



Board of Directors Meeting  
August 4, 2014  
ELC Board Room

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

**Board Absentees:** Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.

**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; Hedy Hernandez; Aymara Aguiar; Lucretia Jones; Renata Lossano; Paloma Lopez-Barcena

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Marisol Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Phyllis Kalifeh, the Children's Forum; Michele Kaplan, Devereux; Elaine M. Huzzie, Huzzie FCCH; Jenny Fetter, MAR-JCC; Patricia Rutenberg, MAR-JCC; Gail Gregg, FIU; Caridad Lopez, Lovely Stars Academy; Nancy Sapiro, MDCPS; Maria L. Lopez, FIU; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Jackie Romillo, Citrus Health Network; Annie Benedetti, Rainbow Intergenerational; Aygun Yeukey, FIU; Dinorah Dominguez, Small World Learning Center; Octavia Bridges, Huzzie FCCH; Rebecca Quintero-Holly, Quality Counts Career Center; Daisy Overman, Miami Shores Baptist Academy; Andria Hoyos, Lincoln-Martí; Lorena J. Escobo, Lorolof Life; Yeniset Sampedro, Little Big Planet Learning Center; Henry Marquez, Small Wonders Child Care; Evilin Abrece, Children's Paradise Academy; Jackeline Summer, Steps for Learning; Sonia D'Amico, Quality Counts Career Center; Corina Flores, FIU; Rachel Spector, The Children's Trust; Rocio Leiva, ABF; Demetrio Perez, Lincoln Martí; Dasiely Marrero, Quality Counts Career Center; Sutey M. Venegas, QCCC; Terry-Ann Trestrait, QCCC; Gladys R. Montes, United Way Center for Excellence; Kenia Najera, FIU; Natashia Hatchett, FCI; Isabel Lescano, Kidz Ark Learn Center #2; Marlene Alvarez Jacinto, Rainbow Intergenerational; Jessica Deahora, Menininho Menininha Preschool; Natala Gonzalez, Menininho Menininha Preschool; Aida Ferreira, Arrowhead; Eliana Cerda, Children's Paradise Academy; Flor Brito, QCCC; Wendy Gordon, FCI; Tammy Howard, Howard FCCH; Monica Millis, Le Jardin V; Grace Febe, Little Village; Maria Cristina Caro, FCI

**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 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 Christina Vila for a conflict of interest form.



- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Helene Good.
  
- H. Good introduced herself as the representative for children under the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA) Act. Parts B and C are addressed by our Board. When she first started in this field, the first place she visited was the Sunland Center. There was no stimulation, no recognition or signs of their ability to learn. We know that today, things are much better. We know children learn. With appropriate education and stimulation, those children are now among us. They work in the community. They have lives that look just like our lives, which is our goal. We've come a long way. As far as we've come, we are still faced with the challenge of many children who are growing up in inappropriate places for little people. Our challenge as the ELC is to remember that every single child, even the ones who are not as easy or teachable, has value, can learn and is worth the investment to ensure they get the greatest education and go as far as they can go.
  
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
  - ELC Board Attendance
  - ELC News Alert
  - ELC Parent Link
  - Study Update from Miami-Dade Quality Counts Workforce: A. Alfonso stated Phyllis Kalifeh, CEO of The Children's Forum, would be presenting a little later this morning.
  
- A. Alfonso stated D. Lawrence recently appeared before the Florida Chamber's Series on Free Enterprise. Dave, along with Mark Wilson of the Florida Chamber and Tony Carvajal of the Florida Chamber Foundation, are trying to engage key business leaders to connect the dots between early learning and workforce development. I will turn it over to Dave now who will provide a summary and status report on the initiative.
  
- D. Lawrence stated that if we are to build a real School Readiness movement, we need to get business people involved. The Florida Chamber of Commerce is singularly popular in the state. Last Children's Week, they gathered many people around the state and spoke about the importance of early education. The Chamber announced they would be forming an Early Childhood Business Alliance, which is now part of the Chamber's strategic plan.
  
- A. Alfonso stated the Miami-Dade County Public School System has been recommended to earn the distinction of accreditation by AdvancEd/SACS CASI for a five-year term. M-DCPS is the largest school district in the nation to achieve this accreditation, which is based on a lengthy review process that analyzes the Index of Education Quality for the district. After visiting more than 730 classrooms and speaking with 1,607 stakeholders, including students, teachers, principals, School Board members and the superintendent, AdvancEd announced that M-DCPS scored well above average, receiving an overall score of 298.73, with the average score worldwide being 282.45. The score was based on three different categories: teaching and learning impact, leadership capacity and resource utilization. We congratulate our Superintendent, Dr. Abrahamte, and Dr. Elias Miranda and their staff on this significant accomplishment. We know that accreditation doesn't come easy, particularly to a school district as large as ours. We applaud you and your outstanding team for continuing to raise the bar for our community and our state.
  
- Dr. Elias Miranda thanked the Board for the recognition. We are not to rest on the shadows of the trophies received, but to keep working for the future.
  
- A. Alfonso asked the Board to join him in congratulating the United Way for 90 years of service to our community. This great 6-minute video that we are about to see summarizes the organization's history and accomplishments.
  
- H. Mogul stated that 90 years is a long time in Miami. There are 1,300 United Ways in the country, and this one was an effort of neighbors. The biggest thing of 90 years is our now 10-year march toward our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Our most symbolic project is to engage in collaborations to work together with our assets to make some serious change. There are so many partners in this room. The ELC is a vital partner. We understand partnership does not mean the UW has to have the headlines. The important is to blend our assets that can be very impactful.

- A. Alfonso stated today we are joined by Quality Counts centers who have achieved accreditation for the first time. Please join me in congratulating them for all their hard work.
- M. Fernandez
- E. Torres stated that accreditation really does make a difference. Without being an expert, you walk in and notice the mark of all the effort they put in and a stamp of quality.
- C. Auslander stated it is a mile marker on the road to quality. It is because of the dedication and persistence that they achieve this quality. Congratulations and Thank you.
- A. Alfonso congratulated all the providers and thanked them for the hard work and dedication. Continue striving for excellence and quality. Quality Counts is a great program and we should hope more and more centers strive for excellence.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

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

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- The previous fiscal year's closeout will be available at the September Meeting.
- G. Ferradaz stated this report contains a slight deficit in VPK and School Readiness. This is not the final report, and we will know exact numbers next month. The bottom of the report states the surplus. This is due to the TAP Program which will be discussed next month as well.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The Wait List is increasing in Miami-Dade. The Monroe Wait List is at 7. This is due to a shortage of slots.
- Motion to approve Resolution 7302014-01 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute additional funds for the Florida Department of Education's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment Implementation Grant.
  - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
  - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
  - Motion passed unanimously.

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

**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman**

- C. Lederman stated that an updated was provided on the Early Head Start Partnership grant response.
- C. Lederman stated the ELC plans to participate in Jumpstart's Read for the Record on October 21.



- C. Lederman gave an update on Tammie Howard Family Child Care Home.
  - C. Lederman stated Howard FCCH received one (1) Class 1 licensing violation on May 22 for Misrepresentation to Licensing Authority.
  - Staff met with Ms. Howard to discuss a settlement agreement for repayment of funds she received for children who were not served at the location contracted with the Coalition. Ms. Howard accepted the settlement agreement.
  
- C. Lederman gave an update on Vankara: A Learning Exchange.
  - On July 2nd, 2014, the Department of Children and Families notified the Early learning Coalition that Vankara: A Learning Exchange, Inc. received one (1) Class 1 licensing violation: Facility Environment – An area of the facility was observed to be a serious health hazard to children in care. Standard #14: Facility Environment rule 65C-22.002(1), 65C-22.002(7)-(9), F.A.C.
  - In addition to the Class 1 licensing violation, the provider also received a Class II violation for missing background screening for a staff member.
  - The Committee reviewed the provider’s licensing inspection history and noted many violations over the past year, which while they do not rise to the seriousness of Class 1 violations, raise red flags regarding the quality of care being provided to the children enrolled in this program.
  - The Committee considered the provider’s history of poor licensing inspections, along with the Class 1 violation and voted unanimously to place Vankara: A Learning Exchange on Twelve (12) month probation. During the probationary period, the provider may not receive any additional licensing violations of any class. If any violations are received, the provider’s participation in the school readiness program may be suspended.
  - The Committee also recommended that the provider participate in Quality Counts and waived the Class 1 prohibition of participating in Quality Counts.
  - The Board discussed the consequences of allowing the center to participate in Quality Counts for a third time. This program is a privilege, not a punishment.
  - The fact is that there are children in harm’s way currently attending the center. There are things that are temporary fixes, but others that involve much more work and are infrastructure problems.
  - With additional accredited centers in the area, parents could be notified of their options for transfers.
  - Motion to suspend School Readiness payments to the provider.
    - D. Lawrence moved to approve the motion.
    - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
    - Motion passed unanimously.

**V. 2014 Quality Counts Workforce Study**

**Phyllis Kalifeh, Ed.D., The Children’s Forum**

- The presentation is available at the following link:  
[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/MiamiWFBriefRtP\\_ELCBoard\\_0814\\_nonotes.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/presentations/MiamiWFBriefRtP_ELCBoard_0814_nonotes.pdf)

**VI. CEO Report**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- E. Torres will give his report in the next meeting.

**VII. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- There were no public comments.

**VIII. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**