



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**June 23, 2008**  
8:00 - 10:00 a.m., Board Room

**MINUTES**

**BOARD ATTENDEES:** Yvonne Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Harve Mogul; Dr. Dabney Park; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; David Williams, Jr.; Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez; Connie Chapell Roderick Beasley; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; David Lawrence; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Ann Karen Weller; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Gerald Schwartz, Esq.; Dr. Silvia La Villa; Alan Abramowitz; The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez

**BOARD ABSENTEES:** Octavio Verdeja (Chair); Jessie Perkins (Treasurer); Jane McQueen;

**STAFF ATTENDEES:** Walter Harvey (Coalition Attorney); Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Jackye Russell; Melody Thelwell; Alina Soto; Mary Williams; Bethany Sands; Vivian Wright; Teri Carbajal; Silvia Palenzuela; Pam Hollingsworth;

**GENERAL ATTENDEES:** Doug Blomberg, Wesley House Family Services; Ana Sejeck, ECLF; Eddie Rivera, AWI; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Matty Loret de Mola, La Petite Academy; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County, DHS; Valtena G. Brown, Miami-Dade Schools; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children’s Trust; Maritza Alfonso, DHS; Maria E. Binelo, CDS/DHS; Marie Woodson, DHS/CDS; Phyllis Saunders, DHS; Gladys R. Montes, CFE United Way

I. Welcome and Introductions ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair

Meeting began after the Nomination Committee (at 19 minutes 35 seconds)

A. Roll Call ..... Nadira Ali

B. Approval of Agenda ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair

Alan Eckstein made a Motion to Amend the Agenda to include a Motion after Item VII (Monroe County Presentation), for the Board to consider a Motion to exempt Monroe County from the ELC After School Enrollment Policy.

The motion was seconded by Alan Abramowitz. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

The Chair confirmed that Item VII was to be moved up to V and that Item VI – Nominating Committee Report will be moved after Item II. Approval of Minutes



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C. Opening Remarks ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair

The Chair said Opening Remarks would be skipped so the Committee could move on to the Approval of the Minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair

Motion to approve April 28, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The motion was made by David Lawrence and seconded by Rick Beasley. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

III. Executive Committee Report ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair

Evelio Torres explained that a Board requirement is that Annual Meeting be held in June. Due to the scheduling problems and Board Members unavailable, the plan was to hold it on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

With the Annual Board Retreat due, Evelio proposed that the Annual Meeting be held on August 1<sup>st</sup> and the Board Retreat be held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Monroe County. However there were not enough members available to attend.

Evelio suggested that the Annual Meeting be held on the regular date of August 4<sup>th</sup> in Miami-Dade.

David Lawrence stated that it was important that the Board Retreat be held in Monroe County and suggested that the Board take the present opportunity to come up with some dates that would fit everyone’s schedules.

The Board discussed the following dates: Tuesday July 29; Wednesday August 13 or Friday August and Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Report from May 27 Committee Meeting

The motion was made by Alan Eckstein that the Minutes be approved and seconded by Cindy Lederman. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

IV. Finance Committee Report ..... Dabney Park



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A. Motion to approve Resolution 062308-01 to Authorize the President and CEO to renew the following sub-recipient contracts:

- Miami-Dade County – School Readiness Services;
- Miami-Dade County – Voluntary Pre Kindergarten Services;
- Wesley House - School Readiness and Voluntary Pre Kindergarten Services;
- United Way of Miami Dade – Program Quality Services;
- Miami-Dade County – Inclusion and Assessment Services.

The motion to approve was made by David Lawrence and seconded by Alan Eckstein. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

B. Motion to approve Resolution 062308-02 to Authorize the President and CEO to renew the following vendor contracts:

- Bluejean Software Inc. - Software Development Services;
- Hearing and Speech Inc. - Children's Health Screening Services;
- Creative Staffing Inc. - Temporary Staffing Services;
- The M Network Inc. - Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Marketing Services;
- PC Depot Inc. - Information Technology Support & Services;
- Gray Robinson - Legal Services;
- The Children's Forum Inc. - QRIS Services;
- Becker's School Supplies, Inc.
- Childcraft Education Corporation;
- Excelligence Learning Corporation (Discount School);
- Hatch, Inc.; and Kaplan Early Learning Company – Quality Materials Services;
- Abrams & Company Publishers, Inc.;
- High / Scope Foundation;
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company;
- Kaplan Early Learning Company;
- Leapfrog School, a Division of Leapfrog Enterprises, Inc;
- Literacy Express;
- Pearson Education Inc.;
- Teaching Strategies, Inc.;
- The University of North Florida - Curricula Materials;
- Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra LLP - External Audit Services;
- The School Board Miami-Dade County – ERF Mentor Services

Mission: To promote school readiness and pre-kindergarten 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.



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The motion was to approve was made by Rick Beasley that the Minutes be approved and seconded by Alan Eckstein. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

- C. Motion to approve Resolution 062308-03 to Authorize the President and CEO to execute contract No 841-79 with The Children's Trust to provide a match for a multi-media campaign with the goal of increasing registration of children in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program.

Alan Eckstein said he would move the motion but would like to discuss it. Alan Abramowitz seconded the motion but withdrew it sighting conflict of interest as he is on The children's Trust Board of Directors. Cindy Lederman seconded the motion.

Alan Eckstein asked if Monroe County would have a similar campaign or get some resources from the Coalition. Evelio Torres stated that the Coalition just received the allocation from Tallahassee. It is broken down between Monroe and Miami-Dade. The amount for Monroe County because of its size is \$2,000 while Miami-Dade is \$110,000. The President said the Coalition would put additional dollars into the campaign. Alan Eckstein pointed out that this cannot be created for \$2,000. Dabney Park pointed out that The Children's Trust cannot also fund Monroe. Alan acknowledge it and said that is why he is going the Coalition. He asked if this could go into Radio spots. Tabatha Cullen explained that everything being done by the Coalition, other than The Children's Trust dollars, is being done for Monroe and Miami-Dade. Tabatha continued that she will refer to Mary Williams to see what will work.

Evelio Torres stated and Mary Williams confirmed that the VPK participation in Monroe County is in the low 60%. The President added that Monroe County has one of the highest participation rates in the State.

Both Alan Abramowitz and David Lawrence recused themselves since they are Members of The Children's Trust Board of Directors.

Coalition Counsel Walter Harvey told both gentlemen that a 'Conflict of Interest' form would be sent to each of them with the next few days. They are to fill it out and return it.

The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.



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- D. Motion to approve Resolution 062308-04 to Authorize the President and CEO to execute a contract with The Children's Trust for local match for the Child Care Executive Partnership Program.

The motion was made by Alan Eckstein that the Minutes be approved and seconded by Rick Beasley. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

Acting Finance Chair Dabney Park asked Evelio Torres to remind the Board what the local match is about and who is participating in it.

Evelio Torres explained that this is 100% slot dollars, a one-for-one match. The Children's Trust provides \$500,000 and the State Child Care Executive Development Board provides another \$500,000 for slots, for families at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level where the School Readiness is 150%.

Evelio Torres informed the Board that another program will be starting on July 1<sup>st</sup> as part with the Child Care Executive Partnership Program. Their Board approved a match of \$550,000. The Coalition is working with private businesses, mostly Providers so they can provide care to the children of their employees. The Coalition will use their match to draw down the State dollars.

The President/CEO said that the Coalition has \$1.1 million dollars with the rest in match. Match from The Children's Trust and match from the Providers. That is the essence of the Child Care Executive Partnership Program for Miami-Dade.

The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

- E. Motion to approve Resolution 062308-05 for the Ratification of Resolution number 052708-03, approving the Coalition's annual budget for fiscal year 2008-2009.

The motion to approve both was made by David Williams that the Minutes be approved and seconded by Gerald Schwartz. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

Angelo Parrino then went through the Financial Statements for the Board indicating that the Coalition is right where it needs to be.

He read the Net Asset detail and the use of unrestricted funds explaining that the Board had requested for a report each month on the use of Unrestricted Funds.



