMCA; Manny Sapiro, MDCPS; Marise de Nola, Ball of Fire; Marleni Brant-Pomare, Miramar United Methodist; Nelson Hincapie, Voices for Children; Xiomara Zapata, Holy Comforter; Barbara Castellanos

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 Christina Vila for a conflict of interest form.
- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Russell Benford.
- R. Benford introduced himself as the Deputy Mayor of Miami-Dade County. In his role, he has been responsible for the Head Start program in Miami-Dade County. He has had the pleasure of meeting Evelio in doing like-minded work. His background is not in education, but he has learned a lot in his role. One of the most enjoyable parts is visiting a Head Start center once a month. This allows him to interact with the teachers and more importantly with the kids. Early childhood education is also incredibly important in the County and is one of the Mayor's priorities. I am really proud of the work we are doing at the ELC. The program is not just about curriculum or test scores. Programs like this change the lives of young people and families. Our work is one of



the most effective tools to change poverty. I'm really happy to represent the Mayor, and I am really proud to be working with the Board.

- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC Board Attendance
 - ELC News Alert
 - ELC Parent Link
 - VPK Training Schedules
 - VPK Conference for Providers on Probation Save the Date
 - VPK New COE Process

- A. Alfonso gave an update on the Early Head Start Grant. Last month we spoke about a federal funding opportunity through an Early Head Start Partnership grant. Although initially we considered submitting one application with the United Way, after some discussion it looks like we will have two applications with two different models. This may all change again once we receive the grant document from the feds. We are just trying to plan ahead and be prepared to bring the dollars and services to Miami-Dade. The hope is that one of the models will be funded because the goal is to make sure that our community lands the grant, regardless of the agency. In your packet you will find a letter cosigned by Evelio and Harve encouraging the partners to work with both the United Way and the ELC on the applications so that our community has the best possible chance of being funded. We are committed to work in partnership with any agency that gets funded in Miami-Dade. If the ELC's proposal is funded, we plan to work in partnership with all our partners. Our primary goal is to get the money into Miami-Dade County, into our community.

- H. Mogul stated that we are anxious for Miami-Dade County to get this grant. It's really important for our kids. There is no tension or ill-will between the organizations. We are just doubling our chances of getting the grant.

- A. Alfonso introduced the Quality Assurance Monitors from the Office of Early Learning. They will begin their annual comprehensive monitoring.

- A. Alfonso thanked Theresa Axford for helping us secure the Marathon High School auditorium for the June 28th Monroe VPK Provider Mini-Conference at no cost to the ELC. We greatly appreciate your contributions to the Board and to the Monroe community.

- A. Alfonso stated that our current legal services contract term ends on June 30th. We released an RFP for legal services, and three candidates applied. All three candidates will be interviewed. I have appointed an interview committee that includes Russell Benford, Gerald Schwartz and myself. I truly appreciate their time and participation on the interview panel. In the interest of time, I am asking for a motion and a vote authorizing the Executive Committee to meet with the interview panel to make a joint and final decision on the selection of the new board counsel. The decision will be ratified at the August Board meeting.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - C. Auslander seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

- A. Alfonso asked everyone to join him in congratulating Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott. The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has awarded her a Health Care Heroes award in the category of Health Care Professional for her work as medical director for the South Miami Children's Clinic. As medical director, she addresses child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, teenage pregnancies, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, homelessness and illiteracy. Dr. Scott's involvement in the community has influenced parents to bring their children to the nonprofit clinic, resulting in 1,062 registered patients today, compared to 59 patients in its first year. Thank you, Dr. Carroll-Scott! We are lucky to have you on our Board.



- T. Carroll-Scott stated she was recruited in 2007 to open a free clinic in South Miami to serve the uninsured and underinsured. The patient population we serve primarily qualifies for some sort of insurance, but are generally underinsured. We serve patients mostly from South Miami and some neighboring neighborhoods. Our mission is to give high quality care, and I'm really proud of the work we've done so far.
- A. Alfonso stated the ELC has a Memorandum of Understanding with Amigos for Kids, a local nonprofit who is involved in children's issues. We will be donating 50 used desktop computers that were formally used by the County and have no operating system. These are older computers, but they will be useful for their new literacy project.
- A. Alfonso stated there would be several presentations during the meeting.
 - Nemours Project Presentation: We would like to thank the Nemours Project team, Pam Hollingsworth and Maggie Thomas for providing this morning's breakfast to our guests. We hope you were able to take a walk through the gallery and see the different exhibits our participating providers have brought to share with us today. Pam and Maggie will be presenting more on this later.
 - Abby Thorman is here today to present on Early Learning Florida, a project from the University of Florida's Lastinger Center for Learning.
 - Aguamarina Preschool will be presenting on their mentoring program. Their school is based on innovative practices and social responsibility, which is one of the important lessons they teach their students. Pam Hollingsworth will introduce their team a little later. We thank them for their attendance today and for their partnership.

II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from May 5, 2014.
 - M. Zapata moved to approve the minutes.
 - T. Axford seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Nemours Project Presentation

Pamela Hollingsworth and Maggie Thomas

- P. Hollingsworth introduced the program and the Nemours Project Gallery Walk. We have a full programmatic year under our belt.
- The presentation is available at the following link:
http://elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/Nemours_BOD06022014.pdf

IV. Finance Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 05282014-01 which presents RFP#ELCMDM2014-003 (Enterprise Network Support and Hosting Services 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.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - T. Axford seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.



- Motion to approve Resolution 05282014-02 to authorize the President and CEO to receive funds from The Children’s Trust Leverage and Local Match – Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Contract.
 - L. Pineiro moved to approve the motion.
 - M. Zapata seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve Resolution 05282014-03 to authorize the President and CEO to apply for additional funds for the Florida Department of Education’s Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment Implementation Grant.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - C. Auslander seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

- Motion to approve Resolution 05282014-04 to approve the Coalition’s Initial Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2014-2015.
 - L. Pineiro moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

V. Early Learning Florida

Abby Thorman

- The presentation is available at the following link:
http://elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/EarlyLearningFlorida_BOD06022014.pdf

VI. Aguamarina Preschool

Natalie Montano and Gabriela Quintana

- The presentation is available at the following link:
http://elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/aguamarina_BOD06022014.pdf

VII. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The CEO Report is available at the following link:
http://elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR06022014.pdf

- The BOD discussed insurance as a basic need of being in business. There are alternative sites for the children, viable alternatives for children in those neighborhoods.

- S. Echemendia stated we are not renewing these contracts unless statutory requirements are met.

- A. Rodriguez presented the Coalition’s Anti-Fraud Plan.
 - D. Lawrence moved to approve the plan.
 - B. Eadie seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

- E. Torres stated Bethany Sands would be leaving the Coalition. He thanked her for her hard work.

- B. Sands thanked the Board for the support of our programs and congratulated them for the support they give the community. Their decisions greatly impact our families and children. When you go back to your strategic plan, please be aware of the families with children with special needs. Take this opportunity to continue the leadership roles that the Coalition can really have in Miami-Dade County. One agency cannot do it by themselves.



VIII. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

- Yanieris Cepeda of Miss Carusi Learning Center in Hialeah stated she was speaking for providers who have not submitted insurance. These providers deserve some sort of chance. We need to find a way to also help providers.

IX. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso