



**Nominating Committee Meeting
February 2, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
CONFERENCE CALL**

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| I. | Welcome & Introductions | Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. |
| II. | Approval of Minutes | Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. |
| | A. Motion to approve September 1 st , 2010 Nominating Committee Meeting minutes. | |
| III. | Dr. Howard Piper Designation | Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. |
| IV. | Public Comments | Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. |
| V. | Adjourn | Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. |

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



Minutes

Nominating Committee Meeting
 September 1, 2010; 3:00 pm
 Early Learning Coalition Board Room

- Board Attendees:** Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. (Chair); Cindy Lederman; Dave Lawrence, Jr.; Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.; Jane McQueen
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Leeana Pena; Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino
- General Attendees:** Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Betty Delgado, AECE; M. Viviana Delgado-Espino, Camp Carnival; Maria Elena McLaughlin, Kids USA Preschool; Linda Tablada, AECE; Haydee Rodriguez, La Petite Academy; Noaby Rodriguez, La Petite Academy; America Mujanes, La Petite Academy; Isolina Souto, Tutor Me Daycare Academy; Claudia U. Orrett, Cherry Blossom; Shaleen Fagundo, Interamerican Learning Center; Cynthia Hereford, Shinig L.C.D.C.; Terry T. Rutherford, Chrest Children; Joy Gordon, New Mirawood; Maria Elena Delgado, AECE; Maria R. Esteban, Kids Paradise; Amina Rodriguez, AECE; Gina C. Duarte Romero, Biltmore School; Juan Herrera, Decroly Learning; Jackie Perdomo, La Petite Academy; Linda Williams, La Petite Academy; Rosa M. Blay, The Little Marines; Jairo Serrano, The Little Marines; Matty Loret De Mola, La Petite Academy; Elizabeth Bezos, Rainbow Academy; Steve Stezger, Steve's Academy; Sandra Oborah, El Rey Jesus Pre School; Nieves Maria Hernandez, Star Babies; Rodolfo Jesus Hernandez, Star Babies; Roxanne, Human Services Coalition; Gina Ha, Human Services Coalition; Marchelli Hill, Human Services Coalition; Melissa Saltos, La Petite Academy; Errol James; Arleen Lambert; Bebe Salazar; Juanita Walker, Sheyes; Brittani Walker, Sheyes; Anvid Fuentes, La Petite Academy; Izsy Rojas, La Petite Academy; Eloisa Carmen; Barbara Jimenez; Kidsworks USA; Hector Vera, Kidsworks USA; Tania Hernandez, Kidsworks USA; Christina Schmeider, KidsWorks USA; Ana M. Meneses; Maritza Valdes; Alex Lima, KidsWorks USA; Salvador Suarez; Rosa Suarez; Isabel Perez, ABC Learning Center; Sasha Alfonso, KidsWorks USA; Josephine, Bola ChildCare; Orlando Laffitte, Precious Moments



I. Welcome and Introductions	Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., Chair
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- Chairman, Yvonne Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

II. Board Provider Rep Candidates Interviews	Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.
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- Y. Johnson stated the Nominating Committee met by phone last week and selected 8 candidates to be interviewed.
- E. Torres stated they have one additional candidate as well. The Nominating Committee would rather interview more people than less to ensure everyone had an opportunity to be interviewed. There are 4 candidates that are part of the pool that are affiliated provider organizations, 2 candidates from the Alliance for Early Care and Education, 1 candidate from the Family Child Care Home Association and 1 candidate from the Florida Association of Child Care Management.
- Y. Johnson stated they will do a 12-minute interview of each candidate, and then the Committee will select their top two candidates and then vote on them. She asked the candidates to step out of the room while each one is interviewed.
- The first candidate to be interviewed was Elizabeth Bezos.
- D. Lawrence asked what unique qualities she would bring to the Board.
- E. Bezos thanked the Committee for the opportunity to be there. One of the unique qualities she has is that there would not be a learning curve with her. She has been a participant in the Early Learning Coalition since her inception in early child care. She has participated and serves as a co-chair for the Program and Strategy Committee, has sat on the Inclusion and Assessment task force, has repeatedly been present and involved in the process to make the system better. In comparison to the other candidates, the largest involvement would come from her.
- Y. Johnson asked what she thinks the major strengths and weaknesses of their early care education system are today. E. Bezos stated a major strength is that they are all very passionate about the quality of early childhood. That might be their greatest weakness as well. Sometimes it blinds them as to how practical they can be and how to deliver that best to the people that they serve. Without being able to have a real grasp of the situation for both parents and providers, it is important to have someone who has a true sense for that.
- C. Lederman asked how could the Board of the Directors of the ELC influence public policy and what should be the number one priority be. E. Bezos stated collaboratively they have done a good job influencing public policy. Although the Board may not be able to challenge AWI directly and the legislation directly,



they have seen the efforts they have had to mobilize providers and parents. The number one priority is to do as best as they can with the money they have.

