



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
May 2, 2011; 8:00 am  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja Jr. (Chair); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. (Vice Chair) (attended via conference call); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary) (attended via conference call); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Modesto E. Abety; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); Roderick Beasley; Connie Chapell; Jacqui B. Colyer; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; David Lawrence, Jr. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; Jane McQueen (attended via conference call); Harve Mogul; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams (attended via conference call)

**Board Absentees:** Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres, CEO (attended via conference call); Leeana Pena; Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (attended via conference call); Fred Hicks; Milton Silvera; Melody Thelwell; Sandra Gonzalez

**General Attendees:** Marisel Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Meagan Heller, UWCFEEE; Miriam Lazcos; Ardene Estrada, MDC; Alzoria Simmons, Alliance; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D (attended via conference call); Marie Woodson, MDC; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, MDC; Graciela Piñeiro, YMCA; Rolando Scottro, Headstart; Christina Sabalas, DCF; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Brian Sheafer, YMCA; J. Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Dabney Park, Performance Executive Search; Ruby P. White, Alliance; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Alfred Sanchez, YMCA

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with 14 voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC continues to remain very concerned about the legislative budget. E. Torres will provide an update as part of his CEO report, but everyone should be prepared for significant reductions in both School Readiness and VPK. These reductions will require the Board, with input from the community, to make some very tough decisions over the coming months.
- O. Verdeja stated that the Board would be reviewing the strategic planning documents and taking a final vote on the priorities. He thanked the Strategic



Planning Committee for their hard work on the plan and for their continued involvement in the process. He stated he will be leaving the Board meeting early but approves of the priorities being proposed.

- O. Verdeja stated that P. Morgan Hill has served two full terms on the Board and her tenure has now ended. She has agreed to chair the Audit Committee as a non-Board member. Under Audit guidelines, it's a best practice to have the Audit committee chaired by someone that is not a Board member to support the integrity of the audit review process. The ELC would like to present P. Hill with a small token of appreciation for her service on the Board and thank her on behalf of all the children and families of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.
- O. Verdeja recognized M. Abrahante for her service to the Board. He stated that her tenure has also come to an end after serving the remaining term of the other Miami-Dade County Public Schools representatives. This position will now rotate to Monroe County. Dr. Burke, who serves as the superintendent of schools for Monroe County, has already appointed one of his staff to serve on the Board. The Nominating Committee will review this appointment and make the recommendation to the Board at next month's meeting.
- E. Torres thanked M. Abrahante and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system for their great partnership. He acknowledged that partnerships such as these, do not exist statewide and the ELC is very fortunate to have such a great working relationship with them.
- O. Verdeja stated that Y. Perkins will remain on the Board however her term as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair also comes to an end. D. Armstrong has agreed to serve as the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair.
- O. Verdeja thanked the Alliance of Early Care and Education (AECE) for organizing an advocacy bus trip to Tallahassee. L. Carmona-Sanchez was invited to speak and present a brief video about the trip.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated the AECE organized a bus of 33 providers to Tallahassee. This was the third successful year in organizing this trip. They had the opportunity to see every member of the MDC delegation. It was a wonderful experience, and the AECE was also recognized on the floor of the House which was a great moment.
- O. Verdeja stated that the Provider Services Committee is still short of Board members. He asked the Board for volunteers to serve on this Committee.
- T. Cullen introduced the new VPK commercial. This commercial will be playing in movie theatres. It will run from Key West to North Miami and will be showing for an average of 4-8 weeks.
- O. Verdeja announced that Board Liaison, L. Pena has conflict of interest forms in case anyone needs to declare a conflict before voting on an item. Some of the conflicts that are declared, as in the case of G. Schwartz with GSK, are just in abundance of caution because G. Schwartz achieves no gain from his long standing personal friendship with Mr. Goldstein. Although it is each member's responsibility to declare conflicts, he has taken the liberty of highlighting potential conflicts that should be considered by the members. For Resolution



042811-04 and 042811-07, G. Schwartz for both the Finance Committee and Board Meeting. For Resolution 042811-06, H. Piper and A. Eckstein. For Resolution 042811-08, H. Mogul, H. Piper, and D. Armstrong, for both the Finance Committee and Board meeting. He asked that Board members please sign these conflict of interest forms before leaving the meeting.

- J. Colyer stated that she wanted to take a moment to talk to the Board about the issue of licensing, as it relates to DCF with summer camps and after school programs that weren't licensed. Because of the amendment that was passed on December 6<sup>th</sup>, afterschool programs and summer camps would be required to receive licensing. Providers do not have to be licensed however, to receive funding from the ELC they must be licensed. It has been a real effort to get summer camps and afterschool programs to come to the table. The State licensing procedure doesn't allow a lot of flexibility for non traditional summer camps. All the providers received certified letters with applications and the information. Of the 215 there are probably about 50 nontraditional camps that are not aware of the process. Background checks are required for the camps. Beyond that, DCF does not have additional information on how they are running. The goal isn't to put these camps out of business, but to be considerate in how they run and to put some sort of credentialing system in place. The Board will need to vote on whether or not the timeline on this can be extended.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by H. Mogul.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- J. Colyer stated that DCF is hosting a Fun Day at Tropical Park and would like to extend the invitation to the Board to attend.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.**

- O. Verdeja called for a motion to approve the April 4, 2011 meeting minutes.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes.
  - Motion seconded by A. Weller.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Yesenia Perkins**

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the twelve month renewal lease agreement for fiscal year 2011-2012 for the office of the ELC in Monroe County.
  - J. Colyer moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Second Amendment to contract PSA10-162 with Kaplan Early Learning Company to provide additional quality materials to the early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by D. Armstrong.
  - Motion unanimously passed.



- Y. Perkins stated the amendment adds an additional \$400k.
- E. Torres stated that once the Board approves, the total contract will be for an amount not to exceed \$3.4 million. The contract amount needs to be adjusted. There is a new federal regulation to replace cribs. This money will assist centers in purchasing some of these cribs.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-03 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Second Amendment to contract PSA10-161 with Becker's School Supplies, Inc. to provide additional quality materials to the early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.
  - J. Colyer moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by S. Fagundo.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-04 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Fourth Amendment to contract C10-111 with Goldstein, Schechter, Koch, P.A. to provide sub-recipient financial and programmatic monitoring services.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by C. Chapell.
  - G. Schwartz recused himself from voting.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- E. Torres confirmed the ELC staff is satisfied with the services provided.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-05 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the Tremaine program grant/contract from the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, Inc.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by C. Lederman.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-06 to authorize the President and CEO to renew and/or execute the following sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
  - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by C. Lederman.
  - H. Piper and A. Eckstein recused themselves.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-07 to authorize the President and CEO to renew the following vendor contracts: Scholastic, Inc. – Early Educational Book Supplier; Active Strategy, Inc. – Performance Management and Software Services; Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra, LLP – external auditing services; Goldstein, Schechter, Koch, P.A. – sub recipient financial and programmatic auditing services; and Tew Cardenas – legal services.
  - Y. Perkins tabled the Tew Cardenas portion for further review.
  - J. Colyer moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - G. Schwartz recused himself.
  - Motion unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 042811-08 to authorize the President and CEO to extend and/or execute the following sub-recipient service contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion seconded by C. Lederman.
  - H. Piper, H. Mogul, and D. Armstrong recused themselves.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

<b>IV. Nominating Committee Report</b>
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<b>Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.</b>
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- Y. Johnson stated that P. Morgan Hill's term just ended. The Committee reviewed four applications for the Governor Appointed Private Sector Representative and have forwarded to the Governor's office.
- Y. Johnson stated M. Abrahante's term as the Superintendent of Schools designee has also just ended. This will be rotating to Monroe County. The Committee should have a recommendation ready for the next Board meeting.
- Y. Johnson stated that C. Chapell's term as Faith-Based Child Care Representative will end June 30, 2011. The Nominating Committee advertised for this position and received 7 applications. The Committee will be interviewing all 7 applicants and hope to have a recommendation to make to the Board for the June Board meeting, so that they may begin serving at the August Board meeting.

<b>V. CEO Report</b>
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<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- Please refer to [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for presentation.

<b>VI. Strategic Plan Approval</b>
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<b>Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.</b>
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- D. Park presented the new Strategic Plan for the Board's approval. He stated all the material came directly from the Strategic Planning Retreat. Everything was what was discussed at the Retreat, including the six goals, outcomes, and measures. The next step would be working on the six outcome measures and determining what the next steps should be. There has been some brainstorming on these outcomes, but the implementation process would have to be decided on by the Board.
- D. Park discussed the mission statement and vision statement. The proposed mission statement is: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-Kindergarten, and after school programs that further the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual well-being of Miami-Dade and Monroe children, with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5. The proposed vision statement is: By placing children first in all we do, children in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties will enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.
- Y. Perkins stated the Board would vote on the plan at the next Board meeting.

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