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Angelo Parrino explained that \$1.1 Million of materials have been delivered to the Providers but the Coalition has not paid for it that is why it is reflecting a surplus. The intention is to have everything delivered before June 30<sup>th</sup> and paid for. So that will bring it down to almost close to \$0 as it relates to the budget.

Natacha Seijas asked Angelo if the money is not spent does it have to be returned. He said yes. This money is not rolled over into the next year.

Evelio Torres reminded the Board that they had instructed that if it was a choice of over spending or under spending they suggest over spending since up to 1.5% of next years grant to pay for this year's expenses. However Evelio Torres added he believes it will be very close this year.

Angelo Parrino mentioned that there is a large variance because not all of the contracts and revenue end on June 30<sup>th</sup> but go into next fiscal year. He added that some go into September and other to December.

The Snap Shots indicate that as of this date there are 30,001 children enrolled in the School Readiness program. Evelio explained that due to the budget reduction that number will have to be brought down to 29,000 starting July 1st. There are 1,934 children in the Ready Pool waiting to enter the program as soon as the 29,000 number is reached.

Dabney Park asked Evelio Torres to confirm that we are still at 31.44 of School Aged Children. The President/CEO confirmed that number and stated that that number will remain throughout the summer so that summer care is not interrupted. He continued that after the summer that number will be impacted when School Aged are limited to under 9 years of age.

### V. Governance & Bylaws Committee Report ..... Alan Eckstein, Chair

#### A. Motion to approve the additional language to the Bylaw's:

- Article III – Mission

The Motion was moved by David Williams and seconded by Cindy Lederman. The Chair requested a vote which carried unanimously.



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- Section 5.11 – Vacancies

The Motion was moved by Gina Cortes-Suarez and seconded by Dabney Park. The Chair requested a vote which carried unanimously.

- Section 7.5 - Attendance by Communications Technology

The Motion was moved by Natacha Seijas and seconded by Harve Mogul. The Chair requested a vote which carried unanimously.

VI. Nominating Committee Report..... Yvonne Johnson, Cmte Chair

- A. Motion to approve the Committee’s Private Sector Candidate Isis Garcia-Martinez recommendation.

The Motion was made by the Nominating Committee and seconded by David Lawrence. The Chair asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.

Evelio Torres thanked Isis for the work she had done for the ELC in Tallahassee during the Legislative session. Prior to joining this Board Isis has worked very hard on behalf of children of this community by lobbying the legislators and informing them of the impact of the budget cuts. Evelio spoke to her a number of times by phone while she lobbied on behalf of us.

The Chair announced that Ms. Garcia-Martinez will Chair the Legislative Advocacy Committee and is very excited to do so.

The Hon. Natacha Seijas made a motion that Isis Garcia-Martinez be appointed Chair of the ELC Legislative Advocacy Committee. Harve Mogul seconded the motion. The Chair asked for a vote which carried unanimously.

- B. Motion to approve the Committee’s recommendation for ELC Board member Dr. Silvia La Villa to represent the ELC as a candidate to The Children’s Trust Board of Directors.

Alan Eckstein moved that the Committee’s recommendation be accepted. Harve Mogul seconded the motion. The Chair asked for a vote which carried unanimously.



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David Lawrence stated that Silvia has earned this as she has been an extraordinary member of this body from the beginning. He thanked her.

- c. Motion to approve the Committee's recommendation to designate Valtena G. Brown as the Miami-Dade County Public School Board representative.

Alan Eckstein moved that the Committee's recommendation be accepted. Harve Mogul seconded the motion. The Chair asked for a vote which carried unanimously.

Alan Eckstein stated he is apposed to applying the ELC After School Enrollment Policy to Monroe County. He said he is seeking a permanent exemption for Monroe County. Alan Eckstein stated that Board Counsel informed the Board that they can chose how to apply policies and can make any decisions they wish to make in the application of the policies. He added that Monroe has been treated differently on many occasions in the past because of the nature of the county.

Alan Eckstein made a motion to exempt Monroe County from the ELC After School Enrollment Policy.

### VII. Monroe County Presentation ..... Alan Eckstein

Alan Eckstein introduced Doug Blomberg and informed the Board that this presentation was to reacquaint the Board with the specifics, the differences between the two counties and how this will effect school aged children.

Doug Blomberg spoke of how Monroe County suffers due to its geography and explained that the Keys are broken into three groups. The Upper Keys, the Middle Keys and the Lower Keys. Even Child Welfare has three offices, one in each area.

The Keys have a population of approximately 75,000 people, one highway that is connected by 40 bridges. There are 26 Child Care Centers and 52 registered Family Homes. There is only one licensed home in Monroe County because to be Licensed a Home must be a specific number of feet away from water. With the Keys surrounded by an ocean, the Gulf and canals it is very difficult on the small keys to find a home that is far enough away from water.

Doug Blomberg's presentation compared what Providers are charging and what a working poor parents must pay. One example he showed was that a parent can pay 10% of her pay.



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Another is a single parent with two children will spend about 14% of her take home pay every week. If her school aged child is dis-enrolled, she would then be paying 27.6% of her take home on child care fees. If she lost her eligibility completely, it is just under 40%. David Blomberg stated that what is being done with these School Readiness dollars is fantastic for these working poor parents. Without this they will be put in a far worse position.

He went on to share the following facts.

Since all the Providers are charging at or above. They are also picking up that additional fee.

The Keys has lost 3 centers within the last year all due to financial consideration. There has been a 30% increase of food stamp applications. Wesley House has seen an increase in enrollment in the past 3 months compared to the prior 3 months for parents asking for child care eligibility.

Working poor were working more hours when the economy was good and were then considered ineligible, now they may work 30-35 hours and are eligible.

The Keys do not have additional Family resources and do not have after school care resources. Children in Miami have another places to go like the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club after school care programs. The children in Monroe don't always have that second option.

There are no large corporations in the Keys to go to for additional funds. Best Buy is going to be offering \$5,000 to 20,000 dollar grants to anyone who applies for it. The small print states that in order to qualify the applicant facility must be in a 50 mile radius of a Best Buy store. Fund raising events in the Keys are turning less dollars, down 20 to 30%.

Monroe Board of County Commissioners recently cut 20% out of the Human Services Advisory Board budget.

121 (BG\* working poor) children ages 9 and above will be affected by this dis-enrollment policy. Wesley House expects an increase of 'At Risk' children in the next year.

Board Member Alan Abramowitz mentioned that in the first 5 months of 2008 there were 33% less 'removals' in Monroe County which is the lowest in the State of Circuits of re-abuse so Monroe is doing something right even in this bad economy.



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### Fall out from Dis-enrollment:

The 121 children affected by dis-enrollment represent 15.2% of our population. If the parents are not receiving the dollars through School Readiness where will these children go?

If a 9 year cannot go to school, the parent may question why they would bother to send their younger child. The parent may decide that since the older sibling is going to be home anyway that older child can take care of the younger child and that produces latch-key children.

The Boys and Girls Club has 23 of the 121 children. Dis-enrolling those 23 children could be the financial lost that affects them causing them to close as we have seen with other programs such as the Big Brothers, Big Sisters. This is just one of our Providers.

Mr. Blomberg showed a slide of comments from the Monroe County School Superintendent, Child Care Providers and a newspaper article that confirmed this will be a grave hardship and will create a 'Perfect Storm' situation.

When Board Member David Lawrence asked Mr. Blomberg what the financial impact is from these 121 children, Mr. Blomberg stated these children represent \$253,000.00, adding that this money would be redirected into children aged 0 to 5.

President Evelio Torres stated that Monroe County does not have and has not had a Wait List and serves all eligible School Readiness children that are applying for services.

David Lawrence asked Evelio Torres to offer the pros and cons of this issue for Monroe County and asked Evelio whether or not he recommended this.

Evelio said he absolutely recommended this, adding that they have been working for over a year now with The Children's Task Force on addressing the same issue. The circumstances and situation in Monroe County are different from Dade and the resources low. He added that there are no minuses that he can see to do this. The Coalition has the dollars to do it unless there is an increase in Monroe County with the School Readiness population. Mr. Torres stated the numbers are higher in Monroe County than they have been in the past and that there is a steady increase. He added that he is strongly recommends this.

