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Board Meeting  
September 11, 2003  
8 a.m.

United Way of Miami-Dade – Ansin Building  
3250 SW Third Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33129

**Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition board members present:**

Vickie Burley	Marisel Elias-Miranda	Sara Herald	Leonie Hermantin
Willie Ivory	Patricia G. Johnson	Shirley Johnson	Yvonne T. Johnson
Betsy Kaplan	Robert H. Kelly	Silvia La Villa	David Lawrence Jr.
Dannie McMillon	Harve Mogul	Dabney Park	Jane Robinson
Lourdes C. Rovira	Gerald K. Schwartz	Dean Taylor	Lucia Vicencio
Ann-Karen Weller			

**Others in attendance:**

Carole Abbott	Alexander Alejo	Maggie Alvarez-Miranda	Ivonne Anton
Ivette Aponte-Torres	Crystal Archable	Manuel Ayala	Roni Bader-Tables
Rosalyn Berry	Barbara Biggart	Maria E. Binelo	Lisa Blair
Chuck Bleiker	Maritza C. Bosch	Jeannifer M. Bonnet	Sandra Camacho
Brigitte Chaney	Wendy Cheney	Ann de las Pozas	Linda Carmona-Sanchez
Sherman Davis	Yesenia Diaz	Warren Eldridge	Manuel Fermin
Lisa Fowler	Sylvia Fumero	Myrna Hennessy	Ava James
Betty Key	Carrie Keys	Michelle Leon	Maggie Loret de Mola
Matty Loret de Mola	Guimel Martinez	Mayra E. Martinez	Erica McKinney
Yvette Medina	Ramiro S. Moreno	Rose Mary Moreno	Thomas J. Mowbray
Norman Nierenberg	Isabel G. Perez	Ivonne Ramirez	Eduardo Rivera
Lourdes Rodriguez	Izsy Rojas	Gina Romero	Wendy Salomon
Bethany Sands	Jerry Sanreino	Rick Signori	Gloria Simms
Dominique Sinclair	Jerome Steers	Dorothy Thomas	Evelio Torres
Mireya Veres	Dorothy Wallace	Timothy Weeks	Barbara A. White
Adam Winsler	Marie Woodson	Robyn Yglesias	

Willie Ivory welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions. He also asked everyone to bow their heads for a few minutes in remembrance of the Sept. 11 tragedy.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESIDENT/CEO**

David Lawrence introduced to the board Paula S. Bender as the CEO Search Committee's choice for the position of President/CEO of the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition. Paula Bender comes from New Jersey with an extensive background in Early Childhood. Prior to joining the School Readiness Coalition, Paula served as a consultant for the National Institute of Early Education Research in New Brunswick, N.J. Preceding to that Paula served as executive director and CEO for the IMPACT Family Resource Center in Vineland, N.J. Previously, she worked in the fields of early childhood curricula, child care, training and elementary education. Her bachelor's degree is in education from Rowan University, where she also received graduate certification for early childhood education. She also attended Harvard University's Graduate School of Design for early childhood and health environments for children.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Patricia G. Johnson requested a motion for approval of the July 17 minutes.

**Motion:** Willie Ivory  
**Second:** Robert H. Kelly  
Motion was unanimously approved.

Patricia G. Johnson requested a motion for approval of the Sept. 2 minutes.

**Motion:** Gerald K. Schwartz  
**Second:** Lourdes C. Rovira  
Motion was unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF JUNE 2003 FINANCIALS**

Ivonne Ramirez presented to the board the June Financial Statement. Cash on hand was \$1.6 million, and accounts receivable was \$14 million consisting outstanding invoices at the end of the fiscal year to the Florida Partnership. This figure is directly offset by our accounts payable at \$13.3 million. In the Consolidated Statement of Activities you will notice that under Revenue, Administrative Fee it showed the Coalition with \$56,000 under budget. Under Expenses, Contracted Services you will notice Family Central has a \$98,000 deficit and a surplus in Child Development Services (CDS). Those funds were transferred at year end to compensate for the overage and shortage. No other significant variances on the balance sheets. All the funds from the Florida Partnership were spent and the children were to be served were served plus some.

Sara Herald shared concern as to the July Financials not being presented yet. Ivonne and Dabney (Bud) Park, chair of the Finance, Audit and Personnel committee explained that due to the fact that our contract calls for all adjustment invoices to be submitted by Aug. 31. The July financial statements were not completed because we were working on closing the year by Aug. 31.

Bud also informed Sara that the committee is scheduled to meet monthly after the close of each month to review the financials for that month. Our next Finance, Audit and Personnel committee meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25 @ 4p.m.

Ivonne also informed the board that the auditors are scheduled to begin their field audit Sept. 22. We expect to have financial statement in Dec.

Patricia G. Johnson requested a motion for approval of the July 2003 Financials.

