



Board of Directors Meeting  
November 3, 2008; 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

- Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja Jr.(Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Alan Abramowitz (attended via conference); Rick Beasley; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; David Lawrence, Jr.; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas (attended via conference); Ann Karen Weller, R.N.; David Williams, Jr.; Valtena G. Brown; Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Jane McQueen; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Walter Harvey (Board Attorney)
- Board Absentees:** Harve Mogul; Esq.; Gina Cortes-Suarez Ed.D; The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez; P. Morgan Hill
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Leeana Pena; Nadira Ali; Alina Soto; Fiorella Altare; Melody Thelwell; Jose Hernandez; Fred Hicks; Pam Hollingsworth; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Jackye Russell
- General Attendees:** Eddie Rivera, AWI; Doug Blomberg, WHFS (attended via conference); Lynne Katz, U.M.; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Matty Loret de Mula, La Petite Academy; Laura Dinehart, F.I.U.; Margaret Kaiser, U.M.; Marie P. Woodson, DHS/CDS; Maritza Alonso, DHS/CDS; Kathleen Dexter, The Children’s Trust; Elizabeth Bezos, Betty Key, MDCPS; Gail Gregg, F.I.U.; Shannon de l’Etuile, U.M.; Maryanne Ullery, U.M.; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade; Antoinette Patting, One World; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, DHS

#### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair**

- Chairman, Octavio Verdeja, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with eleven (11) voting members.
- O. Verdeja thanked everyone that attended the October retreat, including the children and staff from St. Justin the Matyr Preschool. He stated that three topics were addressed during the retreat, all dealing with the current economic situation. The topics were Budget Reductions and Goal Setting, Development and Fundraising, and Legislative Policy. He stated that, with regards to Budget Reductions, the ELC was looking at making cuts in administration and any other area possible. He said ELC would also look into making partnerships and looking at the age of children being served; with regards to the Development and Fundraising issue, the board looked at the mission of ELC and what exactly it was; as to Legislative Policy, the challenge is finding funding sources and seeking the demographic data of the children enrolled. Finally, he appointed The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez as head of the Legislative Policy Committee and Yesenia Perkins for Budget Reductions and Goal Setting Committee,



and asked for a volunteer for the Development and Fundraising Committee. Being that there were no volunteers, O. Verdeja stated he would appoint a Board member and notify the Board at a later time.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.**

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 10/06/08.
- D. Armstrong asked to note that he did attend the October 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting via conference.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes of 10/06/08.
  - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Yesenia Perkins**

- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-01 which authorizes the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to Contract, C08-105, with the United Way of Miami-Dade, Inc. for providing additional community based trainings.

Y. Perkins noted that the background information on this resolution could be found in section three, page fifteen of the Board binders. She explained the original contract was \$1.5 million, and that this resolution was for an additional \$60,000.

- G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
- Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
- Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-02 which authorizes the President and CEO to execute an Agreement, PSA08-161, with the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, Inc. for providing funding for the Tremaine project.

Y. Perkins stated that Bethany Sands of ELC had additional information on this resolution.

B. Sands explained that the Tremaine project was grant money that was awarded to the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation about two and a half years ago. She stated the Tremaine Foundation had been looking at children of the ages three and four, and had evolved into a research project. She explained that this particular \$70,000 is to fund from July to December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2008. She continued to explain that this is an unbelievable opportunity for Miami-Dade, and that this was a research project that was just on four year olds. She stated there were several screenings done on fifteen classrooms, and they are providing intervention. She stated that at the end of December, they should have the information to support the recognition and response model of these children. She was very pleased to announce that things were going great



and doing much better than other coalitions. She stated that the \$70,000 in the resolution is to support the final phase of this research.

E. Torres stated that it was important to keep in mind that whenever we engaged in one of these projects, even on a small scale, we learn so much. The knowledge gained from these projects helps not only Miami-Dade and Monroe. but other areas in the state as well. He stated that it allows us to put interventions in place where they are more effective, and that sometimes we learn we were doing it all wrong. However, we are learning both how to do it right, and where we should be doing things differently.

B. Sands explained that the results of this study should be ready by March. She stated that 370 children were being served, that fifteen centers were carefully selected, and that so far the data collected was looking very good.

- A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
- Motion was unanimously passed.

Y. Perkins addressed Resolutions C, D, E and F of the meeting agenda:

- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-03 which authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contract 917-165 with the Children's Trust for the continuation of the QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) program.
- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-04 which authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contract C08-118 with the Devereux Foundation, Inc. to provide assessment services for the early care and education providers participating in the QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) program.
- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-05 which authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contract C08-117 with Florida International University to provide technical assistance services to the early care and education providers participating in the QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) program.
- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-06 which authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contract C08-119 with University of Miami to provide technical assistance services to the family child care homes participating in the QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) program.

Y. Perkins explained that these resolutions had already been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee. She explained that this was money coming to the ELC through the Children's Trust.

- A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
- Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 102708-07 which authorizes the President and CEO to release a Request for Qualifications for Strategic Real Estate Planning Services.
  - A. Weller moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.Motion was unanimously passed.

Y. Perkins stated that lease for the building where the Early Learning Coalition is currently located is up on 2010. She explained that this resolution allows the President and CEO to look for a commercial broker that will help the ELC find another facility comparable with the one currently leased and negotiate the existing contract.

N. Seijas suggested contacting Miami-Dade County. She stated that the County has a new building on US-1 that is located between Downtown Miami and south Miami. She suggested that there might be availability at a low price.

Y. Perkins stated that she would have E. Torres look into this building to see how it compares with the current lease.

- O. Verdeja interjected to ask that guests introduce themselves.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements. She stated that the Finance Committee discussed creating other bank accounts to reduce liability, and to ensure the FDIC guarantee of \$250,000. She stated that O. Verdeja was interviewing other banks besides City National.

O. Verdeja explained that by doing this the ELC would be less exposed to risk. He stated that once a decision has been made he will notify the board.

Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots of Miami-Dade and Monroe. She noted the waitlist for Miami-Dade County. She stated that during the Finance Committee meeting it was determined that the ages would be broken down even further, and this position was to be presented at the following board meeting.

Y. Perkins asked D. Blomberg if there was a waitlist for Monroe in September. D. Blomberg responded that there were over a hundred children.

<b>IV. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>	<b>David Williams, Jr.</b>
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- D. Williams stated that the issue of the ELC's school age policy was discussed at the Program and Strategy Committee. He stated that the policy was being reviewed, particularly for those children over the age of 9 as they come up for redetermination. He stated that although this was being reviewed, it would still be a few months before a decision could be made, as enrollment information was still coming in. He stated that changing the school age policy now, would disrupt the process. Miami-Dade County continues to schedule appointments to



go to school, and it's important that this process continues to take place. He stated that the Program & Strategy's recommendation is to maintain the school age policy that's currently in order, until ELC staff gets an opportunity to make a determination.

E. Torres reminded the Board that this was part of the discussion of 9-12 school aged children. This review in policy had less to do with the budget, and more to do with serving a high percentage of school aged children, when so many younger children were on the waitlist. He stated that although this was discussed many months ago, another discussion recently took place at the Finance Committee meeting.

J. Russell went over charts representing school age children, and found that there were a higher number of 6, 7, and 8 year old children that had younger siblings, and that those were the children the ELC continues to serve at this time. She stated that the ELC had surveyed other coalitions in the state to determine how they were handling school age population, and that the majority of coalitions had some restrictions on school age children; two of the coalitions surveyed were in the process of phasing out. She explained that the billing groups are determined on how the children come in, explaining that as we phase out the 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds, and we bring in more children birth to 5, the cost will go up because the younger children are reimbursed at a higher rate.

E. Torres stated that the drop of 9 to 12 is not a one per one child replacement. He explained that the younger children are more expensive. There would be less children, but at a higher cost.

J. Russell explained that while we are dropping children 9 to 12, we are bringing in children 6 to 8.

E. Torres stated that one of the questions that were asked at the Finance Committee meeting was how many 0 to 5 age children were enrolled as opposed to ages 6 to 8 because the concern was too many 6 to 8 age children were brought in and not enough 0 to 5. He noted that the percentage was much lower than what was anticipated.

Y. Perkins asked for further clarification. She stated if we continue to make the waiting list tapping into 6 to 8 year olds, we wouldn't reach the 25% percent.

J. Russell responded no, because as E. Torres said, although there won't be a one per one child replacement, we would be bringing in additional children. Therefore, our school age percentage would remain higher than 25%.

N. Seijas asked if the 25% was a legislature request or if it was something ELC imposed upon themselves.

E. Torres responded that it was self imposed by the Board therefore could be changed if the Board found necessary. He stated that he believes this is an issue that should be taken up with the Legislative Committee, as it will be an important issue during the next session.

O. Verdeja stated the other issue was tying back to the mission. He stated that



the mission does not mention school age children, it only mentions ages 0 to 5. He stated that ELC should stay closer to that mission, and not have an increasing number of school age children.

D. Park inquired how many children of the new waitlist are actually siblings with younger children.

E. Torres stated that the information wasn't available but could be obtained.

G. Schwartz mentioned that the ELC mission does include afterschool programs. He stated that a few words had been added to mention that there was a priority for children 0 to 5. He noted that the revised mission was in the bylaws.

D. Lawrence stated the School Readiness Act of 1999 and its successor were focused on the Early Learning mission. The problem was that the legislature ended up moving over its responsibility for after school care. He stated this would be a perfect subject for the Legislative Committee, but until the moment that the state changes that, it has to be a part of the ELC mission.

O. Verdeja stated that he agreed, however ELC should have a system where for example a 2 year old at the back of a waiting list would be taken over a 3 to 12 year old.

E. Torres stated that this becomes difficult when a family is involved that has siblings. Parents can find care for one the younger sibling but not the older sibling.

O. Verdeja stated that he wants to consider the families, and thinks it's possible to set criteria to do so.

C. Lederman stated that although she understands the reality, this is the Early Learning Coalition. If we want to get the most out of our money, our goal should be to provide early quality childhood services for children who are not in pre-school. She stated that she believes that's the most effective piece of ELC money, and in changing the course of a human life. She stated that you have a choice of providing a stimulating quality environment for young children who desperately need it, or babysitting and it shouldn't be an issue. She stated that in terms of getting a return for ELC investment, she doesn't think it's an issue either. She stated she understands its bad for the community because it's difficult, however there's no comparison in the impact and the effect ELC can have if they do the early childhood population correctly, as opposed to babysitting.

A. Eckstein stated that the program in Monroe County is not babysitting. He stated there is lot of education pieces to it including homework. He stated he doesn't know what is happening in Miami-Dade County, but that's how the programs are working in Monroe.

Y. Johnson inquired that if you have a child that is in the birth to 5 program and then they turn 6, would they have to go back through a different door? She asked, does that 15% represent any of the children who have just turned 6 or is it just new children in the system?



J. Russell confirmed that the children they were currently looking at were just those on a waitlist. She confirmed that they would remain in the system until they were 9 and not have to go through the whole application process again.

O. Verdeja stated that the law doesn't give you a percent for school age children.

C. Lederman stated that if legislature wants ELC to maintain both age groups, they need to fund it.

S. La Villa stated that the Program & Strategy Committee was just asking to have a little more time so they could obtain more accurate numbers. At that time, a determination could be made by the Board. She stated that while you want to treat the family as a unit, the quality still has to be there.

P. Tynes-Saunders was asked by E. Torres to respond to a question regarding afterschool park programs. She stated that Miami-Dade County does have afterschool park programs. Unfortunately, due to restricted budgets, those programs no longer exist due to lack of funding.

#### **V. UM Partnerships**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- The Linda Ray Intervention Center Presentation was presented by Dr. Katz, Dr. Kaiser, Dr. Dinehart, and Dr. Ullery.
- The Frost School of Music Presentation was presented by Dr. Shannon K. De l'Etoile.

#### **VI. CEO Report**

**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- E. Torres reviewed the enrollment charts for the month of September. He stated that the goal was to bring enrollment up to 28,100 plus or minus 250. He stated that Miami-Dade County has been working hard to get the ELC to that number and the goal was to start early this year so there wouldn't be a rush in the second part of the year. He stated that ELC was trying to manage enrollment within the budget so that the year ends in a good position. He also stated that the ELC was trying to leave 4 to 5 months at the end of the year to make any adjustments.

E. Torres reviewed the accreditation chart based on the different organizations that accredit providers. He stated that the ELC was working with the United Way and Florida International University with the goal to accredit as many centers as possible. He reminded the Board that the ELC had done an extensive data clean up which helped provide an accurate number of accredited centers.

E. Torres asked M. Williams if the ELC was losing accredited centers in Monroe, and inquired if Monroe had 13 accredited centers as the report reflected.

M. Williams stated that it was probably reflecting the fact that centers had been lost. She also stated that Monroe had always had around 7 to 8 accredited centers.



D. Lawrence stated that there is a long way to go in Miami-Dade at 28%, but that Monroe is at 10%. He stated that he understands they are different counties with different challenges, and he wonders how big of an issue accreditation is in Monroe County. He also requested for an update on the Quality Rating system.

E. Torres stated that ELC has a presentation specifically on Quality Rating for an upcoming Board meeting.

<b>VII. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>
<b>VIII. Adjourn</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>