



Finance Committee Meeting
 Date: December 21, 2012; Time: 8:30AM
 Early Learning Coalition Board Room

Board Attendees: Esther Jacobo Finance Chair, Harve Mogul; Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. Board Chair; (Theresa Axford, (via conference call); Rick Beasley; Doug Blomberg; Shaleen Fagundo; Helene Good; Abilio Rodriguez; Judge Lederman; Lucy Pinero; Ann Karen Weller; Commissioner Jordan; Lisa Martinez; Lucia Davis-Raiford

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Jackye Russell; Pam Hollingsworth; Kendra Link; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Trish Sullivan Alonso; Ileana Martinez; Sandra Gonzalez; Fred Hicks; Diana Lane; Bethany Sands; Kerry Allen; Yesenia Reyes; Adenia Clark; Tamara Ryland; Teri Carbajal; Kristine Gregory; Christina Vila; Eddy Copin;

I. Welcome and Introductions	Finance Chair
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- Esther Jacobo, Finance Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Miami-Dade County Presentation	Lucia Davis-Raiford
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- Esther: Finance Committee Mtg. Listening to 2 presentations. Must stay as much to time allotted for each presentation. Will entertain any motions to provide these presentations to full Board. That vote can only be taken by members of the Finance Committee. Full Committee present. Governor has called a moment of silence for 9:30 for Sandy Hook Elementary victims. Introduced MDC, Lucia Davis-Raiford.
- Lucia: Director of MDC Community Action & Human Services Department. BOD Member as well, happy to serve. Presentation available on ELC website.
- Deputy Mayor Russell Bentford: Thank you for allowing us to present to Finance Committee on behalf of Mayor Gimenez. Commitment is accountability. Have his commitment that we will be accountable & accessible to you at all times, to be a quality service provider for the ELC.



- Theresa: How will 4 million cut affect the ELC since that is a reduction?
- Evelio: From what we understand from the MDC presentation, 4 million would be utilized to restore some of the slots we've lost during the years.
- Lucy: Would have 50-60 people to be trained in eligibility process? How many people do you have now?
- Lucia: 11 people in CC&R and 82 in eligibility. We would make sure we expand availability without increasing cost.
- Lucy: How do you propose to train 50-60 people? How quickly? Who will supervise?
- Lucia: We have advantages now of merged department. We have our own in house trainer who is manager of CCR&R. Takes 5 days to get trained for Level 1 certification. Trainer will pull staff to receive training; we are in charge of their time. Take whatever tests to pass the training. We have the institutional will to do it.
- Lucy: What is e signing?
- Lucia: Providers would be signing in electronically.
- Esther: How is this different than what you're doing now? How addressing child friendly offices?
- Lucia: Own real estate and now have in house people to do rehabilitation. Neighborhood service centers more environmentally friendly for families & children. Appointment flexibility with extended hours. This will put clients in greater control of scheduling.
- Lisa: 1. we know this is a topic that is being considered to see if we will have more discussion with Board. 2. The ELC is a client. 3. Revisit this topic on an annual basis. We need to be able to keep up with what is expected.
- Octavio: Cutting 4 million but claiming to do better work. First thought is to cutting people or salaries to obtain those savings. Will be cutting 49 people to do more work with less staff. Have trouble understanding that.



- Lucia: We are talking about administration services. We will lose staff under this model. You've been paying for systems that support manual systems that should be automated. Staff would welcome opportunity to do things more efficiently.
- Lederman: It was a beautiful presentation but don't find it credible. MDC can't do something like this with less money.
- Evelio: Good presentation. Service philosophy difference. We've seen one large agency trying to do all these things for the community and obviously didn't work. Conceptually, sounds like a great idea, but is it possible.
- Lucia: Can understand might be questions to capacity and will to make changes. We have been partners on this work for many years.
- Harve: United Way is conflicted with this particular issue. Will recuse myself. Conflict of interest form on file. 1. Organization transformation is tough. How might you tackle that? You've have people working under a different model than what you are describing now. How would you get there?
- Lucia: Discussion with Mayor, emphasized on expertise of leading. I came from Giuliani's administration. Also have leadership of Lisa Martinez. Very proud to say that with that process on how to do more with less to do better service for children. We are heavy on personnel & on processes.
- Harve: Side by side comparison of what proposed by county, and what we are proposing. Where do we line up?
- Evelio: The major differences are going to be in practicality of this lean system. The service philosophy. Contracting out services that are currently being provided by 21 out of the 31 coalitions. If we need to change a process, we do that one day to another. If someone doesn't fit into the model of the organization, we help them find other opportunities. It is difficult to operate a program like this under a governmental process.
- Harve: By bringing things in house, what is the impact of where we are going as an entity?
- Evelio: Not bringing in all services, but this allows us to be closer to the parents. Our central agency doesn't have those relationships with the parents & the providers. We are accountable for these dollars received. Under this service model we will still have our partnerships with many of the community partners.



- One issue I'll bring up, waiting list. We have exit conference with auditor general; we will have repeat findings on same exact issue of waitlist.
- Lucia: This model is based on where our failures have been in the past. This is nothing that cannot be overcome. You are comparing two new models.
- Lisa: Have been able to have an understanding of processes and how we've gotten to where we are. These failures should have been stated in a public open forum. We are applying as a vendor for services. We would clearly have to listen to your needs. Credibility, accountability, we do it out of necessity. Question to mayor, why now? Because he's just come on Board. We need to listen to how we document concerns.
- Commissioner Jordan: Formed a coalition with UW, DCF, Human Services agencies to come up with common application and model for program services. We felt there was duplication of services. 21 of the 31 coalitions are bringing in services, what is the size difference between those coalitions to ours. Problems can be brought up and we can do a corrective action plan. My door has been open and not once have issues besides legislative advocacy been presented to me.
- Esther: continue with MDC presentation before next Board meeting in Feb.
- Octavio: As Chair of this organization, want to be clear. First of all, Mayor has been extremely gracious and met us on a number of occasions. Lisa has been great. Commissioner, hear everything you're saying but this is a matter of time. Our time has arrived to bring services in house. This is something that I wanted to have happen many years ago. Bring it to a nonprofit so that we can have the final decision and that was the intention. This is our time. Don't think there is anyone that could possibly do this better than Evelio. If he says it can happen, I believe him. This isn't about "us" vs. "them". This is about the ELC and moving on to where our time has arrived.
- Rick: When Evelio spoke this morning, on services we provide. ELC is the largest coalition in State of Florida. S. Fl Workforce is the largest in Florida. At the last meeting we praised MDC & Wesley House on what they were doing. Said would give them an opportunity to see savings and look at service delivery model.
- Esther: Monroe to present in January Finance Dept. Find it concerning that members of Board that are advocating for this are MDC employees. Need to advocate as a Board member of the ELC & not a MDC employee.



- Point is very well taken, but as Board members we need to make the right decision for the children.
- Evelio: Monitoring reports of anyone we contract with public dollars. We do secret shopper calls. Don't want anyone to leave here with thought that we don't provide monitoring reports to all our vendors. We decided to do that we third party instead of coalition, to not receive criticism. Internal issue that you have that you should probably address but monitoring reports have been provided.
- Lisa: When I made my comments on accountability would make a lot more sense if I had received the information we're talking about. Countless times have met and discussion was never about performance of MDC.
- Shaleen: We do receive these monitor reports and Program Committee does get Audit reports. That does happen.
- Bill: I've been in business for 41 years and never been able to do twice as much with half the money. When Board voted, took liberty of sending email to providers. Not one provider that I spoke to thought this was a bad decision. Over past several weeks, interviewed 23 people who are receiving funding from the ELC. I do understand that MDC is trying to fix the problems. However, people that I spoke to said that attitudes they have to deal with made them feel like they are beggars. And didn't see a point in complaining since nobody ever fires government employees. Over half of these people had negative comments to say about the County. Only 6 of them were willing to put on paper but because of fear of retribution. Submitted letters for record. Only interest is in the children and families that work so hard to receive pennies.
- Harve: Conflict.
- Theresa: Motion to take to full Board. No second. Motion fails.
- Esther: Meeting adjourned.