**Motion:** Harve Mogul  
**Second:** Sara Herald  
Motion was unanimously approved.

### **PROGRAMS UPDATE**

- Assessment Intervention Program (AIP) – Warren Eldridge introduced Dr. Adam Winsler of George Mason University and Dr. Charles Bleiker of Florida International University. They presented the findings of the first year of AIP. The program's goal is to provide developmental assessment to all 3 and 4 year olds. Ivette Aponte-Torres, Program Director informed the board on AIP's year two plans and schedule.
- Project Upgrade – Lisa Blair, Program Director presented a report on Project Upgrade. A study of the impact of preschool language interventions on Children in subsidized child care. The three curriculum selections for this project are Breakthrough to Literacy, The Ready, Set, Leap Program and B.E.L.L. Project Upgrade is a joint effort between the Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition, Abt. Associates, and Florida International University. One hundred sixty two child care centers will be participating in this community initiative. The kickoff is scheduled for Oct. 2.
- Intense Intervention for Quality Initiative (IIQI) – Ivette Aponte-Torres reported the results of IIQI's year one. The coalition provided technical assistance, support, training and quality enhancement funding to 78 facilities of which 75 finished the process and submitted documentation for accreditation. Year two of IIQI had its kick off on Sept. 4th. Ninety facilities will be participating. The partners collaborating in this program are: The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation – SPARK, Bank of America/United Way Success By Six, Miami-Dade County Child Development Services, Florida Department of Children and Families – Licensing Division, and Family Central, Inc. Once again the goal of this initiative is to enhance the quality of care and services provided to children and their families by providing intense technical assistance, professional development and quality enhancement funds to participating early care and education programs as they pursue accreditation.
- Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM) – Juanita Armbrister, Program Director reported on the first year. The 15 comparison sites during year 1 have now become intervention sites. In addition, five new sites have been identified as comparison/control sites for this school year

because of the late start from Year One. The annual report with completed data will be provided to the coalition by the end of Oct. In year two we will have 30 sites and have hired two additional coaches to be available at each site once a week.

- Early Authors Program Update (EAP) – Juanita Armbrister, Program Director reported what has been implemented since the last update of Jan. 2003. She also informed the board that EAP will come to an end on Feb. 28, 2004. There are plans to display the books from this project at the Miami Children’s Museum and other places around Dade County.
- Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) Program – Ana Sejeck, COO of the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation reported to the board. This is a 5-year \$4 million longitudinal study of 1,600 3-year old children, their families, schools and communities. The money is granted to the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Miami-Dade is one of eight communities in the United States that received this grant. The idea of SPARK is ready children, ready parents, ready communities, and ready schools. Two neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County were chosen: Allapattah/Model City and Florida City/Homestead, 70 child care centers were selected to participate from those areas. Eight elementary schools will also participate in SPARK. A handout on SPARK will be provided at the Nov. 13 board meeting.
- Teen Parent Child Care Quality Improvement Project – Barbara White of The Florida State University’s Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy (FSU Center) reported the outcomes of the project funded by the coalition in November 2002. This project has focused on addressing the specific needs of teen parents and their children in the child care programs that are a part of Miami-Dade School District’s COPE Centers.

Sara Herald asked that prior to partnering with The Florida State University’s Center we have an integration discussion to avoid duplication of services between FSU and Healthy Start. She also recommended that we organize a task force to ensure adequate funding to screen all teen parents.

Sara Herald requested a motion for a task force to be established to bring appropriate parties decision makers at the Miami-Dade County Public School System, Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade, and FSU Center to analyze what barriers exists and develop a work plan to eliminate the barriers.

**Motion:** Patricia G. Johnson  
**Second:** Yvonne Johnson  
Motion was unanimously approved.

Sara Herald requested a motion for approval of funding for the Teen Parent Child Care Quality Improvement Project contract in the amount of \$60,000 on the condition that additional deliverables are established showing mechanism for integration with Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade in establishments of screening for teen parents

**Motion:** Gerald K. Schwartz  
**Second:** Dave Lawrence  
Motion was unanimously approved.

### **ACCREDITATION REPORT**

Ivette Aponte-Torres informed us that as of Sept. 11, the number of accredited facilities in Miami-Dade County is 127. Of the total, CDS has 56 facilities or 14.2 percent of its 395 contracted early care and education programs, and Family Central has 36 facilities or 14.7 percent of its 245 contracted early care and education programs. As of Sept. 11, 182 early care and education facilities in Miami-Dade County are in the accreditation pipeline. 87 facilities are awaiting validation and 7 facilities are awaiting accreditation decision.

### **CHILD CARE PROVIDER ADVISORY GROUP**

Lucia Vicencio informed the board that on the Aug. 28 meeting recommendations were submitted for the design and implementation of the Start Rating System to further discuss quality dimensions.

### **STAR QUALITY RATING SYSTEM**

Dave Lawrence informed the board that The Children’s Trust has voted to spend millions over the next five years in building a Star Quality Rating System. This does not abolish accreditation, but it should enhance

it. No money would be disbursed any earlier than beginning of this coming year. The goal is to combine star rating and accreditation programs together so that in the long run, all county providers become aware and desire national accreditation.

### **UNIVERSAL PRE-K AND THE CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Dave Lawrence shared that the Universal Pre-K Advisory Council (UPK) chaired by Lieutenant Governor Toni Jennings is meeting almost every week. They are presenting to the State Board of Education on Oct. 21. From there it will go to the legislature. The outline of what the UPK Council appears to be heading towards in recommendations: 1) Multiple curriculum models 2) We will incorporate Family Child Care Homes 3) The Lead Teacher will need to have a national CDA and second teacher a CDA equivalent. You can get additional information on [www.upkcouncil.org](http://www.upkcouncil.org).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Dave Lawrence informed the board that OPPAGA will be issuing a preliminary report showing Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition as the leading example of what works in the state of Florida in school readiness.

Sara Herald reminded everyone that the new Miami Children's Museum is officially open to the public.

**Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.**