

MINUTES

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board of Directors Mtg.
3250 SW Third Avenue
Ryder Conference Room
February 3, 2005

BOARD ATTENDEES: Daniel Armstong, Sara Herald, Leonie Hermantin, Edith Humes-Newbold, Yvonne Johnson, Silvia La Villa, David Lawrence, Dabney Park, Jane Robinson, Natacha Seijas, Gerald Schwartz, Margie Zeskind.

STAFF ATTENDEES: Ana Alfonso, Kerry Allen, Ivonne Anton, Juanita Armbrister, Paula S. Bender, Kassandra Bustamante, Carmen Carreras, Donna Chang, Yesenia Diaz, Phyllis Ditlow, Patrick Dolan, Karen Basha Egozi, Guadalupe Garcia, Qin He, Maria L. Lopez, Guimel Martinez, Yvette Medina, J. Henry Neyra, Martha Olivares, Mina Prado, David Ramil, Bethany Sands, Ileana Vallejo, Mary A. Williams.

MONROE COUNTY ATTENDEES: Joseph Barker, Mary Brown-Martilik, Gale Killion, Jesse Perkins.

GENERAL ATTENDEES: Carole Abbott, Modesto E. Abety, Barbara Adkison, Ardene A. Bachoo, Roni Bader-Tables, Maria E. Binelo, Jeannifer Bonnet, Ava Byrne, Vonesia Campbell, Madelaine Cosgrove, Ann de las Pozas, Janice Delaney, Carladenise Edwards, Cheryl Fountain, Kim Hines, Willie F. Ivory, Viviana Jordan, Betty Key, Marilyn Lesser, Dan S. Lomoriello, Donald Manning, Harve Mogul, Gladys R. Montes, Muriel W. Lundgren, Collen Mauer, Ivette Riano, Ginette Rigaud, Bevone Ritchie, Eduardo Rivera, Lourdes Rodriguez-Rivera, Ana Sejeck, Rick Signori, Judith Williams, Marie Woodson.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	- Gerald K. Schwarz (Jerry) welcomed everyone to the first meeting as the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe formerly the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition, and asked for introductions.	
NEW BOARD COMPOSITION	- Jerry informed the board that the State of Florida "State" is still working on the new board composition. Monroe County still does not have a seat on the board due to unresolved issues with the State. We are planning on having representation from Monroe County shortly on the board.	

- We have tentatively scheduled a meeting in March 3rd in hopes that in the next few weeks we will work with the State in the completion of the board structure .

- As you all know the recent VPK legislation has meant a change in the composition of the Coalition boards across the state. This has meant a reconfiguration of our local board and means that many of our very loyal and dedicated board members can no longer serve on the Coalition board. We want to recognize those members' service today.

- The board was also informed that even though Gerald Schwartz was voted as Chair of the Coalition, under the new VPK statute he is no longer the Chair.

- Dave Lawrence asked Jerry to please explain to the board what's happening in the new legislation.

- Dave Lawrence informed the board that the legal counsel for the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) has gotten involved in the definition of a private sector member. Under the School

- Following the discussion on the private sector definition and how it might be changed, Jerry decided to hold off on the appreciation certificates, except for former Chair Willie Ivory. Both Dave and Jerry recognized Willie and his work with the Coalition and other organizations. Willie expressed his appreciation to the Coalition board and staff.

- Sara Herald made a motion to appoint Gerald K. Schwartz as acting Chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Board of Directors.
SECOND: Silvia La Villa
Motion was unanimously approved.

- Jerry explained that there are 13 mandatory board members and 3 appointees from the Governor (one of which is the Chair). The Governor will appoint the Chair of every Coalition along with 2 other representatives of the private sector. The Coalition can select board members from the private sector. The private sector needs to be in excess of 1/3 of the total board. We are trying to work out a way to be able to designate other members (perhaps at large members) from other than the private sector. Every time you add another person other than from the private sector, we have to increase the number of private sector members. We are permitted to have from 18 – 35 members. A copy of the private sector definition was distributed. Jerry informed the board that he has already submitted his application to the Governor.

- Sara Herald suggested that the board challenge this decision in writing, and copy every member of our legislative delegation. She expressed that we cannot

	<p>Readiness Act of 1999 we define private sector member a certain way, but now we are told that we need to alter that definition.</p> <p>- Sara Herald questioned why Harve Mogul, CEO of United Way of Miami-Dade would not fall under the new definition of private sector. United Way is a not for profit private agency, not a public agency.</p> <p>- Harve Mogul expressed to the board his disappointment and disapproval of the decision to not include him as a private sector board member. He also expressed that he would appreciate if the board would challenge this decision.</p> <p>- Eduardo Rivera of AWI informed the board that the Coalition has addressed this concern to AWI, and we are awaiting their reply.</p>	<p>allow months to go by without United Way being at the table.</p> <p>- Sara Herald made a motion to go on record in writing that the board disagrees that the definition of private not for profit agency is not considered a private sector member. SECOND: Jane Robinson Motion was unanimously approved.</p> <p>- Jerry asked Sara Herald to speak with Kim Hines of Steel Hector and Davis and Paula Bender to help work this through.</p>
<p>REVIEW & DEC. 2, 2005 BOARD MINUTES & DEC. 17, 2005 EXEC. COMM. MTG. MINUTES</p>	<p>- The December 2, 2004 Board of Directors minutes, and the December 17, 2004 Executive Committee minutes were reviewed and approved. (SEE HANDOUT)</p>	
<p>COALITION NAME CHANGE</p>	<p>- Kim Hines of Steel Hector and Davis, informed the board that at the end of 2004 the merger between Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition and the Monroe County School Readiness Coalition was completed. As a result of that process the organizations are now one entity and the name will be changed to Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. This name change will be accomplished very soon.</p>	<p>- Edith Humes-Newbold made a motion to accept the new name be changed to Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. SECOND: David Lawrence Motion was unanimously approved.</p>
<p>REVIEW OF BY-LAWS</p>	<p>- Jerry informed the board that we were prepared to finalize the by-laws at this meeting, but our current by-laws are contrary to what the State has told us. We are holding off on finalizing the by-laws, and more changes will be made. Jerry encouraged the board members to please review the by-laws and give the staff their feedback.</p>	<p>- Dave Lawrence encouraged the board to involve Susan Pareigis, Director of AWI to help get these issues with the State resolved. The following people should also be copied. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Gladys Wilson, Executive Director of Office of Early Learning.</p>