*The Motion was moved by David Lawrence and seconded by Harve Mogul.*



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Board Member Natacha Seijas asked the Chair, what will happen to those in Miami-Dade who ask the Coalition 'Why?', if this exception is made for Monroe?

Board Member Alan Eckstein stated that Miami-Dade has referral and resource availability and other organizations standing up and taking over the children. Monroe does not have that so if these children are dis-enrolled, they are no where. There is no other place for them to go. That is the difference between Monroe County and Miami-Dade, in terms of services available.

Commissioner Seijas said she believes there is a lack of interest and liaise fair attitude by some of the people in Monroe County as to what happens to their children. She commented that Best Buy and Blue Cross must have a lot of people insured down there and it is appalling if they have that kind of attitude. The Commissioner also stated that it was unfortunate that Monroe County is not represented by The Children's Trust which would be a long term solution.

Alan Eckstein mentioned that the Keys would have to pass a Children's Services Act.

Board Member Cindy Lederman stated that a permanent exemption makes her uncomfortable. She stated that many things can change five to ten years down the line in the Keys, such as the number of children, the community could come together with volunteer organizations, and a company like Walmart could move into the Keys.

Alan Eckstein stated that this certainly could be revisited. Adding that nothing is changing in the Keys in the next six months, three months or in a year or two or three. He added that not calling it 'permanent' was fine, however, it shouldn't be subject to review every six months or every year since nothing was going to change.

David Lawrence stated that he was unaware this Motion was to include a 'permanent' time frame and expressed concern, agreeing with Cindy Lederman.

Natacha Seijas suggested that this be revised in a year, adding that within the next year there may be new Legislators who will shine a light on this issue.

Evelio Torres cautioned the Board that none of these can be permanent because budgets and circumstances change. He added that everything needs to be up for discussion at some point.



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Alan Eckstein stated that he was not asking for 'permanent', he was asking that this not be re-visited every three or six months since nothing was going to change.

David Lawrence stated that he envisioned that the decision would be for a year and that is what he would like to alter his Motion to reflect and invited the 'Second' to alter his also.

Harve Mogul seconded the Motion and agreed to alter his second to reflect inclusion that this Motion would carry for one year.

David Lawrence stated that this State is in the worst condition he has seen in his life and it is not going to get better, adding that the County Commission is going to cut \$170M in the short next while. He added that we have extraordinary problems. David Lawrence explained that he is for a one year time frame and re-visit at that point, because Monroe is containable with a relatively small population. He went on to state that the problems in Miami-Dade are gargantuan. The number of children in Miami-Dade that will be left out are stunning.

Board Member Alan Abramowitz stated that his organization has to give more resources to Monroe County adding that at least in Miami-Dade parents can be self sufficient in a variety of ways because there are resources for them and that does not exist in Monroe County.

Evelio Torres stated that this year the Coalition subsidizes Monroe County to the tune of approximately \$400,000.00 as side from the separate allocation they receive from the State.

Alan Abramowitz added that these children will end up in Miami-Dade County if they are placed in Foster Care because there aren't the homes for them in Monroe County.

Natacha Seijas stated that she is not opposed to the exemption. She does not want to see these children put out on the streets. She also said that the Coalition and Board need to knock on doors and encourage the community to get involved with us. Commission Seijas said that the County sends buses to Monroe with Miami-Dade workers and Monroe has refused to help Miami-Dade County out because they are in a difficult situation.

Alan Eckstein said he has no problem with a one year exemption. He also stated that there are no corporations in Monroe County that the Coalition can go to for help. When companies have been approached they have stated that their donation needs to stay in the upper keys or the lower keys. He confirmed that Board and Coalition members do knock on doors and do a lot of fund raising however in these economic times it is more difficult than ever.

Commissioner Seijas suggested Monroe County put in place a half penny tax.



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Board Member Connie Chappell stated that Monroe Board Members are always working on securing additional funding.

David Lawrence suggested the Monroe Board Members do a significant survey which would cost about \$15,000 and survey the population as to whether a half penny tax could pass. He said he would share all the work The Children’s Trust has done on polling, which is extensive on questionnaires. He added that if a survey is not done than Monroe Members needed to simply accept that this is the way it is for them and that is not good enough. Board Member Lawrence added that a one half penny tax would be less than a \$1.00 per week per Monroe resident on a median assessed valued home.

David Blomberg stated that David Lawrence went down to Monroe about a year ago and spoke at a meeting about the half penny tax. Mr. Blomberg said they are looking for a champion like David Lawrence in Monroe County and Wesley House among other organizations are working on this problem.

Board Member Silvia La Villa confirmed that she agrees to a one year exemption and sympathizes with Monroe problem, adding that as a Provider it highlights the very position her own Miami-Dade children could be facing if alternatives were not available.

David Lawrence made the Motion that Monroe County be given an exemption from the current policy for one year and re-visited after that year. Harve Mogul seconded the Motion. The Chair requested a vote which was unanimous.

VIII. Program & Strategy Committee Report ..... David Williams, Jr., Cmte Chair

The new Policy will take effective July 1st. All children will be served through the summer. Families with children aged 9 and over receive a notice of termination and a listing of alternative resources in the area. This will not affect the At Risk BG1s, BG3s, Transitional Care BG5s or Childcare Executive Partnership or Special Needs Children.

Alan Eckstein made a Motion to Amendment the Program & Strategy Committee Policy to change ‘six months’ and reflect ‘one year’. The Motion was seconded by Cindy Lederman. The Chair requested a vote which carried unanimously.

IX. CEO Report ..... Evelio Torres

Participation in VPK will be higher next year than it was this year.



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The Coalition paid for 29,800 children. We are trying to have a perfect budget at the end of this year. There has been a decrease in the number of requests for information for referrals which we are working with Miami-Dade County on.

Evelio Torres shared that a large number of calls go to The Children’s Trust 211 number which refers families for services. That does not go into the Childcare Resource & Referral Information System so that is being coordinated with 211.

In August and early September families will be taken off the Ready Pool and placed in the slots depending on how many children are enrolled at that time.

The State is having a Rule Making Workshop today on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be another on the 30<sup>th</sup> and another on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The State is going through the process to try to settle the situation with the Florida Association of Child Care Management which Evelio Torres is monitoring and will be participating in the Workshop by conference call today. The State is trying to establish the rules so we don’t have this issue with the Florida Association of Child Care Management. There is not a proposed rule yet.

David Lawrence added that discussions need to begin with the discussion that Coalitions can make up their own minds within the State rules about doing things like QRIS.

Evelio mentioned that coalitions are at different levels of QRIS and some don’t have QRIS. Without a Children’s Trust or Children’s Services to assist many coalitions are unable to start up QRIS.

Evelio Torres stated that there have been a number of meetings with the Providers. One of the concerns is the number of stars and when is ELC going to release the stars. The Providers have conducted a ‘self assessment’ and a formal assessment conducted by the technical assistants specialist and have no stars will be issued at this point. ELC will wait until the second formal assessment because this is about helping the Providers with resources and technical assistance to improve and reach that next star level. ELC is helping them first to improve.

**David Lawrence asked if the Board could see monthly NAYCE and Apple Accreditation Reports again.**

The President/CEO stated ELC is ending the year on a very positive point and wished more time could be spend on contracts etc.

X. Public Comments ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice Chair



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David Lawrence announced that the Trumane Foundation which is a contributor particularly to special needs children has made Miami and Maryland its two significant pilot sites. Bethany Sands and Anna Sejeck are very involved in this.

Anna Sejeck announce that this will be a nationally looked at event. It will be a six month pilot. It has never been done anywhere else. There will be a tool called 'Recognition and Response' which many in Education know as 'Response to Intervention'. This tool will identify children with learning delays very early on so they arrive at kindergarten in perfect shape. We are partnering with University of North Carolina, Frank Quarter Graham Center.

XI. Adjourn ..... Yvonne Johnson, Vice, Chair

The Chair adjourned at 2 hours 3 minutes and 44 seconds.