



Executive Committee Meeting
October 20, 2009; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Call

Committee Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.; Yesenia Perkins (attended via conference call); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; Dabney G. Park, Jr., Ph.D.

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Leeana Pena; Angelo Parrino; Melody Thelwell; Bethany Sands; Mercy Castiglione

Other Attendees: Santiago D. Echemendia, Tew Cardenas, LLP. (Interim Board Attorney); Barbara Thomas-Robinson, Miami-Dade County; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Ivy Martinez, Miami-Dade County; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Doreen Moskowitz, OEL/AWI; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Ricky Signori, Miami-Dade County; Abby Thorman; Carole Abbott; Veronica Fernandez, AECE (attended via conference call)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called the meeting to order.
- O. Verdeja introduced Santiago D. Echemendia, attorney for Tew Cardenas, LLP, who will be assisting the ELC with several projects.

II. Assessment and Inclusion Program

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- E. Torres stated that per the last Board meeting, the Board wanted a follow-up to the Assessment and Inclusion program to ensure that additional input from community partners was taken and that the Board members were comfortable with the model.
- E. Torres stated that one of the challenges is the lack of services available in the community and the dollars are not sufficient. How can we stretch the dollars we currently have to the greatest impact on the large number of children being served and comply with the requirements on the law?
- E. Torres stated that D. Lawrence challenged the ELC to come up with an Assessment and Inclusion program model, and he would then go out and try to find funding for a more comprehensive model. Currently, the ELC is working with 2.8 million dollars on this particular service.
- B. Sands stated that for the ELC to meet the mandates of School Readiness screening, s. 411.01 (5) (c) 2.c. F.S., an age-appropriate assessment of a child's development must be provided. It was recommended by the Assessment and Inclusion task force to use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) to accomplish this. This questionnaire must be completed by the parent and teacher working together. The ASQ measures are



communication skills, fine motor skills, oral motor skills, problem solving and cognitive skills, and personal social skills. Children receive an annual screening. Screenings are performed in the child care centers.

- Y. Johnson recommended that screenings be performed every 6 months.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that B. Sands was recommending a process, however there would always be an exception to the process. She stated the purpose of the program is to identify children with delays, and then call community resources to assist them.
- B. Sands stated that it was important to look at the process.
- A. Thorman stated that D. Lawrence’s reports show there are 30,000 children born in Miami-Dade County annually.
- B. Sands stated that of those 30,000 children, the ELC deals with 1200-1500 annually.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated the amount of children we can help depends on what the AWI guidelines are for eligibility. Regardless of the amount, statistics show that between 10-15% of children will have developmental delays.
- O. Verdeja asked what the ELC’s job is.
- A. Thorman stated that the ELC’s job would be to screen all the children and that a referral is made.
- D. Park stated that community partners should be involved to see how they can assist with funding. The ELC only has 2.8 million dollars to screen 1500 children. With our budget, the ELC cannot s 30,000.
- E. Torres stated that staff at provider centers could be trained to screen the children.
- B. Sands stated that it is critical that children are screened early on to get into the referral program.
- O. Verdeja stated that B. Sands would work on getting a process into place.

III. Provider Rate Increase	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- E. Torres stated that back in January the Board approved a rate increase for providers. About 50% of providers qualified for the rate increase because the ELC based this on a market increase. All those qualified will be brought up to the Board-approved rate increase after the verification process.

IV. Appt. of Jacqui Colyer to Program Committee	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- O .Verdeja stated that he was appointing Jacqui Colyer to the Program & Strategy Committee and would announce this at the next Board meeting.

V. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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VI. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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