	<p>- Dave Lawrence informed the board that there is a significant change in who gets to vote under the new board composition.</p>	<p>- Sara Herald suggested that the present definition of private sector be attached to the written correspondence challenging the Private Sector Definition.</p>
<p>ESTABLISHING NOMINATING COMMITTEE</p>	<p>- Because of the new legislation and new board composition, a Nominating Committee needs to be established. Jerry asked that any board member who wants to serve on the committee please inform Paula Bender, and then he will make the designations.</p>	<p>- Application information was given out for those who want to apply through the Coalition of Chambers or everyone is welcome to ask for a Governor's appointment. Those who already have seats who are from the private sector do not need to reapply.</p> <p>- The open board seats will also be publicly noticed in the local newspaper.</p>
<p>CEO REPORT</p>	<p>- <u>VPK – Update</u>: Paula Bender explained that the law clearly stated who mandated members were, and mandated representatives and the number of private sector. It then clearly stated who could and could not vote. We were notified via conference call that we could not operate the way we were any longer and that the new law was in affect with the new board composition, and that we were to advice our Chairs of this. Paula explained that it was the law who told us who can and can not vote and then AWI has given us the private sector definition.</p> <p>- The Coalition is responsible for the local coordination, implementation and administration of VPK. This includes payment to providers and Miami-Dade County Public Schools if they participate. The State has put a preliminary application for providers and parents on their web site. Their web site is www.vpkflorida.org. Hard copies of the application are here at the meeting and we will also have hard copies at the Coalition, along with it being posted on our web site. Our web site is www.childreadiness.org. Even though the Bill is still silent on many issues, we are going to continue to move forward, because we can't just wait. There is far too much at stake for these children's education. Please alert providers and parents that we are registering parents and are ready to move forward.</p>	

- **Early Reading First Grant:** Paula Bender announced that the Coalition submitted a pre-application for the Early Reading First Grant.

- **Infant & Toddlers:** Barry University and Dr. Marilyn Lesser have started to help us in meeting one of our goals in our plan for health and infant and toddler. We believe this is going to be a great partnership to start to get some help screening and further our infant and toddler work in the community.

- **Monitoring - Update:** The Coalition was monitored this past month by the Office of Early Learning as well as by the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). It was a very positive experience and under Karen Egozi's and Ivonne Anton's direction our Quality Assurance department did very well.

- Karen Egozi explained that the Office Of Early Learning monitoring was not fiscal it was programmatic. It was a very positive outcome. They had recommendations, but no major finding. They are very keen on us increasing our monitoring of our contractors, and had some good recommendations. The DCF monitoring was also a programmatic and not fiscal. They had no findings as well, but had some recommendations which they will provide us with in their final report.

- **United Way - Groundbreaking:** Harve Mogul informed the board that the groundbreaking for the new Center For Excellence will commence on February 28, 2005. The groundbreaking celebration will take place on February 15, 2008 and everyone is invited to attend. Once the construction is completed, it will be a wonderful facility.

- **Early Literacy & Learning Model (ELLM) 2002-2003 Report:** Dr. Cheryl Fountain and Dr. Madelaine Cosgrove of The Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida presented to the board their 2002 – 2003 report on ELLM. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation.

	<p>- 5 Star Rating System: The Coalition is well underway with the planning of 5 Star and have met with The Children’s Trust taking it to the next level. Next month we hope to do a full report and presentation of what our design is so far.</p>	
FINANCIAL - UPDATE	<p>- Paula Bender introduced Patrick Dolan, our new CFO to the Coalition board.</p> <p>- Jerry informed the board that we do not have our financials because our audit has not been completed. We are still waiting for documents and records from Family Central, Inc. We have been waiting for these documents and records for some time.</p>	<p>- Jerry recommended that if we do not receive the documents and records within two weeks, we take another course of action. Our audit should have been completed over a month ago.</p>
CHILDREN SERVED REPORTS	<p>- Karen Basha Egozi, Vice President of Administration, detailed the latest statistics of the Children Served Reports in Miami-Dade County. She pointed out that on November enrollments were not quite as high as anticipated, but the good news is that December enrollments were on target. We do have some aggressive goals for enrollment for the next two to three months, but CDS has assured us that they will reach that target.</p> <p>- Sara Herald expressed her concern about the wait list.</p>	<p>- Sara has requested from Modesto Abety of The Children’s Trust, that by the next board meeting of The Children’s Trust specific data be provided. The data should provide specific data about where the program is needed, how many children are not on any programs. We then need to do a cross match the lists from both organizations and fill in the gaps.</p>
		<p>- Meeting adjourned @ 10 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">D.R.</p>

Signed and approved by:

Silvia La Villa
Board Secretary

Date

