



Board of Directors Meeting
February 3rd, 2014
ELC Board Room

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

Board Absentees: Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Lisa Martinez; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Leeana Sanchez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fred Hicks; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Christine Hughes; Melissa Fernandez; Ana Rodriguez; Kerry Allen

General Attendees: Bob De La Fuente, Tew Cardenas; Santiago Echemendia, Tew Cardenas; Abby Thorman, TSG; San Juanita De La Cruz, MDCPS; Jorge Barbontin, Hines; Aydelin Roman, Quality Counts Career Center; Lynda J. Ariyan, FCI; Rachel Spector, The Children's Trust; Sonia D'Amico, Quality Counts Career Center; Flor Brito, Quality Counts Career Center; Maria Vasquez, MBAF; Patti Munoz, MBAF; Nayree Navarro, Quality Counts Career Center; 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: Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott.
- T. Carroll-Scott stated that her clinic focuses on serving underinsured or non-insured children. As she started to work with these families, she realized how many of them were completely illiterate. Many of these children also come from abused homes. She was at odds with the local schools, trying to get some sort of assessment that these children were illiterate. The schools wanted the kids to be behaved, so that they would be able to educate the kids that were already at the required level. T. Carroll-Scott personally tutored a lot of these children herself. She tried working with local organizations. She wanted to be a part of the ELC to help find solutions early on. It's almost too late to make an impact when these children are older.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC Board Attendance
 - ELC News Alert
 - ELC 2014 Legislative Agenda
 - Office of Early Learning Press Release: Governor's "It's Your Money" Tax Cut Budget Invests in Early Learning



- Budget Request 2014: Increase School Readiness Funding by \$50 million; Talking Points
 - Tickets For Charity: This is a reminder that the ELC will be participating in the TICKETS for Charity program again this year. TFC is a unique fundraising initiative designed to improve the quality of life for children and families in the communities where PGA Tour and Champions Tour tournaments are held. Through this program, we have the opportunity to raise significant charitable funds, since 100% of the net proceeds from the sale of these tickets come directly back to our organization and our community. This year's event is taking place March 5-9, 2014. Join all your favorite golfers at the Trump National Doral Golf Club. Children under 18 also get in for free! Tickets are going for \$30 for Any One Day Grounds Ticket and \$175 for a Weekly Clubhouse Ticket. Please see L. Sanchez if you or any of your colleagues are interested in purchasing tickets.
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- A. Alfonso reminded the Board that the March 2014 Board Meeting would take place in Marathon, at the Mosquito Control Board Room. L. Sanchez would be sending out details this week.
 - A. Alfonso congratulated Dr. Christine Hughes, ELC's Director of Research and Evaluation, for her appointment to the Board of Florida Association of Infant Mental Health.
 - A. Alfonso announced the departure of Board co-counsel Bob De La Fuente. Bob will be moving to establish his own firm with other distinguished lawyers. We wanted to take this opportunity to have him come before the full board to acknowledge his contributions to this organization and the children of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. We thank Bob for these years of service with the ELC, and his patience and guidance. He will be missed.
 - A. Alfonso recognized Rose Marie Inserni, who is retiring from her position at The Children's Forum Career Center. Rose Marie has provided excellent leadership to the Quality Counts Career Center and as a result has touched the lives of many teachers and children. She has also been instrumental in working with higher education institutions to improve access for our community's early care and education staff.
 - A. Alfonso introduced Jorge Barbontin, Property Manager for Hines Group, and our landlord in this building. Mr. Barbontin has been a good partner to the coalition and has been very supportive of our mission. He is always very accommodating to our requests and has even encouraged his daughter to do volunteer work at the ELC.
 - A. Alfonso stated this was the second ELAC meeting he has attended as chair of the ELC. To give you an idea of what happens at these meetings, the agenda included a legislative report; a report on the technology projects; committee breakouts that included best practices; finance; professional development and quality; and rules. Reports were also provided by DCF licensing and the state's Head Start office. DCF reports that the revamped online system where inspection reports are posted is already up in several parts of the state and that they are already working on the Miami-Dade and Monroe data. We should have access again within a very short time. The other agenda items included a presentation by Evelio on tiered reimbursement and by Fred on our technology modules that are already starting to roll out in other parts of the state. Although it was made clear that ELAC is not a policy setting board and instead is there to provide input to the Office of Early Learning, being able to be innovative, creative and offer new ideas and solutions to old problems is exactly what motivates private sector members and other members of ELCs to remain active. When we see a bad policy it is our role and responsibility as board members and private citizens to work with members of our legislature to effect change. All of this is easier said than done, but overall I think that our ELC is well respected and remains in a leadership role. I also believe that we, along with several other coalitions, are expected to be trendsetters and not just go along with the status quo. The main challenge we face with initiatives such as our proposed tiered reimbursement is that we are working within a state system which is tied into a federal funding stream and those systems tend to move at a much slower pace than we would like. The key is finding the balance between our need to be innovative and the restrictions that come with our funding. We also want to make sure we are working with our state partners and legislative delegation. At the end of the day, we may not agree on how we are going to get there, but I am confident that everyone wants higher quality programs and a better future for all children. We will get an update on the tiered reimbursement project as part of Evelio's



report. There was some good discussion on the Early Learning bill. One concern I raised relates to changes in the ELAC language. The bill:

- Changes ELAC's role from one that submits recommendations to OEL to one that provides input to the Executive Director.
- Specifies that ELAC meets "upon the call of the Executive Director." In the spirit of partnership and considering that the ELAC members are volunteers, it would make more sense if the meetings were called in coordination with the ELAC chair. Another subtle change that is somewhat troubling.
- Change the requirement for OEL to provide staffing from "shall" to "may." If the ED refuses to provide support or is passive aggressive as I am told has been the case in the past, this would essentially mean that ELAC would not be able to meet. I hear from Evelio that they have agreed to change this back to "shall," but we have not seen the revised bill yet.
- I would add these subtle changes give the appearance of an effort to distance private business from government. These changes serve to do nothing more than antagonize private sector members who are contributing their time and talents to serve the governor and the state.

II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from December 2013.
 - D. Lawrence moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Good seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Finance Committee Report

Gilda Ferradaz

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financials.
- Motion to approve Resolution 01292014-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute a lease for the Call Center.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Mogul seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 01292014-02 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Assessment Implementation Grant.
 - H. Good moved to approve the motion.
 - R. Beasley seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 01292014-03 to approve Amendment #2 to the Coalition's Initial Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2013-2014.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
 - G. Ferradaz seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Resolution 01292014-04 to authorize the President and CEO to respond The Children's Trust Single Source Procurement for an Agency to Administer "Quality Counts", Miami Dade County's Quality Rating and Improvement System for Early Care and Education Programs.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion.
 - H. Good seconded the motion.
 - C. Auslander declared a conflict of interest.



- Motion was passed unanimously.

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe.

IV. Audit Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso reported that Rick Covert, Partner at MBAF conducted an Audit. The Audit was clean.
 - R. Beasley moved to accept the audit.
 - C. Lederman seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
- R. Beasley congratulated Evelio and the ELC for years of clean audits and an amazing job.
- A. Rodriguez spoke briefly about procedures that have been implemented by the ELC for post attendance monitoring.

V. Governance & Bylaws Committee Report

Santiago Echemendia

- S. Echemendia presented the revisions made by the Governance & Bylaws Committee to the Board attendance policy on the bylaws.
 - D. Lawrence moved to accept the audit.
 - G. Ferradaz seconded the motion.
 - C. Lederman voted no on the motion.
 - Motion was passed.

VI. Program Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman
Shaleen Fagundo
David Williams, Jr.**

- C. Lederman reported on the ELC Program Policy and Provider Services Committee Meeting that was held on January 28th, 2014.
- C. Lederman gave an update on the Early Learning Bill: Evelio provided an overview of the Early Learning Bill currently in work group in the Legislature.
- C. Lederman reported that Boyd Family Childcare Home appeared before the Committee for the second time in a twelve month period. Boyd FCCH had been placed on six-month probation by the Committee in June of 2013 for a Class 1 violation: *Failure to adhere to licensed capacity numbers*. In December of 2013, Boyd FCCH was cited for multiple Class 1 violations: 1. An unscreened individual working with children; 2. Failure to adhere to licensing capacity numbers (Boyd FCCH is licensed for 10 children). Boyd FCCH was cited by the Department of Children and Families three times over three successive days in December for operating over capacity. The Programs and Provider Services Committee voted unanimously to revoke the Boyd FCCH School Readiness Contract. The Child Care Resource and Referral team has been instructed to contact parents to assist in relocating their children.
- C. Lederman reported that the Committee heard a Tiered Reimbursement update. ELC consultant Dr. Abby Thorman and staff are engaging providers across the county in conversations to gather feedback concerning tiered reimbursement. Several meetings have taken place thus far and the schedule for the remaining meetings has been forwarded to the Board.

VII. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- The CEO Report can be available at the following link:
http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR02032014.pdf



VIII. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

IX. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso