



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
February 02nd, 2015; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Adrian Alfonso (Chair);; Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.); Charles Auslander; Roderick E. Beasley (via conference call); Russell Benford (via conference call); Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul; Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Robert Eadie; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Theresa Axford; Shaleen Fagundo; Dr. Mara Zapata (via conference call); Marisel Elias Miranda (rep for Magaly Abrahante, Ed. D)

Board Absentees: The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (Secretary);

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Lisa Sanabria; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Sandra Gonzalez; Ana Rodriguez; Yasmin Wong-Peraza; Dennis Cardenas; Anna Kempa; Pamela Hollingsworth; Kerry Allen; Yesenia Reyes;

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Luis Diaz, Audit Committee (via conference call); Emmounte Banks, Room 2 Bloom; Robert M., Early Learning Center; Gladys Montes, UWCFE; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Silvia Palenzuela, MDCPS; Sarah Brazier, Liberty Academy; Susan Galceran, Citrus; Shelia Dudley, Room 2 Bloom; Cynthia Hereford, Shining Light CDC; Juanita Walker, Sheyes Learning

I. Welcome and Introductions

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanabria called roll and a quorum was established with sixteen (15) 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 Lisa Sanabria for a form.
- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Charles Auslander.
- C. Auslander stated that what makes him feel good about seeing this group is the realization that none of us want or can do this work alone. A Board such as this one and The Children's Trust Board are places where people can make a difference in the lives of children and families. One of the critical elements of progressing this work is that we convene to discuss the issues and concerns. C. Auslander is the CEO of the Children's Trust.
- A. Alfonso stated the following items were included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC News Alert
 - ELC Board Attendance
- A. Alfonso congratulated Rodney MacKinnon for his appointment as Interim Director of the Office of Early Learning. Rodney will remain in the position until the position is filled on a permanent basis by the Governor's office.



- A. Alfonso reminded the board of the upcoming event on February 24th at Books and Books at 6:30 pm. The event will host local entrepreneur and philanthropist Mike Fernandez he will be speaking about his new book, Humbled by the Journey, he will be joined by Alonzo Mourning. A. Alfonso strongly encouraged everyone to attend.
- A. Alfonso thanked Dr. Magaly Abrahante who was able to assist the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe in securing a site for the second annual Children's First Conference on September 19, 2015. The event will be held at the state-of-the-art Ronald Reagan High School.
- A. Alfonso congratulated CareerSource South Florida Executive Director Rick Beasley for being elected president of the United States Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council at the organization's 83rd Winter Meeting last week in Washington D.C. Mr. Beasley will lead the WDC for the next year and will continue the council's efforts to provide a forum for Mayors and their employment and training administrators to examine all workforce development issues and to strengthen the ability of cities to meet the needs of their citizens; particularly economically disadvantaged individuals, those with serious skill deficiencies, dislocated workers, returning veterans, and others with special barriers to employment, including youth.
- A. Alfonso stated that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, United Way of Miami-Dade and Miami-Dade County's Department of Human Services were chosen from among 200 plus agencies nationwide for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership and Expansion grants. A. Alfonso stated that together these three entities will receive \$17.1 million accounting for more than 50 percent of the total dollars available to the state of Florida. The Children's Trust are significant partner in this federal grant awarding a total match grant of \$1 million, divided between the Early Learning Coalition and United Way. Through these Early Head Start grants, more than 1,000 young children ages birth to 36 months will receive high quality early education and comprehensive services. The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe will receive \$9.5 million, the second largest grant award in the Nation.
- A. Alfonso stated that the Early Learning Advisory Council's policy recommendations to the Office of Early Learning are as follows: health and safety, professional development and credentials, quality; and funding. Within each priority there are specific recommendations that will strengthen the early learning system.
- A. Alfonso stated there was a meeting with Representative Erik Fresen, Chair House Education Appropriations Subcommittee, on January 27th to present a united request for Miami-Dade County's early learning system. The meeting included The United Way, The Children's Trust, the Children's Movement of Florida, and the Early Learning Coalition. The topics discussed included:
 - Help Me Grow: Parent Skill Building \$4 million
 - VPK: Restore the base student allocation for VPK to pre-reduction level of \$2,716, plus an equivalent increase for the Summer Program, while maintaining current staffing ratios.
 - SR Waiting List: \$30 million recurring to serve approximately 10% of the waitlist, plus \$30 million nonrecurring to reduce the Office of Early Learning projected grant balance of \$64 million.
 - Performance Incentive Pilot: Continue \$10.5 million funding and amend pilot based on previously made recommendations for our team of experts
 - Tiered Reimbursement: Add several more tiers to Florida's provider compensation system to reward providers who meet certain quality benchmarks.
 - SR Contracts Improve industry standards that must be met by every contracted program offering School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten. This includes establishing change of ownership standards to avoid issues Coalitions have experienced with noncompliant providers who change ownership to a relative or employee.
 - Fraud Investigations/Litigation Costs
 - Technology/State Data System
- A. Alfonso thanked Evelio for organizing the meeting and for developing the agenda with Diana Ragbeer of The Children's Trust and Jessica Scher of the United Way.



- A. Alfonso stated that Governor Scott's 2015-16 "KEEP FLORIDA WORKING" budget recommends \$1.06 billion in funding for early child education and care, an increase of approximately \$33.5 million. The proposed funding includes a \$46 per-child increase in the base student allocation for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, a \$30 million appropriation for a statewide initiative to decrease the school readiness program waiting list and money for teacher scholarships and training. These increases are a very good step in the right direction, but the Early Learning Coalition will continue to advocate for additional dollars to serve all children on the waiting list and to continue to increase the VPK base student allocation.

II. Approval of Minutes

Gilda Ferradaz

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from December 1st, 2014.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the minutes.
 - R. Eadie seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso stated there was a resolution to ratify. The application to The Children's Trust for the Early Childhood Development grant, also known as Quality Counts. The amount of the grant application is \$6,770,555. The ELC is contributing a cash match of \$1,475,174, plus other supports through existing programs and contracts. The application was a joint effort by our partners who collaborated for several weeks and developed a program that is based on current research and best practices and that maximizes resources and the talent of all our partners. Partners include:
 - The Early Learning Coalition
 - The United Way
 - Family Central
 - Florida International University
 - Citrus Health Network
 - CCDH
 - The University of Miami
 - WELS
 - Devereux Florida
 - University of Florida

This resolution was presented to the Executive Committee on January 23rd, 2015. The Executive Committee approved the resolution.

- A. Alfonso called for the ratification of the Resolution.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the minutes.
 - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
 - C. Auslander recused himself.
 - Helene Good recused herself.
 - Motion was passed.
- A. Alfonso Stated that the Executive Committee was presented with the Early Learning Coalitions 2015 Legislative Priorities which focuses on increasing program funding, improving professional development standards, incentives for providers, improving industry standards, establishing a high-need community pay differential/tiered reimbursement, supporting the Help Me Grow Parent Skill-Building Initiative and raising health and safety requirements to improve child care quality. We will need a vote from the board to approve these priorities.



- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the legislative priorities.
 - A. Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes.
 - T. Axford seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Audit Committee Report

Luis Diaz

- L. Diaz reviewed the three audits that were conducted:
 - OEL Accountability Monitoring
 - Harvey, Covington & Thomas
 - Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra
- L. Diaz called for the approval of the audits.
 - H. Good moved to approve the audit.
 - R. Eadie seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

V. Programs. Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

David Lawrence

- D. Lawrence stated that The Learning Corner Early Childhood Center I, 1003 Old Federal Highway, Hallandale, FL, filed a grievance because they were denied a School Readiness contract from the coalition. Under the previous owner, who is the mother of the current owner, the center was placed on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List in August 2014. The coalition received the updated disqualification list in November 2014 from the Office of Early Learning. This disqualification also disqualifies them from having a School Readiness contract. Notice of termination of contract was sent to the provider with a termination date of December 26, 2014.
- The business has now been transferred to the daughter, but staff and the Program Committee felt strongly that the transaction was not an arms-length transaction, in which the buyers and sellers act independently and have no relationship to each other. Under their DCF license and their Broward SR contract the center can continue to operate legally in Broward, but will not serve Miami-Dade SR children. This change of ownership issue is addressed in this year's early learning bill as follows:
 - (b) The owner of a child care facility, family child care home, or large family child care home may not transfer ownership to a relative of the operator if the operator has had his or her license suspended or revoked by the department pursuant to s.402.310, has received notice from the department that reasonable cause exists to suspend or revoke his or her license, or has been placed on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "relative" means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.
- The ELC's eligibility and Child Care Resource and Referral office was informed of the contract termination. Parents were contacted and provided with referrals to other area programs.
- D. Lawrence moved to deny the appeal.
 - R. Eadie moved to approve appeal.
 - H. Carruthers seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.



VI. Finance Committee Report

Adrian Alfonso

- Resolution 01282015-01 authorize the President and CEO to release the request for proposal (RFP) for Developmental Assessments for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties listed in the background section of this resolution.
 - Motion to approve resolution by C. Auslander
 - Motion seconded by R. Eadie.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 01282015-02 authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the grant agreement and/or contract with The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start.
 - Motion to approve resolution by H. Good.
 - Motion seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 01282015-03 authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract PSA14-129 with Shutts & Bowen LLP. This resolution is due to the litigation with Wonder Sprouts.
 - Motion to approve resolution by C. Auslander.
 - Motion seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financial statements and stated it was business as usual.
- G. Ferradaz stated that the financial statements are showing VPK having a surplus, this is normal for this time of year.
- The TAP program continues to show a surplus, Miami Dade County Public School requested a second three month extension for releasing a new RFP.
- G. Ferradaz reviewed the waitlist and snapshots. Monroe County continues to have “0” children on wait list. Miami Dade County wait list is down due to the recent enrollments.

VII. CEO Report

- Early Learning Coalition Plan Overview
- Ready 4K! Update
- OEL Accountability Monitoring
- The presentations are available at the following link:

Pamela Hollingsworth
Pamela Hollingsworth
Evelio Torres

http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR020215.pdf

VIII. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

- S. Echemendia stated that the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 25th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. in the Coalition Board Room at the Coalition’s headquarters located at



2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134. Notice is hereby given that the final agenda item for the meeting will be an Executive Session to discuss “The Wonder Sprout, Inc., a Florida corporation v. Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc., a Florida non-profit corporation”, Case No.: 14-024774 CA 01. Participants in the Executive Session will be the President & CEO, Evelio C. Torres, the CFO, Angelo Parrino and the members of the Litigation Committee. The Executive Session shall be attended by the following Litigation Committee Members: Gerald K. Schwartz, Adrian Alfonso, Gilda Ferradaz, Lucy C. Piñeiro and Charles Auslander, by the Coalition’s Board Counsel, Santiago Echemendia, Esq., and by a court reporter. All others will be excluded during the Executive Session.

IX. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso