



Executive Committee Meeting
February 10, 2009; 8:00 a.m.
Conference Call

Committee Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (attended via conference call); Yesenia Perkins (attended via conference call); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (attended via conference call);

Committee Absentees: Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Leana Pena; Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Melody Thelwell; Pam Hollingsworth

I. Welcome and Introductions Chair	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,
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- O. Verdeja called the meeting to order.
- O. Verdeja requested the number of low-performing providers.
- E. Torres stated there are approximately 195. Shan Goff with the Office of Early Learning will be attending the April or May Board meeting to discuss the VPK program. A score below 138 is considered low-performing. There are no additional dollars for technical assistance. There are VPK Standards trainings and the ELC is trying to determine how many providers have attended them.

II. Approval of Minutes Chair	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,
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- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 12/15/09.
 - Y. Perkins moved to approve the minutes of 12/15/09.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Board Outcomes Chair	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,
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- E. Torres reviewed the Board outcomes as discussed at the February Board meeting.
- Y. Perkins stated that the FCAT scores will be the first indicator of how children are doing, and will be good justification to show legislators.
- E. Torres agreed. He stated people want to see real outcomes, and FCAT scores are one indicator. Information of this nature is available from the DOE.
- E. Torres stated that at the 2009 Board Retreat, the Board was asked for very specific outcomes to measure where ELC dollars go and if it's efficient.



- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC is working with The Children's Trust and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to determine if we can merge data and come up with a tracking system to see the results and progress of children.

**IV. 2010 Strategic Planning Retreat
Chair**

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,

- E. Torres stated that the ELC has been working closely with The Children's Trust on their strategic planning retreat. These outcomes have gone to the Children's Trust and they will be tracking this data as well. They are trying to make some decisions that could affect the ELC either negatively or positively. We're getting less money in 0-5. Before we get to the next retreat, the Executive Committee must start doing some preliminary work in preparation for the strategic planning retreat, and begin to think of the difficult decisions ahead. Next year the ELC will have to reduce children served, disenroll, or reduce the amount of time School Readiness children can be in the program.
- O. Verdeja stated that the Committee should wait until they've seen some of the data from the Board outcomes. They will begin working on this in June.
- E. Torres stated the ELC has data for children taking the FCAT.
- O. Verdeja stated 70-75% of 10th graders are not reading at a 10th grade level.
- E. Torres stated work is to be done in that area but is confident that we can get there. Quality is very difficult to define. He stated issues like reading levels are being worked on by Abby Thorman, Alisa Ghazvini, and other community partners.
- O. Verdeja asked why child care centers are scoring so low.
- E. Torres stated it has to do a lot with the language problem in Miami-Dade. The tests are given in English and many children and teachers do not speak English.
- O. Verdeja stated this issue requires research. He would like to see a geographical map of these centers and what locations they are in to know if language is actually a barrier.
- E. Torres stated this can be misleading because sometimes parents place children where they work and not by where they live.

**V. Bluejean Software, Inc.
Chair**

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,

- E. Torres discussed the Wels system. He stated that they are not willing to give up any of the intellectual property rights although we are helping to fund the development. He feels the ELC should retain some of the rights to the software and profit from any future sales. He stated that Ana Sejeck's feelings on this were that if the ELC continued to push for the rights, they would not be giving the \$67,000 to fund the system.
- O. Verdeja stated that it's not a winning situation for the ELC.



- Y. Perkins asked if not charge the ELC for maintenance of the system. Bluejean was willing to

- E. Torres stated it's been tried in the past but didn't work.

- Y. Perkins stated that aside from funding, the ELC has put time and critical input into the Wels system. She stated that has value and therefore the ELC should be given a credit on the maintenance contract.

- E. Torres stated the ELC has already been given a 25% discount.

- G. Schwartz asked if Bluejean is the only company that can give the ELC this system.

- E. Torres stated that as of right now, Bluejean is the only company that can offer this system.

- G. Schwartz moved to move forward with Bluejean.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Perkins.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

VII. Legislative Updates Chair	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,
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- E. Torres stated the ELC has been working on several bills. Senator Wise's bill tried to reduce the number of early learning coalitions last year. The bill never went anywhere. He is filing another bill this term. His new bill will make it difficult for local communities to have the flexibility we have now. There's concern that if the bill starts moving in the Senate, amendments will be thrown in and there might be reluctance to support the bill.

- E. Torres stated that Brittany Birken of AWI feels this is a benign bill however. The ELC will work towards finding support and will go to the AELC to ensure we're on the same page.

- G. Schwartz stated these bills are an effort to lower the standards of quality of care. The providers would support this because they're happy receiving funds but not providing the service or quality we want for children.

- E. Torres stated another bill to watch is the consolidation bill that was introduced by Senate sponsor, Rudy Garcia. He stated although it has not been filed yet, it wouldn't be a good bill for the ELC.

- E. Torres stated that 1.6 billion dollars was expected to be added to child care funds on the federal level. These dollars should trickle down to the State level. These additional dollars will be added by the President's administration.

VIII. Board Self Assessment Chair	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,
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- E. Torres stated it has been quite some time since the Board has completed a Board survey. Three different surveys were sent to the Executive Committee. They must decide



which they would like Board, or if they would like to use a combination of them.

to forward to the

- O. Verdeja stated the assessments seem a little self-serving. He will look at them again and see if there is a survey that gives a little more room to be self critical.

IX. Dental Screenings
Chair

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,

- E. Torres stated the dental screenings were previously approved by the Board and an RFP was released. He stated the University of Miami has a mobile dental-screenings van that is funded partly by The Children's Trust. The ELC ran into some problems with AWI because they were notified that funding sources do not allow paying for treatment; only screenings are allowed. The ELC asked The Children's Trust to amend the contract with UM to pay for treatment, and the ELC would pay for the screenings. The Children's Trust thinks this is a possibility and would be ok with amending their contracts.

X. Public Comments
Chair

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,

XI. Adjourn
Chair

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,