- D. Lawrence asked her to talk about her community involvement and her background with the Early Learning Coalition. E. Bezos stated she has own Rainbow Children’s Academy since 2005. She spent the first year and a half to get up to NAYCE standards. About 3 and half years ago, she helped start the Alliance for Early Care and Education with a starter grant from the Children’s Trust. It organized different professional organizations that were already established and unified a voice in the community. She was interim chairman for them for the first year. She took a sabbatical to be their Director of Advocacy and spent a year in Tallahassee collaborating with the Coalition to fight to keep the Coalition the last legislative center. She is also secretary of the Education and Business Committee for the Hialeah Chamber of Commerce. Additionally she has also worked on many of the Miami-Dade Public School Boards for Early Learning.
- Y. Johnson asked whom she sees as her constituency if she were to be on the Board and what her plan for communicating with them is. E. Bezos stated that as a for-profit provider representative, that would define her constituency. In that, there is a large population of not only teachers and parents, but also center directors and owners. She would like to create a blog system where providers can have an exchange about ideas and have Provider Service Committee meetings often enough where everyone can participate and be flexible at times they can attend and really provide a forum. She would also reach out to providers that may not be technologically advanced. It’s a big project but it can be done.
- Y. Johnson had a few more additional questions: Where is E. Bezos in the process of becoming accredited and can she shed some light on why her center is a low performing provider. E. Bezos stated she did not have \$1800 to pay for accreditation and decided to use that money instead for teacher and to buy materials and the like to keep the quality in the center going. They got a contract to be a model for citrus and hopefully they will be able to submit their packets to Apple Accreditation and NACC. In regards to VPK, her population is recent immigrants, English language learners. The children come in being low performing from the get-go. They have started to implement the transition to kindergarten process where they screen them at the beginning of the year and have proved gains with them. They provide very high quality education for their kids.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Gina Duarte-Romero what unique qualities or abilities does she bring to this Board. G. Duarte-Romero stated she has been in early childhood for more than 10 years and have worked for NILL a couple of years ago. She has been exposed to not only her program but also other programs and she is aware of the needs of providers.



- Y. Johnson asked what does she see are the major strengths and weaknesses of their early childhood education system are. G. Duarte-Romero began with weaknesses. She stated it is quality. There are a lot of gaps in the system and it is difficult in Miami-Dade County to provide the potential quality that's out there compared to other cities around the United States. As for strengths, there are a lot of very educated childhood providers that are willing to go the extra mile to support the different initiatives. C. Lederman asked her to talk about the gaps in the system that preclude quality. G. Duarte-Romero stated one of the things near and dear to her is the Department of Children and Families. There are a lot of inconsistencies in terms of what they require and their standards. They totally contradict with the Fire Department and the Health Department. Also the licensing standards and the way they are enforced. There is no way an early childhood program can be in compliance with all of them. She feels the licensing standards are very low.
- C. Lederman asked what the number one priority is for the Board and how can the Board take that priority and influence public policy. G. Duarte-Romero stated she thinks the most important thing would be to gain more knowledge of DCF.
- D. Lawrence asked her to talk about her involvement in the community and any background she has with the Early Learning Coalition. G. Duarte-Romero stated she is very involved an initiative called Visible Thinking Miami with the United Way Center for Excellence where they put together a few conferences free to all the early childhood programs. She is also a Board member of SFAYC (South Florida Association for the Education Young Children). As far as the Coalition, when she worked with NILL and helped to get 10 centers accredited. When that had dissolved she worked directly with the Coalition a couple of years ago.
- Y. Johnson asked whom she sees as her constituency if she were to be on the Board and what her plan for communicating with them is. G. Duarte-Romero stated her commitment is not only to the other childcare providers but also to the families. She thinks email works really well. She is sure people would reach out to her and voice their concerns. She would also want to have all the facts in her hand in order to make decisions.
- Y. Johnson asked how long her center has been accredited. G. Duarte-Romero stated she bought the school in January 2005 and it was accredited in May of 2005. Y. Johnson asked if she has maintained accreditation. G. Duarte-Romero stated they are no longer Apple accredited. They were going though a big process for International Baccalaureate candidacy but she has the binder and it is almost ready to go. Y. Johnson asked what percent of her students are funded by the Coalition. G. Duarte-Romero stated that 1 student is School Readiness and 50 students are VPK.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, J. Gordon Gordon, what unique qualities or abilities she brings to this Board. J. Gordon stated her educational background in early care and education would give her some insight as to the



Coalition's agenda. She knows exactly what is required for those early years and how critical those years are.

- Y. Johnson asked what she thinks the major strengths and weaknesses of their early care education system are. J. Gordon stated one weakness she sees is that they are lacking funds to reach the less fortunate children. She serves disadvantaged children and she wished they had additional programs that would enhance their lives. The strengths she would focus on are that they are reaching more children and they have significantly improved the quality of early care and education over the years. They have come a long way. They have made the transition from day care to early care and they should be applauded for that.
- C. Lederman asked J. Gordon to explain why her application indicates that she is accredited yet their verification process indicates that she is not. J. Gordon stated that she and her husband own two sites, one in Broward and one in Miami-Dade. The center in Broward is accredited. However, due to financial constraints, they had to put the accreditation on hold for their center in Miami-Dade.
- D. Lawrence asked if she is a member of the Board of Directors, how they could influence public policy and what should the Board's number one priority be. J. Gordon stated it is important to assess the communities they serve and address and meet those needs. Every community is different. It is important to know the communities in which they operate.
- Y. Johnson asked about her community involvement and any involvement she has had with the Early Learning Coalition. J. Gordon stated she has been affiliated with the Early Learning Coalition of Broward for a couple of years. She has been asked to chair a committee in which they got providers to go out into the community and partner with the businesses in the community as a means of securing funding to keep their businesses going. The plan is to provide technical assistance to these providers to empower them.
- Y. Johnson asked whom she sees as her constituency if she were to serve as Board member and what would be her plan to communicate with her constituency. J. Gordon stated she would like to focus on the area in which her school is located, in Miami Gardens. She would like to work with residents, parents and legislators if possible. Y. Johnson asked if she had a way of communicating with the other providers. J. Gordon stated she finds that email communication is not the most effective especially for the population. But actually going to centers and getting their input is more effective. It's about taking the time and the effort to go from one center to the next.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Dr. Claudia Uribe-Orrett, what unique qualities she would bring to the board. Dr. Orrett stated she has 10 plus years experience as an educator both in County Government and now as a director of a child care center. She brings forth the experience she has gathered, all of the



challenges and everything she has learned through this process. She thinks she can bring new insight, diversity and the experience of someone who hasn't been in this business in a long time that could share differences that could assist the board.

- Y. Johnson asked what she sees as the major strengths and weaknesses of the early childcare and education system. Dr. Orrett stated in due fairness, the Early Learning Coalition has done a great job in terms of disseminating information. All the programs have been very beneficial to the community. But at the same token, there is a lot of misinformation that doesn't get shared amongst providers. With a lot more facts and vision of where the Board is headed, the providers will have a better idea of where they need to be 2 - 5 years now as they continue to provide services for children.
- C. Lederman stated following up on that, if she is selected for this position, how would she communicate with the provider constituency. Dr. Orrett stated not all of the providers are at the same level in terms of the website or the internet. Unfortunately not everyone attends forums or sessions to get information. She thinks a little bit more effort could be made through the radio or through the TV.
- D. Lawrence asked what this Board could do to influence public policy and what should the number one priority be. Dr. Orrett stated the Coalition has taken a big step in terms of policy. They need to continue to educate their political affiliates. A lot of them know what it is, but they don't know what negative impact these things could have.
- Y. Johnson asked what her current community involvement is and what has she done with the Early Learning Coalition. Dr. Orrett stated she's a fairly new business owner but in two years, her center has accomplished big strides. She is also very involved with the United Way. In her past experience, she has had a lot of opportunities working with the school board to build a lot of relationships in the community.
- D. Lawrence asked where she is in the process of accreditation. Dr. Orrett stated they submitted their binder to Apple and had their first visit. They had some physical alterations that needed to be done to the facility, which has been taken care of. They are waiting for a written response and another visit at this point.
- Y. Johnson asked how many total students she has participating in ELC programs. Dr. Orrett stated she has 35 VPK students and 20 School Readiness students. The percentage of school readiness is about 40-45%. They are currently at license capacity. C. Lederman asked how long her waiting list is. Dr. Orrett stated it's very large.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Arlene Lambert what unique qualities and abilities would she bring to the board. A. Lambert stated she is a team



player, very passionate about her childcare and educating childcare providers. She believes that they need ongoing professional development in order to pass it on to the families and children that they serve.

- Y. Johnson asked what she sees as the strengths and weaknesses of their childcare education system. A. Lambert stated one of the strengths for her is how they now incorporate early education to VPK as well as how they serve their families in the community. We need to tie in all three to get responsive care. The end result of responsive care is quality care. The weaknesses are sometimes the bureaucracy to get the job done. Sometimes when decisions are made, there is a miscommunication between the Board and the people who do the work like the providers.
- C. Lederman asked how she would breach that communication. A. Lambert stated by putting a provider like herself that is in touch with most providers. She is part of an organization called TOUCH in which directors come together to ask questions and get necessary information out there.
- C. Lederman asked if she has a plan with communicating with providers and how she would define her constituency. A. Lambert stated that she meets with 4 association presidents on a monthly basis. She is capable of talking and emailing. They get together and discuss what best fits each community. She would continue going to the meetings and get in touch with all the centers.
- D. Lawrence asked about her community involvement and any background she has with the Coalition. A. Lambert stated her only background with the Coalition is she won the raffle to go to the state conference in Clearwater. She has been a member on her PTA for 10 years. She noticed with the earlier kids, they need that extra push. The principal always needed help with getting the community involved. So she went out into the local community and to get her neighbors and everyone else involved.
- Y. Johnson asked what is the name of the organization that accredits her organization. A. Lambert stated NAFFC (National Association for Family Childcare). Y. Johnson asked how many children she serves. A. Lambert stated combined with after care, about 10. She is also an observer for the NAFFC in which she goes out to other providers homes, observe the environment and then help the NAFFC decide whether it is quality or not. D. Lawrence asked how many children she has in the early childhood years. A. Lambert stated she has 6 children ranging from ages 1 - 3. Her aftercare students are 6-7 years old. Since she is legally a 24-hour daycare she is able to shift out her services.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Shaleen Fagundo what outstanding qualities or abilities does she bring to this board. S. Fagundo stated what would set her apart is her experience with The Children's Trust and the fact that she has a childcare center that she has owned for three years. In particular the



reason this was so exciting to her, is that she was looking for a way to continue using her knowledge and expertise having been a funder to now work on a policy making side. At the Trust, she managed a budget of \$24 million dollars so she knows the importance of not only using your experience but also remaining objective. Sometimes the best decision is a hard decision and she believes she would be comfortable making those decisions in the funding environment they are in now. She wants to be an advocate for not only providers but for the community as a whole.

- Y. Johnson asked if she were to be selected for the Board, what she sees as the number one priority and how the board would influence public policy in that direction. S. Fagundo stated she wants to find a way to be holistic and recognize that early learning has to do with what they teach children and also how they support families. It is important to form partnerships. This board and organization has good and established relationships but they need to maximize how they are working together especially with parents.
- C. Lederman asked what she believes the strengths and weakness are of the early care and education system. S. Fagundo stated she believes strength is the relationship the centers have in their communities and with their parents. They are in a position to influence and impart information to parents because they have trust. It is invaluable as a provider that they continue and that the ELC continues to engage providers. As a weakness, there is no one solution to fit everyone. The needs vary from center to center. Balancing those needs is a challenge.
- D. Lawrence asked how she would communicate with other providers if chosen to sit on the board. S. Fagundo stated they need to do more to reach out to community. She knows there have been a lot of improvements using email and electronic tools. It is difficult because there is some disengagement on the private sector side. She thinks there needs to be some work to bridge that gap. There has to be a lot of work done to bring them to the table to make people feel they have a part in putting a program together. When they are part of the process it makes a significant difference in getting support. Y. Johnson asked how she would get them to the table. S. Fagundo stated that there needs to be a lot of opportunities given to them. She doesn't know how targeted the Provider Services Committee has been to bringing initiatives to the community of providers and letting them know that they need to come and be a participant. It takes persistence and genuine interest.
- Y. Johnson asked about her community involvement and her background with the Coalition. S. Fagundo stated her background with the Coalition is limited significantly to her involvement with the Children's Trust. Her work at the Children's Trust was primarily around child behavior, parenting and health. Other work in the community has been her work with the Healthy Start Coalition. As a consultant for them, she has done needs assessments.



C. Lederman asked why she left the Trust. S. Fagundo stated to spend more time with her family and to be more actively involved with her center.

- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Veronica Fernandez, what unique qualities she brings to the Board. V. Fernandez stated she was raised in the childcare industry. Her mother has had a learning center since she was out of preschool. Once she graduated high school and college, she got her degree in special education. She became the co-director of Early Start Learning Center and opened up a special needs program in her center. Her trajectory as a young professional is what makes her unique. D. Lawrence asked how her in progress Ph.D. fits in with her work and career. V. Fernandez stated it does demand a lot of her time but it is strengthening her relationship in the community. She is now working with Head Start centers, doing research around them and doing behavioral interventions. She is still very involved with her research and still committed to her center.
- Y. Johnson asked what she sees as the strengths and weaknesses of the early childhood education system. V. Fernandez stated at the local level, one of the strengths is the partnership the Early Learning Coalition has with the community and the fact there are many providers involved in many of the processes. In terms of the state level, partnership is also a very big strength. She serves on the ELAC Committee and the fact there is a cohesive group of professionals that come together and meet about children's need is a huge strength. One of the biggest deficits of the system is the assessment of very young children and the follow up of assessments. Also the services that are available to children with special needs are a big deficit as well.
- C. Lederman asked what their number one priority should be. V. Fernandez stated the number one priority would be that children are served adequately. They need to make sure they have more funds available to serve more families and ensure the services they do provide are increased in quality. C. Lederman asked how they as a public policy body address the issue of follow up services for the children they identify with special needs. V. Fernandez stated it's difficult because she knows the Coalition does not provide direct services. If they were to tap into some federal funding program and channel those funds into private centers, they would be able to reach more children. Also, there needs to be additional professional development since the centers are not currently adequately equipped.
- D. Lawrence asked V. Fernandez to explain additional details about her center. V. Fernandez stated it is a family business; her mom is the sole owner and the director. V. Fernandez is the co-director and her role is in regards to the academic. She is there about 20 hours a week. They have about 20 school readiness children and 54 VPK, which amounts to about 50%.



- Y. Johnson asked who she sees as her constituency and her plan to communicate with them. V. Fernandez stated her constituency would be the childcare directors throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe. She is not sure if the ELC has a means to facilitate communication between the Board and the constituency but she would think maybe having a section in the news blast would be the most effective means to be a liaison between the directors and her role on the Board. She would also request some means for the providers to be able to commutate with her maybe in the form of a blog.
- C. Lederman asked about her community involvement. V. Fernandez stated she has been less involved this past year with the Early Learning Coalition. She attends many of the meetings and has been part of the Inclusion and Assessment Taskforce. In terms of the community, she organizes events at the school and ensures they are part of philanthropic activities. She is a member of various organizations such as ARC; Go to Parent To Parent and so forth.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Viviana Delgado Espino, what unique qualities she brings to the board. V. Espino stated about 30 year's experience. She has worked in very diverse positions. She has worked from high school and narrowed down her passion to early childhood. She has had several positions within the Coalition including in the NEED program and in VPK. She is very involved with training in the community, experienced with directing, consulting, mentoring preschools.
- Y. Johnson asked what are some of the aspects that she is a mentor for. V. Espino stated she is a trainer for the Peace Education, which includes social, emotional and discipline behavior. She has done the entire Mind in the Making courses for Miami-Dade and United Way. She has done Stronger Together, working with families. She has also done mentoring for the NEED program.
- Y. Johnson asked what she sees as the strengths and weaknesses of the early childcare and education system. V. Espino stated it's about how to get all the benefits for the kids. It always turns out to be a money issue but that doesn't necessarily mean that the problems are gone. Another issue is how to get the community to back them up and how do they continue these programs. There are major weaknesses all over the place.
- C. Lederman asked what their number one priority should be as a public policy body. V. Espino stated the number one thing is doing the right thing for kids. It doesn't take just one agency to be able to do everything. Getting the communication and everyone on the same page with children as a priority.
- D. Lawrence asked how she would communicate with the provider constituency. V. Espino stated they are in the age of electronic communication. This is her community. She is a strong networker. You have to reach out to them as well as have them reach out to you.



- Y. Johnson asked about her community involvement as well as her involvement with ELC. V. Espino stated she was one of the original NEED people and also a VPK monitor.
- Y. Johnson asked if her school has VPK students. V. Espino stated yes, they officially start next Tuesday. They currently have 71 students. Carnival Cruise Line funds them and all of their students are children of the cruise lines' employees. She will have one VPK classroom of 14 students.
- C. Lederman asked how long they have been accredited. V. Espino stated she is not sure because she has only been the director since April. Before that she worked with Early Steps doing one on one intervention.
- D. Lawrence asked the next candidate, Matty De Loret Mola, what unique qualities she brings to the Board. M. De Loret Mola stated she thinks that her participating on the board would be a complete package of knowledge and experience. She has urgency for quality, which is demonstrated by the amount of schools she has put through accreditation. She has a passion for the business and she wants to do the right thing for children.
- Y. Johnson asked what she sees as the strengths and weaknesses of the early childcare and education system. M. De Loret Mola stated the fact that they can make an impact on children as early as infant. One of the things they need to work on is the education of the teachers and getting everyone accredited to provide better quality.
- C. Lederman asked what their number one priority should be as a public policy body. M. De Loret Mola stated right now they need to let providers have a voice. She does a lot of talking to other providers, and the fact that she hears that consistently would be something to focus on.
- D. Lawrence asked how she would communicate with the provider constituency. M. De Loret Mola stated there are different avenues to go through. Some are through organizations, through newsletters and email blasts. Also, giving them feedback and a summary as to what happens at ELC meetings.
- D. Lawrence asked her more detail about her responsibilities and centers. M. De Loret Mola stated she currently has 12 centers covering two different counties. She has 4 centers in Miami-Dade. One has already been visited and already passed accreditation they are just waiting for the certificate and the other is waiting for a visit. She has two centers are going through the process and also awaiting accreditation. D. Lawrence asked how many children she is responsible for in Miami-Dade County. M. De Loret Mola stated 600 children. Y. Johnson asked what percentages of those children are funded by VPK or school readiness. M. De Loret Mola stated one school is 99%, one is 86%, one is 75% and the other is 55%.



- Y. Johnson asked about 2 of the schools being low performing providers. M. De Loret Mola stated the average score of her schools are 186 out of 200. The school they are referring to was a summer provider and it was due to the fact they could not find all of the kids reporting.
- C. Lederman asked about her involvement in the community. M. De Loret Mola stated she is a verifier for Apple so she is very involved in visiting schools and dealing with providers. She attends all the Coalition meetings. Her schools do a lot of community events. She is also a member of FACCM.

III. Public Comments

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.

- M. Hernandez commented on behalf of C. Uribe. She tries to help the community in everything.
- B. De La Sierra spoke on behalf of M. De Loret Mola. She is a bright, professional and knowledgeable private sector childcare administrator. She supports quality, early childcare education.
- M. Delgado asked why her application was not accepted when she faxed it by the due date. E. Torres stated the only application they received with her name on it, was submitted by Linda Carmona Sanchez after the deadline. They do not have any other records of any other applications.
- D. Lawrence stated there are a lot of good people applying for this. He saw good things in everyone. This ultimately isn't a popularity contest. If you don't get it this time, there will be other opportunities. These are tough decisions and choose the person they think is most devoted to quality, is a good listener and the person they think would be able to operate in a collegial fashion. It's not about winning or losing but about serving children.
- E. Torres stated they have 4 votes for Shaleen Fagundo and 2 for M. De Loret Mola. Those were the two top scores. There was one for Veronica and one for Gina.
- C. Lederman stated she thinks Shaleen was the best-qualified candidate. She likes her background and was very impressed. Y. Johnson stated she was also impressed with Dr. Larrett as well considering the level of experience she has. J. McQueen stated one of the things about Shaleen was that she is comfortable making decisions and sometimes they have to make decisions that are not favored by everyone and they need someone like that. D. Lawrence stated these are both outstanding people, either one would be a first rate representative. However, he falls on the side of Shaleen Fagundo. She is an absolute pioneer and can work with a lot of people with a lot of different views.



- The committee voted unanimously for Shaleen. Y. Johnson stated she was so impressed with all of their applicants and it was a tough decision. This bodes well for the future of this Board.
- Y. Johnson asked the other candidates to continue to participate on various committees or any other way they feel they could lend their talents. Everyone was spectacular and it was a very tough decision.
- D. Lawrence commented that Shaleen's biggest challenge will be to figure out how to listen to providers.
- S. Fagundo thanked the committee and agreed with D. Lawrence. It is a huge responsibility and she is very excited.

IV. Adjourn

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.



Carlos Alvarez, Mayor

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miamidade.gov

January 4, 2011

Mr. Evelio C. Torres
President / CEO
Early Learning Coalition
2555 Ponce De Leon Boulevard
5th Floor
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Dear Mr. Torres: *Evelio*

As you know, I am committed to maintaining the productive relationship that currently exists between the County and the Early Learning Coalition. However, after 36 years of public service Irene Taylor Wooten, Special Assistant for Social Services, retired from Miami-Dade County and by necessity, has also relinquished her position as the County's representative on the Coalition's Board of Directors.

Please accept this correspondence as formal notification that I am appointing Howard Piper, Special Assistant for Social Services to serve as the County's representative for the Central Agency. Howard has served in various capacities within Miami-Dade County over the past thirteen years and has now assumed Irene's Social Service portfolio.

In Howard's absence, Ms. Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Director, Department of Human Services will attend the meetings on his behalf. If you have any questions, please contact me at (305) 375-1880.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]
George M. Burgess
County Manager

- c: Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Howard Piper, Special Assistant to the County Manager
Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. Chair, ELC Board of Directors
Dr. Yvonne T. Johnson, Vice Chair, ELC Board of Directors
Phyllis Tynes –Saunders, Director, Department of Human Services

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WORK EXPERIENCE

MIAMI- DADE COUNTY

2005 - Present

Since 2006 Mr. Piper has served as a Special Assistant to the County Manager responsible for the County's Social Services portfolio, Information Technology Services, Finance and Human Resources.

Dr. Piper is charged with providing management oversight and leadership to twelve County departments including the Human Services, Homeless Trust, Community Action Agency, Housing, Housing and Community Development. He is responsible to ensure that Departments, through their Directors, provide and maintain a high level of service to residents and businesses. In addition to overseeing the County's personnel, finance and central information technology operations, Mr. Piper is also the County's liaison with South Florida Workforce, the Children's Trust and the Property Appraiser. He provides staff support to the County's 13-member Board and associated Board Committees.

During his tenure as the Special Assistant for Management and Performance, Dr. Piper was responsible for reviewing operations and business practices in County departments to identify and implement solutions to address significant business issues, mitigate business risks, and improve staff performance and due diligence to reduce costs. This includes assessment of service levels, activity costs, decision-making, performance against expectations, and implementation of cross-cutting business practices and strategic initiatives that are consistent with modern and innovative business and leadership practices. These assessments encompassed all areas of the County including construction, engineering, technology management, general services, and social services programs.

Dr. Piper has also served as the interim Human Resources Director in 2007 responsible for personnel services, payroll and recruitment. Earlier, in 2006, He served as director Deputy Director for the Department of Procurement Management with a procurement staff of 109 procuring goods and services for 45 County Departments.

2003-2005

In 2003 Mr. Piper was appointed Assistant to the County Manager for Strategic Management Initiatives. His work supported the County's initiative to meet the public's expectations for efficient, responsive and quality County service delivery. This included a focus on strategic and business planning, finance, performance measures and performance improvement initiatives. He provided staff support to the Internal Management and Fiscal Responsibility Committee of the Board of County Commissioners and the Mayor's Efficiency and Competition Commission. He was a member of the Management Team that spearheaded development of the \$2.9 billion Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program and the promotional campaign for its passage by voters.

1998 -2003

As the Manager for Performance Improvement until 2003, Mr. Piper completed numerous internal consulting projects, including management and efficiency improvements, managed competition initiatives, and best practices reviews, implemented innovative programs and other improvement initiatives countywide. He was instrumental in working with the management team to complete the first Countywide Strategic Plan, developed employee gain sharing programs and standards for countywide employee participation programs.

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Business Administration
- Master of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering