



Board of Directors Meeting
September 8th, 2014; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

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

Board Absentees: Robert Eadie

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; 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

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Gail Gregg, Florida International University; Elvira Smith, Vankara Learning Exchange; Bishop John Taylor, Vankara Learning Exchange; Ana Sejeck, WELS; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Valtena G. Brown, MDCPS; Juliet Gomez, Coral Way Learning; Eric J. Green, Floras Family Child Care Home; Sonya Williams, Sonya Williams Family Child Care Home; Margaret Spann-Taylor, Vankara Learning Exchange; Maria T. Kiestra, MDCPS; Jeff Hurst, DCF; Peter Gorski, The Children's Trust; Shelia Dudley, Room To Bloom; Rachel Spector, The Children's Trust; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Cynthia Grace, MDCPS; Melody Thelwell, MDCPS; Gladys R. Montes, United Way; Rich Gonzalez, Coral Way Learning

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 Leeana Sanchez for a form.
- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Gerald Schwartz.
- G. Schwartz stated that he served on the ELC Board virtually since its inception. He also served on The Children's Trust Board. He's never participated in another organization that has had the importance and significance of the ELC. He had the opportunity of reading to children in a school in Miami Beach and it was such an emotional experience. The children wanted to sit around him and talk about the book all day. Unfortunately, he had to leave to work. This was just one of the memorable experiences during his time on the ELC Board. Where we have come as an organization is incredible. So much of that is owed to Evelio, who has done such an amazing job. He ended with the Dr. Seuss quote, "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it's not."



- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC Board Attendance
 - ELC News Alert

- A. Alfonso congratulated the ELC Monroe team. The ELC applied for a Commonwealth Foundation Grant of \$58,140. This request was approved by their Family Fund Committee. The purpose of this grant is to fund a classroom mentor in Monroe to promote access to high-quality early care education for underserved children. The entire application can be found in the packet.

- A. Alfonso congratulated Monroe County Superintendent of Schools Mark T. Porter and his team for receiving a recommendation of accreditation from AdvancedEd, the recognized accrediting agency for K-12 schools internationally. We are proud of our partnership with the Monroe County school system and fortunate to have Theresa Axford as a member on our Board.

- A. Alfonso stated that it's been an honor to serve on this Board. It's already been a year. He's truly learned a lot, and thanked the Board, and the ELC for their work. It's truly their passion and they are such an easy team to work with. He can only stress the importance to represent and vouch for the children in this community; they truly need our Board of Directors. The work we do is important and they need us.

II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from August 4th, 2014.
 - G. Ferradaz moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Good seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Finance Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials. The reports for the close of fiscal year are not available yet.

- Resolution 0827201-01 to authorize the President and CEO to release the request for proposal for Enterprise Network Support and Hosting Services for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Gassman.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Resolution 0827201-02 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the grant agreement with Nemours Foundation.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by T. Axford.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Resolution 0827201-03 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the contract for Developmental Assessments services with Florida International University, Board of Trustees listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Resolution 0827201-04 to authorize the President and CEO to receive funds from The Children's Trust for Quality rating improvement System "QRIS" grant/contract.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Recusal from C. Auslander.



- Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 0827201-05 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the renewal of Citrus Health Network, Inc. contract.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by R. Benford.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 0827201-06 to authorize the President and CEO to receive funds from The Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education grant/contract.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by L. Piñeiro.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 0827201-07 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the grant agreement and/or contract with The Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - G. Ferradaz recused herself.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 09082014-08 to authorize the President and CEO to receive funds and execute the contract with the Office of Early Learning for the Early Learning Performance Funding Pilot Project.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots.

IV. Program Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

- P. Hollingsworth gave an update on the Early Head Start grant application. Should hear something by end of September.
- P. Hollingsworth explained proposed changes to the amendments on the school readiness plan (found in the Board packet)
 - L. Piñeiro motioned to approve the first amendment.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

 - T. Axford motioned to approve the second amendment.
 - P. Gassman seconded the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- M. Abrahante was asked to speak on the TAP Program and give an update to the Board. She stated there were a lot of concerns raised with the TAP Program in previous committee meetings. Children were being served in non-accredited centers. The law only requires that centers be licensed, but accreditation is a quality benchmark. The current contract that expires with the three providers is in December. The Board will not be renewing that contract. They will be issuing a new RFP for January 2015, and one of the requirements being that children are placed in an accredited school.
- C. Lederman stated that if the program is under the same leadership, there will still be a problem.



- M. Abrahante stated that V. Brown has taken an active role to ensure staff in department follows what they're supposed to be doing.
- D. Lawrence stated that if MDCPS is stating they are committed to leadership, he trusts that they will be and hold them accountable.
- S. Fagundo stated that Vankara Learning Exchange came back to the Program Policy & Provider Services Committee for an appeal. 4 committee members voted to reinstate. 4 voted against. S. Fagundo visited the staff at Vankara. Vankara presented a corrective action plan.
 - C. Lederman motioned for 12 month probation with no class 1, 2, or 3 violations and staff training. Center can no longer appeal case.
 - R. Beasley made a motion to approve.
 - D. Williams seconded.
 - S. Fagundo made an amendment to the resolution, stating that class 3 violations are small infractions mostly relating paperwork. These should be left off.
 - R. Beasley and D. Williams accepted the amendment.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

V. Quality Counts Update

Melissa Fernandez

- The presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR09082014.pdf

VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The presentation is available at the following link:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR09082014.pdf

VII. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

- G. Ferradaz announced that she attended the Child Welfare conference that took place recently in Orlando. The Judge and other colleagues received awards for their partnerships in the Bench Button Program.

VIII. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso