

Board of Directors Minutes - 09/17/07



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes of September 17, 2007 at 8:00AM

- BOARD ATTENDANCE:** O. Verdeja, Y. Johnson, R. Beasley (8:36), A. Eckstein, S. Herald (8:15), M. Hill (via phone), D. Lawrence, C. Lederman, D. Park (8:30 am), Y. Perkins, G. Schwartz, H. Mogul, N. Seijas, D. Williams (8:14), C. Chapell, C. Jones, S. La Villa, W. Harvey (Board Attorney)
- BOARD NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** A. Weller, J. Robinson, D. Armstrong
- STAFF ATTENDANCE:** E. Torres, B. Robinson, A. Parrino, T. Cullen, N. Ali, S. Palenzuela, A. Soto, K. Molinario, F. Altare, M. Williams, L. Cortinas, B. Carrick, M. Thelwell, U. Vergara
- GENERAL ATTENDANCE:** G. Burgess (on behalf of M. Bryant), G. Ferradaz (on behalf of J. Russell), R. Signori, K. Suarez Espinosa, S. Brazier, D. Hensley, D. Blomberg, M. Abety, J. Leinfelder, P. Tynes Saunders, G. Montes, E. Bezos, L. Carmona, E. Rivera, G. Gregg, P. Hollingsworth, A. Sejeck, M. Binelo, M. Alonso, E. Humes-Newbold, W. Solomon, I. Acosta

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Octavio Verdeja called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. ▪ Nadira Ali called roll and a quorum was established with thirteen (13) voting members. ▪ O. Verdeja welcomed Gilda Ferradaz, the Circuit Manager for the Department of Children and Families, sitting in for Jackye Russell. He rearranged the order of the agenda to move up the assessment presentations by Bethany Sands and Phyllis Tynes Saunders. He also congratulated Dave Lawrence for being appointed to The Governor’s Children’s Cabinet. Thanked Family Central and Citrus for their proposals. 	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ O. Verdeja called for the approval of the Board of Directors meeting minutes from 8/17/07 and Board Retreat minutes from 8/17/07. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natacha Siejas moved to approve the minutes of 8/17/07 and 8/27/07. ○ Motion is seconded by Alan Eckstein. ○ Motion unanimously passed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natacha Seijas moved to approve the minutes of 8/17/07 and 8/27/07. ▪ Motion is seconded by Alan Eckstein ▪ Motion unanimously passed
ASSESMENT REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B. Sands began with background information on the Assessment program. The program is driven by the Assessment Task Force, which the coalition leadership chairs and has huge input from the entire community. The task force and program is driven by Florida statute. The statutory requirements state that at a minimum, The Coalition is to provide age appropriate assessments for each child’s development, to administer a pre and post test, and ensure that they have a healthy and safe environment. AWI requires all school readiness children to be assessed using the appropriate tools. 	

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A screening quickly appraises a large number of children and tells where further identification may be needed. The assessment is an ongoing systematic process used to individually determine how children are growing in small and large groups. The Coalitions goals are: to provide a screening for all children birth to age five; ensure timely feedback of results to parents and providers; provide evidence of changes over time; assess safety and health of childcare environments; build capacity in providers in terms of educational skills in being able to assess and determine the outcome of their own children.

The Ages and Stages Questionnaires will be used for all children and is a highly recognized tool used throughout the United States. It is a tool that can be trained, implemented and practiced so that child care providers are more educationally equipped for children.

The screener is a tool that says to look at the child again. If a child is red flagged, a second screening called Batel is administered by a training professional. Batel was selected because it is significantly different from what has been done in the past few years. If child continues to show a delay, they will receive further referral. The Referral follow up will go to Early Steps (children under 36 months), or Fiddlers (children over 36 months). Referrals are made with the family giving them power and choices in the matter.

The Learning Accomplishment Profile Diagnostic (LAPD) will be used for accountability. 10% of the centers with subsidized children are selected with a random sampling of children ages 3 – 5. Younger children ages birth to three years will receive the Early Learning Accomplishment Profile (ELAP) which is scaled differently toward younger children. Both are administered in pre and post which is mandated. The Formula from AWI states that they need to assess 475 children. However, the task force felt it was inadequate so they scaled it up to 1500-1800.

- Clarence Jones commented that the LAPDs have been used in the school system. He asked if the school system is going to be exempt or is this something coming down from the state for all of us.
 - ⇒ B. Sands responded that the school system operates separately from The Coalition. The school system has been an integral part and collaborator over the past 5 years. It was Determined by assessment taskforce will not be using the DECA which is an assessment of social and emotional development. The Ages and

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	<p>Stages Questionnaire includes a portion that addresses the social and emotional development of children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cindy Lederman inquired as to how referrals are followed up on to make sure children get services and to measure any improvement and development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ B. Sands responded that for children ages birth to 36 months, referrals can be made without permission from the family. The Early Steps program follows up with family. Tremendous efforts are being made to bring families in to give them results and empower them to fill the forms out. The Coalition had excellent follow up from the inclusion program. When teachers and centers get information back, there will be mentoring to help them understand in house strategies. Sometimes the red-flags are not eligible for services. However, once they get into the classroom, some of those issues can be easily resolved. ▪ Dave Lawrence responded that ultimately, the goal should be a system in which a trail can be shown for the outcomes of an individual child. ▪ Silvia La Villa believed teachers need a lot of support. B. Sands agreed and stated that follow up is what makes the difference and is critical. 	
<p>PROPOSED ASSESSMENT AND INCLUSION SERVICES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ P. Tynes Saunders stated the County currently holds the bridge contract which is basically the first phase of the inclusion contract. Providers were to be trained on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire. The County provided over 2500 trainings. However, in process of getting back 10,500 questionnaires, they need to distribute 12,000. Over 6,000 have been collected. The ASQs have to be manually corrected for minor tweaks. The County anticipates that at the end of September they would have the 10,500 questionnaires required by the contract. <p>All children must be provided the ASQ within 45 days of their enrollment. They would also be re-screened within 45 days of their birthday. The County is adding into the program an inclusion and curriculum specialist. Inclusion specialists provide trainings on what it means to have special needs children once they are identified and how to work with them to make parents comfortable. Curriculum specialists work with centers specifically in guiding them to make modifications to the learning environment. They will be conducting about 36 trainings in Spanish, English, and Creole countywide. The training are going to give providers a sense of how they are part of the process and what tools can they use in their curriculum and classrooms.</p> <p>As part of human services department, they also will do the case management and social work needed to get a child to a facility. They have the capacity in that</p>	

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	<p>department to provide transportation, set up appointments, or going to appointments with the children. This gives The County the opportunity to find voids with children due to other barriers. Assessments will be done outside the scope of the contract to determine what other support is needed for child and provide follow up. Once the county is provided with sample of the ELAP and LAPD, they will obtain parental consent and administer that diagnostic. Post assessment will be done towards end of contract in May and June.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">⇒ C. Jones inquired what department in the County would do the curriculum support and inclusion training and administering since there are areas school system that seemed to be more suited. P. Tynes Saunders responded the staff of the Child Development Services Bureau.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ D. Lawrence commented that it was worth noting that we have come some distance although there is still a long way to go. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ D. Lawrence moved to approve resolution 091707-08 to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade County for the provision of assessment and inclusion services. ○ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein ○ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ George Burgess stressed to The Coalition how committed the County is to doing a good job. If there any problems he will want to know about it. However, he is very optimistic about moving things further along. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ D. Lawrence moved to approve resolution 091707-08. ▪ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ▪ Motion unanimously passed.
<p>QUALITY RATING IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mo Abety stated The Children’s Trust was created in 2002 as a result of a voter referendum. They have a 33 member board. The annual budget for 07-08 will provide \$150 million for program services dedicated to children with an administrative budget of 6%. They put out RFPs and ITNs. Programs are not run directly but contracted and managed make sure they are accountable and achieving impact and outcomes for children. The Trust comes up for reauthorization in August 2008. <p>The Children’s Trust is near to signing a contract with The Coalition for implementation of the Quality Rating Improvement System which is meant to lift the quality of childcare in Miami-Dade County. It is economic intervention that provides incentives to providers to improve their quality. A three legged approach is being used. The Trust wants to provide a roadmap by laying out quality standards and stressing accountability through monitoring. They want to create demand side interventions in which parents to demand quality. 14 other states have adopted the quality rating system as a way to increase school readiness and another 30 states are implementing it. They are also looking to implement</p>	

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the system as a state program and are pushing for legislation. The Trust is working with 8 other coalitions and Children Services Councils to develop a system the state will buy into.

- S. Herald asked if The Children's Trust forming collaboration. M. Abety said they are working together with the coalitions from those eight counties. S. Herald commented that these counties are representatives of fairly large urban areas. Perhaps counties that serve a more rural population should be approached so the argument can't be made that it only works in large metropolitan geographies.
- D. Lawrence commented it is worthwhile going back to executive director of CSC since it is going to be a legislative question. The Children's Trust cannot spend money in Monroe County but The Coalition can provide money. E. Torres responded that it was going to require some funding but some of the work can be done through the Childcare taskforce in Monroe County. D. Lawrence stated this system won't work longest term unless state puts money into it.
- N. Seijas firmly believed Monroe County has unique relationship with Miami-Dade. They have no one else to extend out to. D. Lawrence responded that Monroe is beginning to figure out how to have a dedicated funding source.
- M. Abety stated there is an association of funded Children Services Councils around the state. A goal of the Trust in this contract is to spread the Children Services Councils and dedicated funding sources. They would be glad to work with Monroe to put together an initiative. The quality standards have been imbedded and discussed with local stakeholders and providers. All of which is intended to arrive at better child outcomes and increase school readiness. Accountability is a key issue in developing outcomes that are measurable.

QRIS will be providing opportunities for childcare providers to receive additional training. The Trust has developed a career center for information and support and provided a scholarship fund. The funding is \$3 million. Incentives are \$1 million for childcare centers for start up and support mini-grants and cash awards for achievement. The Coalition is providing \$760,000 from the Quality Enhancement ITN and \$388,000 for staff and office space. The goals are to reach 150 centers and 20 Family Care Centers in the first year and ultimately reach 30,000 children over the three years.

- S. Herald asked how the churches and private sectors will get engaged to want to be part of rating system.
 - ⇒ M. Abety responded that the whole outreach campaign is part of The Coalition's mission under the contract to engage and reach out to particularly to low income areas. There is the need to touch all children in Miami-Dade County and a special

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	<p>responsibility to reach into communities that quality needs to be improved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ S. Herald stated that even highly educated people are not placing emphasis on quality but convenience and price. She believes the children and communities need to be protected. ⇒ M. Abety commented that part of what they want to do through the public awareness campaign is engage the community as to what is quality care is and what their expectations should be. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connie Chapell agreed with S.Herald. Children in private centers and faith based not getting services that will get them to that next level for school readiness. ▪ M. Abety recognized Jessie Leinfelder for working closely with The Coalition's staff and Silvia La Villa and Linda Carmona for their participation in the steering committee. 	
<p>STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ G. Schwartz moved to approve resolution 091707-07 to authorize the President/CEO to extend contract C07-113 with Miami-Dade County for the provision of Assessment Services. ○ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ○ Motion unanimously passed. ○ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-02 to authorize a contract between Florida International University and The Early Learning Coalition to support the Coalition's Assessment Program. ○ Motion seconded by H. Mogul. ○ Motion unanimously passed. ○ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-06 to authorize the President/CEO to execute a contract renewal with the Florida Department of Children and Families, for the provision of the Refugees Services Program. ○ Motion seconded by R. Beasley. ○ Motion unanimously passed. ○ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-05 to authorize the President/CEO to negotiate and execute a renewal to subcontract with Miami-Dade County for the provision of the Refugees Services Program. ○ Motion seconded by R. Beasley. ○ Motion unanimously passed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ G. Schwartz moved to approve resolution 091707-07. ▪ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ▪ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-02. ▪ Motion seconded by H. Mogul. ▪ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-06. ▪ Motion seconded by R. Beasley. ▪ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ A. Eckstein moved to approve resolution 091707-05. ▪ Motion seconded by R. Beasley. ▪ Motion unanimously passed.
<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-01 to authorize the President/CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the United 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-01.

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	<p>Way's Center for Excellence for the provision of Program Quality Enhancement Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ○ H. Mogul abstained. ○ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-03 to authorize a lease between the Children's Forum and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. ○ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ○ Motion unanimously passed. ○ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-04 to establish a Board policy regarding the use of Unrestricted and Temporarily Unrestricted funds. ○ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ○ Motion unanimously passed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N. Seijas stated that the Board should have a policy or some type of criteria for choosing of subcontractors to have some control over who does the work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ O. Verdeja agreed and stated the issue is something to think about and develop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ▪ H. Mogul abstained. ▪ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-03. ▪ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ▪ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ Y. Perkins moved to approve resolution 091707-04. ▪ Motion seconded by A. Eckstein. ▪ Motion unanimously passed.
<p>GOVERNANCE AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Eckstein stated the revised bylaws included a number of changes. The committee had taken input and was satisfied with the result. The Board would vote on it at the next Board Meeting. ▪ O. Verdeja stated that Provider Services Committee needed volunteers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ S. Herald moved to appoint Connie Chapell and Clarence Jones to the Provider Services Committee. ○ Motion seconded by Y. Perkins. ○ Motion unanimously passed. ▪ E. Torres thanked N. Seijas and S. La Villa for their commitment to the committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ S. Herald moved to appoint Connie Chapell and Clarence Jones to the Provider Services Committee. ▪ Motion seconded by Y. Perkins. ▪ Motion unanimously passed.
<p>SPECIAL PRESENTATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. Torres stated that Karen Molinario is someone who has been there through the ups and downs and embodies everything. She has three important qualities: works very hard, her quality of work, and is totally committed to mission. She truly cares about children of this community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ K. Molinario accepted the 2007 CEO Making a Difference Award on behalf of the IMPACT team and gave thanks especially to Fiorella Altare. ⇒ O. Verdeja also offered his congratulations as well. 	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ L. Carmona commented on the QRIS. While everyone wants to offer maximum quality possible, they also remember that it costs. Until The State and Coalition offers a higher reimbursement rate then they will not achieve quality. In regards 	

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to the Assessment Intervention Program, she is very saddened to see departure of NEED and IMPACT. However, she looks forward to working with the County. She expressed her concerns that when there was an entire department of NEED and IMPACT, they are moving to one inclusion and curriculum specialist for the entire county, which means 3,000 children being reached by 2 individuals. In regards to the bylaws, she encouraged the Board to look at the legislation since there are only 3 positions that require representation for providers. They don't have a mechanism that says providers will select their representative a specific way. There are also policies and procedures that have developed by ELC that directly impact how providers get paid. She introduced Sarah Brazier who has been affected by this policy.

- S. Brazier from Liberty Academy and Preschool stated she has been in business for a year and a half and have been denied payment due to the policy of The Coalition. She was looking forward to meeting with Coalition staff after the meeting.
- M. Alonso corrected that it is a team of 36 employees working in inclusion team and one manager for inclusion and one manager for curriculum.

Meeting Adjourned 9:47.

Signed and approved by:

S. Herald, Board Secretary

Date