



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso (chair); Imran Ali; Tina Carroll-Scott; Robert Eadie (treasurer); David Lawrence Jr (via conference call); Dr. Judy Schaechter; Alan Eckstein (via conference call); Dr. Mara Zapata; Rick Beasley (via conference call); Abilio Rodriguez; Shaleen Fagundo (via conference call), Alexander Soto (via conference call); Lucy Pineiro (via conference call); Gerald Schwartz; Theresa Axford; Gilda Ferradaz; Philip Gassman (via conference call); Magaly Abrahante (Rep.); Heather Carruthers

**Board Absentees:** Gladys Montes; Russell Benford

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Lisa Sanabria; Jackye Russell; Wilfredo Ayala; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Dr. Anabel Espinosa; Fred Hicks; Kerry Allen; Jose Hernandez; Juan Castillo; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Lisney Badillo; Michelle Meilan; Ileana Vallejo; Sandra Gonzalez; Pamela Hollingsworth; Victor Caballero; Isabel Afanador; Nichelle Calhoun; Johanna Miranda; Marie Jose Mishel-Sanchez; Belkis Torres; Odalys Calleja; Dr. Chemika Burkhalter; Yesenia Reyes; Tamara Garcia; Yusneli Martinez; Lucy Schrack; Ana Rodriguez; Trish Turner; Wanda Garcia

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen (via conference call); Jackie Romillo, Citrus; Gail Gregg, FIU; Juanita Walker, Sheyes of Miami; Rachel Spector, TCT; Emmounte Dante, Room 2 Bloom; Claudia Gonzalez, PAAST; Malory Roger, A New World Academy; CatherineRad, YMCA of SF; Lynn Zaldia, Pinecrest Elementary; Luis Mario Torrens, YMCA-MLK; Alex Trujillo, VDT; Jennifer Carricahum, MDCPS; Susan M., Citrus Health; Octavio Verdeja, VDT; Maria Costa, Fienberg-Fisher

## 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 seventeen (11) 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 congratulated Pinecrest Elementary's VPK classroom for their participation in the state-wide VPK birthday celebration contest and winning with their "Cinnamon Buns Parfait" recipe in the Parfait Taste Testing Contest. VPK programs from around the state submitted recipes for the parfaits they created. The recipes had to include at least one Fresh from Florida food item. The VPK students at Pinecrest Elementary took a field trip to Knaus Berry Farm and purchased some of the ingredients for their Cinnamon Bun Parfaits that included fresh Florida strawberries. Principal Lynn Zaldia and VPK teacher Jennifer Carricaburu from Pinecrest Elementary were present.
- A. Alfonso stated that a second statewide contest to celebrate VPK's 10th birthday was the "We Heart VPK" photo contest. The VPK class at Fienberg-Fisher K-8 Center in Miami Beach had a winning entry in this contest. The students, as part of a class project, created a VPK birthday card. The birthday card, in keeping with the "We Heart VPK theme,



contained hearts drawn and decorated by all the VPK students. . Principal Maria Costa and VPK teacher Lolliette Romero from the school were present.

- A. Alfonso addressed to the board members the importance of attending not only board meetings but the committee meetings as well. Without quorum the ELC is unable to conduct committee business.
- A. Alfonso stated that a CareerSource South Florida awarded Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces Department \$100,000 to serve youth ages 15-17 referred from Miami- Dade County Juvenile Services Department to its Fit2Lead Internship Program, a prevention / intervention program specifically designed as a productive alternative to delinquent behavior. The purpose of the hands-on training and education program is to decrease juvenile delinquency in high crime neighborhoods by providing participants with an opportunity to learn and develop leadership qualities and life skills in a safe and supportive environment, while earning a paycheck. Curriculum includes health and wellness, nutrition, life skills, and experiences based on the foundation of improving the mind, body and spirit. This experience, education and training can lead to a career path.
- A. Alfonso discussed the bus tour of Liberty City Northwest Miami's area that was held on February 26th and March 4<sup>th</sup>. The city has a long and rich history beginning in the New Deal era. One cannot tell the story of America without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history and as such, Liberty City is Hallowed Ground.
- A. Alfonso stated that recently there was an investigation on a growing problem called "Daycare shell game". It's the little known secret trending in the Florida daycare industry. Daycare owners who lose federal funding, resort to a legal shell game by changing out who's in charge on corporate business records to keep their school readiness program. The ELC has discussed this problem previously and the board along with ELC staff has started to attack these fraudulent sales. While no legislation has passed the ELC has establish a system that if these sales do not appear to be at arm's length a more thorough investigation is done and require the new owners to produce evidence that previous owners will have no participation in running the center.
- A. Alfonso announced that there would be one presentations:
  - Dr. Judy Schaechter will be presenting on the Zika Virus.

## II. Approval of Minutes

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from November, 2015.
  - B. Eadie moved to approve the minutes.
  - T. Axford seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

## III. Finance Committee Report

**Bob Eadie**

- Resolution 02242016-01 this resolution presents RFP#ELCMDM2015-03 (Fiscal Monitoring Services) Evaluation Committee's scoring results of the Request for Proposal to the Financial 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  
Fiscal Impact: The Contract amount will not exceed \$170,000.00, which is subject to availability of funding. Funding Source: All Funding Sources.
- E. Torres stated that this resolution was taken to the Audit Committee for approval.
  - Motion to approve resolution by B. Eadie.
  - Motion seconded by M. Zapata.
  - A. Alfonso recused himself.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.



- B. Eadie reviewed the finance statement and stated that it was business as usual.
- E. Torres stated that the Wait list for Miami-Dade County is not reflecting 1789 children and continues to increase, an analysis will be made to see if the ELC can continue to enroll children. Monroe County's Wait list remains at 0.
- A. Parrino stated that the ELC will have a disposition of property, primarily all items have been deemed scrap.

#### IV. Programs and Policy Committee Report

Dr. Judy Schaechter

- Quality Counts: Discussion around Gold Seal reimbursement which pays accredited providers a 20% differential above normal school readiness rates
  - Question arose that the 20% increase due to accreditation has been questioned "is there a return on our money spent"?
  - Suggestion was made that once the ELC has reached a 60-70% of accredited childcare centers and family homes, the ELC should focus the money in other areas. And setting tiers within this accreditation and will discuss further at the strategic planning retreat.
- Early Head Start: Discussion around Jackson Hospital's role as medical partner to Early Head Start's 750 children and their families
  - Current referrals stand at more than 700
  - The children are being monitored through the Childplus reporting system. Jackson Hospital nurse navigators monitor immunization, doctors' visits, etc.
  - J. Schaechter suggested that EHS track children after enrollment so there is no gaps in medical.
  - It was stated that during initial interview for enrollment all medical questions are asked.
  - Jackson hospital has reported having a difficult time getting parents to accept the help offered.
  - Jackson hospital united to show partnership and has created a flyer to place in newborn to go bags.
- Professional Development Institute: The PDI main focus continues to be enrollment and attendance at the VPK Core Course trainings and the VPK Teaching Strategies Gold trainings. Teaching Strategies Gold is a formative assessment that is required for all VPK providers for the 2015-2016 school year.
- The PDI has added a new training tract: Learning Language and Loving It The Hanen Program® for Early Childhood Educators. PDI hosted a Train the Trainer course for 13 participants in January, 2016. Learning Language and Loving It provides a three-pronged, comprehensive approach aimed at children birth to three (3):
  - Decreasing the word gap, and increasing access to language development in everyday social routines
  - Prevention of Language Delays for children at risk and second-language learners;
  - Early Language Intervention for children with language delays.
- Screening/Inclusion/ASQ's/Warm Line: Reported that implementation of all recommendations from the Inclusion Workgroup is well underway. This includes revision of intake forms, improved data tracking and referral loops. Staff training to complete the implementation process is set for April and May
- Inquiry on if the intake form is nationally validated. Response: The intake form was retrofitted based on input from CCDH, a local, disabilities focused, and agency.
- Past due ASQ's are down dramatically. The Assessment team has been reviewing non-compliance reports and providing telephone and on-site technical assistance to providers.
  - 1 Provider payment was withheld in February
  - 10 Provider payments are projected to be withheld for March



- Health Priorities
  - Obesity
  - E-Cigarettes
  - Medical Homes
  - Vision/Hearing
  - Dental
  - Safe Sleep
- Suggestion were to focus on obesity, hearing & vision and SIDS but also E-cigarettes are very dangerous and should be one of the ELC's main focus as well as firearm locks.

**V. Audit Committee Report**

**Claudia Gonzalez**

- C. Gonzalez discussed the recent audit that was completed by Verdeja, De Armas & Trujillo, LLP. No finding were found.
- O. Verdeja gave a brief review of the audit results
  - Motion to approve audit by I. Ali.
  - Motion seconded by T. Axford.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

**VI. Bylaws Committee Report**

**Gerald Schwartz**

- G. Schwartz reported that the following items were changed in the bylaws for compliance with Florida Statutes:
  - Article IV - Purpose
  - Article V – Board of Directors
    - i. Section 5.1
    - ii. Section 5.4.5
    - iii. Section 5.6.2
  - Article IX – Other Special Committees
    - i. Section 9.3.1
    - ii. Section 9.3.2
    - iii. Section 9.3.5
- Motion to approve changes in bylaws by J. Schaechter.
- Motion seconded by M. Zapata.
- Motion was unanimously passed.

**VII. CEO Report**

**Evelio Torres**

[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03072016.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03072016.pdf)

**VIII. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**IX. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**