



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
June 7, 2010; 8:00 am  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:**

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Gild Ferradaz on behalf of Jacqui Colyer; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Alan Eckstein, Esq. (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D (attended via conference call); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Natacha Seijas (attended via conference call); Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Jane McQueen; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

**Board Absentees:**

P. Morgan Hill

**Staff Attendees:**

Evelio Torres, President/CEO; Leeana Pena, Board Liaison; Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Roseline Philippe; Pam Hollingsworth; Bethany Sands; Sandra Gonzalez; Diana Lane; Kerry Allen; Nicole Bardin; Teri Carbajal; Jose Hernandez; Melody Thelwell

**General Attendees:**

Doug Blomberg, WHFS; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Steve Steiger, Steve's Academy; Gail Gregg, FIU; Marisel Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Meagan Drucker, UWCFEEE; Ana Caravia, FIU; Maria Marin, FIU; Carlos Marin, FIU; Dr. Louis Manfra, FIU; Steve Hayworth, Gibraltar Bank; Malorie Mercado, AECE; Matty Loret De Mola, Learning Care Group; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Suzanne Hartman, FIU; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Rose Marie Inserul, Children's Forum; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Luis A. Mechoso, Gibraltar Bank; Jane Lindley, AECE; Evelyn Borrell, FIU; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Ivy Martinez, Miami-Dade County; Bill De La Sierra, Kidsworks USA; Joan Farn, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Yalda Amirdal, FIU; Amina Rodriguez, AECE; Grethel Arroyo, FIU; Maria Elena Delgado, AECE; Armando Guerra, AECE; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Betty Delgado, AECE

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

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

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.



- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was not initially established. Rick Beasley arrived, establishing a quorum of ten (10) voting members.
- O. Verdeja introduced S. Goff from the Florida Department of Education.
- O. Verdeja introduced Mr. Hayworth, President of Gibraltar Bank, Nora Hernandez-Hendrix and Yesenia Perkins who all agreed to serve as the founding members of the ELC Foundation.
- S. Hayworth greeted everyone and said he was proud to be a founding member of the Foundation. He has been in Miami since 1980 and started Gibraltar 18 years ago. They are in the private banking and wealth management business. One of the things he thinks he brings to the table is that working with so many successful families, a lot of them are thinking about what their legacy is going to be and they are trying to figure out what they are going to do with their wealth when they pass. They have 125 shareholders with a combined net worth of 15.5 billion dollars. He is hopeful that he will be able to help the ELC as they begin the Foundation.
- Y. Perkins stated they have at least three (3) members for their Board. The attorney is still working on their paperwork.
- O. Verdeja stated that endowments are the success to any organization. In a few years they may have something going that will help the ELC to not rely so much on state funding.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

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

- O. Verdeja deferred the approval of the minutes from May 3, 2010 to the next meeting.

## **III. Executive Committee Report**

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

- O. Verdeja stated the Executive Committee agreed to begin the strategic planning process to set goals and spending priorities. The Committee will be selecting a facilitator to assist with the process. He encouraged all Board members who would like to get involved in the process to attend the meetings.
- E. Torres stated Page 32, as part of the strategic planning process, gives an idea of the very extensive process at the Children's Trust. It took several months, a number of community forums, and plenty of opportunity for public input and debate. Some very difficult decisions were made but they were made in the spirit of transparency and with plenty of opportunity for public comments. The ELC will need to make some very difficult decisions as well.
- O. Verdeja stated the annual Board Retreat is Tuesday, September 7 and asked everyone to make note of it. A location will be determined later but the meeting will be held in Miami this year.
- O. Verdeja stated Santiago has done a lot of work for them as far as their RFP process and their conflict of interest questionnaires. S. Echemendia reviewed



pages from the packet that detailed the opportunity for a company to be debriefed, as well as an opportunity to potentially articulate their grievances and provide them with insight as to why they weren't chosen. It recognizes the effort and expense they put into the process, something that had not been done before. The evaluation committee report is being recommended and the evaluation committee recommendation. There were a number of questions posed specifically by the ELC relating to the cone of silence. Board members shouldn't be interacting with selection committee members; it should be done in writing. Minutes need to be taken of the evaluation committee meetings. They are recommending that there be evaluators from the outside and they be selected after the RFP is actually issued to address possible conflict issues. Lastly, are the four (4) points which are the issues that were raised as part of the procurement process? One question was do they discard the zero scores and to which the response was no. The last two points relate to including comments relative to their scores which is not recommended. As it relates to the criteria relative to the performance of existing vendors: not all of the proposed vendors are existing vendors so you can't have language relative to how you've performed. They have suggested obtaining recommendations from existing vendors relative to their past performance at other places.

- O. Verdeja asked if there could be additional points. S. Echemendia stated it would be difficult to have criteria that doesn't lend itself to a level playing field.
- M. Abety suggested requiring the bidder to explain what their capacity of experience is. Then, in the evaluation criteria, value that experience in relation to ELC and assign points.
- O. Verdeja stated in the event of a tie you could then award an extra point or two for existing vendors or something like that.
- S. Echemendia stated he will take another look at it.
- S. La Villa stated there is an issue with number 3 on page 45 to which S. Echemendia responded it would be at the discretion of Evelio or Melody to decide whether there was an irreconcilable conflict on the part of the selection committee member. O. Verdeja asked, if they answer yes to any of these, what is the repercussion? S. Echemendia stated the recommendation would be to select a different committee member. There is no system set in place as to whether a person can be objective or have an irreconcilable conflict.
- Y. Johnson asked about the purpose of number 6. S. Echemendia stated it provides some background as to whether there's any indirect interest. It's more of an informational background and doesn't necessarily give rise to a conflict.
- E. Torres asked if they don't get this resolved by December, would they be able to extend those contracts again since the process takes months. S. Echemendia recommended that they not extend them again. The questions really relate to the questionnaire, so they can use the same questionnaire they have used for years. This is something that is already in effect. The only issue that is different is the one regarding the experience. They can go ahead and delete that. As part of appointing the selection committee members, they will know their backgrounds and their experience. The Board has gotten this information through the



Executive Committee twice already. He stated this is a time sensitive issue and a decision must be made.

- G. Schwartz made a motion to move forward and eliminate paragraph 6.
  - Motion seconded by Y. Johnson.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- O. Verdeja announced that Bud Park was resigning from the Board. O. Verdeja thanked him and stated that he has always been an asset to the organization. They are sorry to see him go and hope to see him again.
- D. Park stated it has been a fabulous experience and thanks for everything.

#### **IV. Finance Committee Report**

**Yesenia Perkins**

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 052610-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the term of this Agreement for a period of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. Subject to the provisions set forth below, LESSOR hereby grants to LESSEE one (1) option to extend the term of this Lease (a "Renewal Option") for one period of two (2) years (the "Renewal Term") for the Coalition's Monroe central office.
  - Y. Johnson moved to approve the motion
  - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
  - Motion unanimously passed
- Motion to approve Resolution 052610-02, approving the Coalition's Annual Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.
- E. Torres stated they received a two-year allocation in one year. They decided to move the \$6.5 million so they would not have to disrupt services. The challenge will be 2011-2012 because that's when they lose the stimulus dollars. They will have to work real hard to make sure they restore at least \$38 million.
  - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion
  - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley
  - Y. Johnson asked if even with the ARRA dollars, would they still have a difference of \$5 million plus from last year. A. Parrino stated they received \$14 million last year. They used a little over \$7 million. This is what they know of the budget today and they still haven't received a notice of award on the School Readiness side. Once they get the notice of award, they will know how much money they will have. They could come back with some adjustments after they close out the year in August.
  - S. La Villa asked about the three items being increased: Inclusion & Assessment, program quality, and salary. O. Verdeja stated the increase is not in salary, it is in health insurance. There is actually a decrease in salary. E. Torres stated they have not filled the empty positions but since they were still vacant they moved those dollars to slots.
  - Motion unanimously passed



- Motion to approve Resolution 060710-01 to authorize the President and CEO to add, negotiate, and execute contract effective term language for contract number C10-102 for Miami-Dade County School Readiness Services and contract number C10-103 for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Services for fiscal year 2010-2011.
  - G. Schwartz to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded Y. Johnson.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
  
- Motion to approve Resolution 060710-02 to approve the Coalition’s Third Budget Amendment for fiscal year 2009-2010.
  - G. Schwartz to approve the motion
  - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
  
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots.

<b>V. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>	<b>David Williams Jr. The Hon. Cindy Lederman</b>
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<b>VI. Provider Services Committee Report</b>	<b>Gina Cortes-Suarez. Ed.D.</b>
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<b>VII. Gold Seal Presentation DHS</b>	<b>Marie Woodson, M-DC</b>
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- Presentation will be rescheduled.

<b>VIII. FIU Presentation</b>	<b>Dr. Louis Manfra, FIU</b>
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- Presentation available on [www.elcndm.org](http://www.elcndm.org).
  
- Dr. Manfra introduced himself and his colleagues from FIU. Their presentation will address some of the questions that have been asked. They have been working with Miami-Dade County for the past three (3) years and they have had a nice relationship with them. They have been subcontracted to collect the data and to move forward along with the ELC.
  
- M. Abety asked as a way of establishing the base, if it may be too early to see overall impact of quality counts on the LAPD or ASQ. Are you able to segregate those centers that are participating in Quality Counts? Has there been significant improvement in child quality and child overall progress as a result of our investment of Quality Counts?
  
- Dr. Manfra answered yes. Right now to a smaller degree they have been working with Gail’s group, Quality Counts South, to identify those centers so they can pull out the children that are in Quality counts and look at them.
  
- E. Torres asked why they selected three (3) months as opposed to six (6) or nine (9) months. Dr. Manfra stated it was purely based on the data and how it presented itself. So when they looked, they were looking at consistent percents.



- C. Chapell asked, if they get a speech and hearing test do they get further assessed? Dr. Manfra answered yes. Those children will be observed and will have further evaluation. Then they will go through the process to see if there's a firm concern.
- B. La Sierra commented, in his school his parents are about 90% Hispanic. The first thing their children learn is their Spanish language. For about the first three (3) years they keep them in classes where the teachers speak mostly Spanish. When they turn 2.5 years old, they put them in classes where teachers speak mostly English. So by the time they hit elementary they revert to bilingual. It's very important to Hispanic parents that their children don't lose the language.
- E. Torres stated the Board could forward any questions to Dr. Manfra.
- I. Taylor-Wooten commented that she would like to publicly recognize Miami-Dade County employee Daisy Hensley who worked a lot on this project and is retiring at the end of this month. O. Verdeja thanked FIU, the County and the providers. S. La Villa also thanked FIU for their continued partnership with the County.
- N. Seijas was glad for all the questions brought up with the presentation because it gives them things to think about for the next year.

<b>IX. CEO Report</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- Presentation available on [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

<b>X. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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<b>XI. Adjourn</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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