

# MINUTES

Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition  
Board of Directors Mtg.  
3250 SW Third Avenue  
Ryder Conference Room  
June 29, 2004

**BOARD ATTENDEES:** Vickie Burley, Marisel Elias-Miranda, Sara Herald, Willie F. Ivory, Patricia G. Johnson, Shirley Johnson, Yvonne T. Johnson, Robert H. Kelly, Silvia La Villa, Dave Lawrence, Dannie McMillan, Harve Mogul, Dabney Park, Lourdes C. Rovira, Jackye L. Russell, Gerald Schwartz, Dean Taylor, Lucia Vicencio, Barbara Weinstein, Karen Ann Weller.

**STAFF ATTENDEES:** Ana Alfonso, Ivonne Anton, Juanita Armbrister, Paula S. Bender, Carmen Carreras, Karen Basha Egozi, Yesenia Diaz, Guimel Martinez, Yvette Medina, J. Henry Neyra, Mina Prado, David Ramil, Bethany Sands, Ileana Vallejo.

**GENERAL ATTENDEES:** Carole Abbott, Kerry Allen, Daniel Armstrong, Karen Atkinson, Ardene A. Bachoo, Howard Bakalar, Maria E. Binelo, Lisa Blair, Phillip Campbell, Linda Carmona-Sanchez, Wendy Cheyney, Christina Clowdus, Ann de las Pozas, Janice Delaney, Cobi Dunn, William Hill, Betty Key, Jean Logan, Donald Manning, Colleen Mauer, Julie Palm, Eduardo Rivera, Rick Signori, Gloria Simms, Evelio Torres, Octavio A. Verdeja, Marie Woodson.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	- Patricia G. Johnson welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.	
REVIEW & APPROVAL MAY 6, 2004 MINUTES	- The May 6, 2004 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed and approved.	- Willie F. Ivory made a motion for approval of the minutes. <b>SECOND:</b> Robert H. Kelly <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b>
FINANCE REPORT AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2004-2005 AND SUMMARY REPORTS	- Henry Neyra, presented the May 2004 financial reports which were reviewed and approved at the June 28, 2004 Finance, Audit and Personnel committee meeting.  - Karen Egozi reported that the new accounting software program, M.I.P., has been purchased, installed and training will begin shortly.	

	<p>While the program was slightly out of budget (as had been recommended by the F.A.P. Committee), Karen reported that a donation from The Abess Family Foundation of City National Bank had been made in the amount of \$15K for the full purchase of program. Paula Bender expressed her thanks to the MDSRC Board for their support in the purchase of the software program.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi explained to the board the proposed 2004 – 2005 budget. Karen informed the board that the coalition looked primarily to begin its budget process at the slot utilization and what children were in care and what would be needed to keep them in care, and avoid the deficit problems we experienced last fiscal year. The coalition feels they have projected a fair and reasonable slot allocation for the coming year, assuming we continue to serve the children we presently have in care. We went into the decision process at a negative due to the fact that funds of \$ 2.3 million we received this year from South Florida Workforce are not in our budget for next year. Also the experience with the Child Care Executive Partnership in which they denied our match from The Children’s Trust, and cut the County’s match by \$1.1 million which was for slots, means that there is a \$2.2 million dollar gap toward our slots. There was no increase from The Florida Partnership award, but you will see in the budget The Children’s Trust 5 Start Quality program which has been granted to us, but not for slots. Assuming we remain frozen as we are, the coalition believes we will be able to maintain the children we now have in care. The increase in gold seal providers was also taken into consideration, because this means a higher cost to the coalition.</p> <p>- Sara Herald expressed that she wants the coalition to make sure that the dollars available for the contracted services for the slots equal the number of children that were in care the previous month to avoid disenrollment of the children.</p>	<p>- Sara Herald requested a motion to approved the proposed 2004 – 2005 budget subject to the request for the additional information at the next meeting for modifications required.  <b>SECOND:</b> Lourdes Rovira  <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></p>
<p>LITIGATION  COMM. REPORT</p>	<p>- Gerald Schwartz reported to the board that Litigation Committee met on June 28 with the Coalition’s attorney William Hill. The committee decided that based on the information that was provided to the coalition, and since there is no legal basis, a new</p>	<p>- Gerald Schwartz made a motion that we not issue an ITN at this time.  <b>SECOND:</b> Willie F. Ivory  <b>NOTE:</b> No one requested discussion or opposition,</p>

	ITN will not be issued at this time.	<b>Motion was unanimously approved</b>
NOMINATION COMM. REPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Robert H. Kelly presented to the board the Recommendations from the Nominating Committee, and the procedures that were taken in making their selection.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Motion 52504-01 – to change terms of officers of the board to two-year terms rather than the current three-year term.</li> <li>2. Motion 52504-02 – To remove the current Co-Chairs and designate a Vice-Chair seat to follow by-laws.</li> <li>3. Motion 52504-03 – to appoint board member Silvia La Villa as an officer in the position of Secretary for a one-year term.</li> <li>4. Motion 61704-01 for new board members.</li> </ol> </li> <li>- On the issue of Evelio Torres as a designee of the Department of Children and Families, Sara Herald expressed that our by-laws do not allow for a designee in that position.</li> <li>- Octavio A. Verdeja and Dr. Daniel Armstrong, two new board members present, introduced themselves to the board and gave the members some background information on themselves.</li> <li>5. Motion 61704-02 – to extend the term of current board member Natacha Seijas for an additional one-year term. To extend the term of current board member Patricia G. Johnson for an additional two-year term.</li> <li>6. Motion 61704-03 – to reappoint current board members Betsy H. Kaplan and Shirley Johnson for an additional three-year terms.</li> <li>- Lourdes Rovira raised the issue that Ms. Kaplan’s term on the school board will be up in November.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sara Herald requested approval for Motion 52504-01. <b>SECOND:</b> Dave Lawrence <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></li> <li>- Robert H. Kelly requested approval for Motion 52504-02. <b>SECOND:</b> Sara Herald <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></li> <li>- Patricia Johnson requested approval for Motion 52504-03. <b>SECOND:</b> Shirley Johnson <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></li> <li>- Gerald Schwartz requested approval for Motion 61704-01. <b>SECOND:</b> Shirley Johnson <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></li> <li>- Robert H. Kelly requested approval for Motion 61704-02. <b>SECOND:</b> Shirley Johnson <b>ABSTAINED:</b> Barbara Weinstein <b>Motion was passed 19 to 1.</b></li> </ul>

- Sara Herald expressed that in her estimation it is not the responsibility of the Nominating Committee or of the board to nominate people who are appointed members in our by-laws under section 4.3. This would apply to Commissioner Seijas as well. The Coalition needs to notify them when their appointees terms is coming up so that they could either reappoint them or nominate someone else.

- Dave Lawrence recommended that staff go to the Miami-Dade County Public School Board and find out who their designee would be.

- Lourdes Rovira asked if it would be possible to wait until November to see who the school board appoints.

- Dave Lawrence asked if we could proceed with Shirley Johnson until October, and Betsy Kaplan until November, and address the appropriate person at that time.

- Sara Herald made a motion that we reconsider Motion made a 61704-02.

**SECOND:** Dave Lawrence

**Motion was unanimously approved**

- Dave Lawrence made a motion that we extend the term of current board member Patricia G. Johnson for an additional two-year term.

**SECOND:** Harve Mogul

**Motion was unanimously approved**

- Sara Herald made a motion that we notify the board of the county commissioners that they have an appointment that they can make and that Commissioner Seijas is still eligible for whatever the term is that she is still eligible.

**SECOND:** Harve Mogul

**Motion was unanimously approved**

- Sara Herald made a motion that we notify the school board and ask them to make a nomination to this board and indicating the time period for when school board member Kaplan's term ends.

**SECOND:** Lourdes Rovira

**Motion was unanimously approved**

- Sara Herald expressed that Shirley Johnson is not a mandated or appointed position, therefore she is being nominated by the committee as an individual.

- Linda Carmona-Sanchez of A+ Learning Centers expressed to the board to please take into consideration for future elections that the representatives of the providers be chosen by the providers.

- Dave Lawrence addressed Ms. Carmona-Sanchez and encouraged her to bring this issue up again to the board when the representative of child care providers position opens up next year.

- Karen Egozi informed the board that regarding Motion 61704-01 for the new board members, FS 411, does note that the DCF

- Sara Herald made a motion that we appoint Shirley Johnson to a three-year term and at that point make a decision.

**SECOND:** Dave Lawrence

**DISCUSSION:** Harve Mogul expressed that if at the end of Shirley Johnson's term there is a subsequent vacancy and it's really not necessary to have someone from UTD sit on the board, we should consider reviewing the by-laws in regards to that position.

Motion was amended with Harve Mogul's comments

**Motion was unanimously approved**

- Sara Herald made a motion that the chair appoint a by-law committee to make sure our by-laws are in form with FS 411 and to consider the proposal made by the providers to set up some sort of nominating process that is inclusive of the providers.

**SECOND:** Marisel Elias-Miranda

**Motion was unanimously approved**

**Sara Herald withdrew her motion**

- Yvonne Johnson made a motion that staff notice board to vote on next meeting on modifying coalition by-laws to reflect FS 411 position on the DCF designee.

**SECOND:** Lourdes Rovira

**ABSTAIN:** Sara Herald

**Motion was passed 19 to 1.**

	<p>district administrator or his or her designee is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the department. Likewise it says the same for the superintendent of schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harve Mogul expressed concern about the need to be guided by more than what the state law says.</li> <li>- Lucia Vicencio expressed to the board and Dave Lawrence what an honor and pleasure it has been for her to serve on the coalition board. She also extended her full support to Paula Bender and the coalition in any future endeavors.</li> <li>- Dannie McMillan also expressed how she has learned so much by sitting on the coalition board. She thanked the board for the opportunity they gave her.</li> <li>- Dave Lawrence also expressed how blessed the coalition has been to have had the members that are now leaving, which are: Barbara Weinstein, Vickie Burley, Dannie McMillan, and Lucia Vicencio.</li> </ul>	
<p>CEO REPORT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paula Bender asked Karen Atkinson our contract attorney to report to the board the Five Star Quality contract with The Children’s Trust.</li> <li>- Karen Atkinson explained that this is a roughly \$337,000 contract to develop a quality system. The coalition and the trust have come to an agreement on almost all the issues. Ms. Atkinson went on to explain the contract in more detail.</li> <li>- The main issue that we have not been able to resolve, is regarding the ownership of the work product. The coalition wanted to have the money given to them to develop this system and to be able to use the work product themselves. The trust has not permitted that and would like to own all of the documents, materials and intellectual property that is developed during the performance of this contract, and they have said that the coalition</li> </ul>	

can use it but only with their written permission.

- Paula Bender informed the board that what the coalition wanted, and asked for is joint ownership. For collaboration in the community, we see this as a quality initiative which is really the coalition's mission and work. We should be working in partnership with the trust. We will be spending a lot of time and effort in developing it and we would like to be partners and joint owners in making this very strong commitment to the community. Paula is asking from the board guidance on whether the coalition accepts what the trust is proposing or does the board want joint ownership.

- Sara Herald asked what is the reason the trust is not giving joint ownership to the coalition?

- Jean Logan answered by saying that the money the trust has is public money and they don't feel they can give away the rights to something developed with public money to a private organization. This is a design contract. If we move into a partnership to implement it, the contract would have to be different. We committed as the trust that all the products we develop are open access. If we grant joint rights at this point to the coalition, that could be blocked. The coalition could prohibit us from allowing other parties in the child care business from using this design. We felt that at this design phase ownership remains with the public sector and we have inserted a clause for a simple process for the trust to approve use of those products by the coalition, but not exclusively.

- Sara replied by stating that she has two issues with what Ms. Logan said. 1) The money that the coalition uses is public money. It is certainly not a private organization or we would not have to operate in the sunshine law. 2) She had some concern that is not clarified and that is that when you go forward the expectation is that a provider will not be able to hang out their shingle and say they are rated a certain way, so I would disagree that the trust would allow public access to utilization of the system. There should be standards and a monitoring agency. Since that was a

	<p>long term goal for the coalition, I would hate to think that we had spent the staff time to think that we developed a system that we could be at risk of not using, and then having to start again. Sara expressed that she would like to have joint utilization and that some legal language could be established that meets both the trust and coalition needs. The coalition has to be in a position to use the work product when we are finished or otherwise there is no point and might as well fund it ourselves.</p> <p>- Ms. Logan replied by saying that The Children’s Trust staff feels that at this point the trust is paying the coalition to develop a product not giving money to do with it as they wish.</p> <p>- Sara replied that she is not suggesting that the coalition do with it as they wish. She is suggesting that the partnership starts at the beginning of development.</p> <p>- Paula Bender informed the board that she received a note from Monroe county coalition stating that they are very excited to start working with us. Paula asked if the board would approve for discussion on the merger to commence.</p> <p>- Paula also asked for a motion to enter into contract with Child Development Services for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.</p>	<p>- Sara Herald made a motion that we accept the contract subject to establishing partnership language for the development of the design phase.  <b>SECOND:</b> Gerald Schwartz  <b>ABSTAIN:</b> Dave Lawrence, Dannie McMillan, Shirley Johnson  <b>Motion was passed 17 to 3.</b></p> <p>- Willie Ivory made a motion to start discussions with Monroe County School Readiness Coalition on starting to work together in combining the coalitions.  <b>SECOND:</b> Dave Lawrence  <b>Motion was unanimously approved</b></p> <p>- Gerald Schwartz made a motion that we enter in a contract with Child Development Services for fiscal year 2004-2005.  <b>SECOND:</b> Willie F. Ivory  <b>ABSTAIN:</b> Dean Taylor, Barbara Weinstein, Dabney Park  <b>Motion was passed 17 to 3.</b></p>
	<p>- Paula Bender personally thanks the board members whose terms</p>	<p>- Meeting adjourned @ 9:30 a.m.</p>

	were up June 30, 2004. These members are: Barbara Weinstein, Lucia Vicencio, Vickie Burley, Dannie McMillan,	
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Signed and approved by:

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Silvia La Villa  
Board Secretary

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Date