



ELC News Alert

OCTOBER 2009

Issue 13

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ELC Mission & Vision

Mission

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success

President's Message



As we prepare for the 2010 legislative session, we need everyone's assistance to make sure that policy makers in our state are aware of the challenges that we face to provide the children of our communities with a high-quality early education experience. Next year's session will be particularly important because of the state of our nation's economy. As citizens, business owners, and community partners, it is important that we stand together in support of continued funding for children. With unemployment at 11% of our workforce (over one million Floridians are jobless); there is no question that we all need to do our part to help the families of our communities through this most difficult time.

We have set up a legislative updates link on the front page of our website (www.elcmdm.org). On that link you can find information about bills that have been filed, obtain contact information for your legislators, and get up-to-date information on legislative news and events taking place throughout our state. We encourage you to visit our website weekly for updates and to make sure that you become familiar with the issues and the process so that you can take action as you deem appropriate.

In anticipation of the 2010 session, we will be scheduling a board of directors sponsored legislative advocacy training as we have done in the past. Dates, times and locations will be published in this news alert and on our website.

Healthy families, healthy children and healthy communities are our ultimate goal.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Important Announcements

[Check out the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe on Facebook and Twitter!](#)



Click here to follow us on Twitter.



Click here to become a fan on Facebook.

and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

Vision

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at www.elc-mdm.org.

Board
November 2 at 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

PLEASE NOTE: Provider Services November 5 meeting is CANCELLED!

Program & Strategy
November 25 at 1:00 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance
November 30 at 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

For continuous updates on all of the ELC's latest news and events, join now!

Helpful Information for Early Care and Education Centers in Preparation for Flu Season

New federal guidelines were released to help early care and education programs respond to influenza during the 2009-2010 influenza season.

* Child Care and Early Childhood Guidance
<http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childguidance.html>

* Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and Child Care and Early Childhood Providers <http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childtechreport.html>

* Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Child Care and Early Childhood <http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childtoolkit.html>

Reminder! Daylight Savings Time Ends This Weekend

November 1, 2009 at 2:00 a.m. marks the end of 2009 Day Light Savings Time. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce's One Voice

Hosted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce, One Voice is an online forum dedicated to addressing the state's economic issues with a "one voice" approach. To learn more and become actively engaged in the discussion to better the future for all Floridians, please visit:

<http://www.onevoiceforflorida.com/groups/2009%20Future%20of%20Florida%20Forum>.

The ELC is Awarded the Society for Human Resource Management's 2009 Diversity and Inclusion Award



On Tuesday, October 20, 2009, the ELC was honored with the 2009 Diversity and Inclusion award by the Greater Miami chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management. The award was presented at the Society's annual awards dinner. In addition to ELC President and CEO Evelio Torres (pictured), three of the Coalition's board members were in attendance at the event including Board of Directors Vice Chair Dr. Yvonne Johnson, Jesse Perkins, and Gilda Ferradaz on behalf of Jacqui Colyer.

The Diversity and Inclusion award represents the Coalition's commitment to diversity and inclusion and is a reflection of our pledge to building an organization that is representative of the community we serve. It also celebrates our enthusiasm to continue learning and growing while sharing our knowledge with others. Past award recipients include the Burger King Corporation, Ryder Systems, Akerman Senterfitt, Miami Dade College and Miami-Dade County.

In light of our acceptance of this distinguished award, the ELC wishes to specially recognize and thank Trish Alonso, Director of Human Resources, and Ileana Vallejo,



Human Resources Benefits Manager, for their commitment to diversity and inclusion and for sharing our well-recognized diversity training with our community and state partners.

Providers, Are You Losing Revenue?

The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program is still available for eligible employees with children through age 12!

Similar to the School Readiness grant, your employees may qualify for CCEP by earning low to moderate wages. The eligibility requirements are the same, except that employees may earn up to 200% of poverty level. For example, a family of four can earn up to \$42,400 and still be eligible for participation.

Tax benefits, increased employee morale, and higher productivity make the CCEP an exciting work-life benefit for you and your employees.

If you are participating in the program for the first time, print out a CCEP Provider Participation Agreement from http://elcmdm.org/our_services/ccep.html and fax it to Alina Soto at (786) 888-9282.

For additional questions about the CCEP program, please call her at (305) 646-7220, ext. 282.

Florida's Unemployment Rate is Reported at 11% for September 2009

The September 2009 seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the state of Florida was reported at 11.0 percent. This represents 1,012,000 unemployed persons out of a workforce of 9,193,000. The unemployment rate is up 4.3 percentage points from September of 2008. Moreover, Florida's current unemployment rate is 1.2 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate of 9.8 percent. The last time the unemployment rate was as high as 11.0 percent was in October of 1975.

The industries of trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; and construction have reportedly lost the most jobs. They account for more than two-thirds of the job losses in the state. The State's single industry that has grown for most of 2009 is healthcare.

"We remain committed to serving unemployed workers and providing them with job placement and training services to support rapid reemployment and help reinvigorate the economy," said Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo. "The recovery is coming slowly, but it is coming. The latest unemployment figures confirm that the economic downturn continues to impact a significant number of Floridians and businesses. However, a reduction in employers announcing closings or large-scale layoffs is a positive sign of Florida's growing economic stability."

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) remains committed to providing Floridians with ready access to the full range of programs and services available through the State's workforce system. To learn more about AWI's unemployment compensation, workforce, or early learning services, please visit www.FloridaJobs.org.

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (news release on unemployment figures)

SPEC: Strengths, Prevention, Empowerment and Community Change

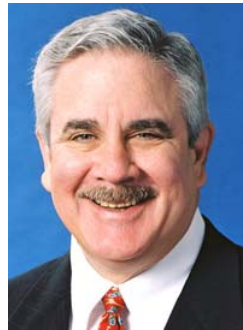
Sponsored by the University of Miami's School of Education and The Children's Trust,

the SPEC (Strengths, Prevention, Empowerment and Community change) program model is an attempt to promote strength-based, preventative, empowering, and community change practice in human services.

SPEC is based in empirical research, community practice, and community psychology theory. By applying the model to the Coalition, we seek to achieve identified common goals that will both strengthen and enhance the cohesion of the organization through our workforce and services. To learn more about SPEC and to follow our progress as we continue on this empowering journey, please visit www.elcmdm.org and/or <http://www.specway.org/pulse>.

ELC Board of Directors

As seen in previous news alerts, we have featured our board members to familiarize our community with the dedicated professionals who serve on the Coalition's board of directors. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Board Director Harve A. Mogul.



Harve A. Mogul joined United Way of Miami-Dade as president and chief executive officer January 1, 1991. Through its mission of "building community by helping people care for one another," United Way brings people together from throughout the community to build a stronger and safer Miami-Dade County.

Under his leadership, United Way of Miami-Dade has earned national recognition as one of the leading United Ways and non-profits in the country. United Way of Miami-Dade is frequently cited for excellence in its major gift and fundraising programs, diversity efforts, emergency responsiveness, financial stewardship and governance and community building initiatives. In January 2007, United Way of Miami-Dade opened a national best practices teaching and learning center on its campus. Called the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, it is dedicated to elevating the quality of early childhood education in Miami-Dade and beyond.

Mogul has been a United Way professional since 1973. In addition to Miami-Dade County, he has worked for the United Ways in Baltimore, MD; Cleveland, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; and, Winston-Salem, NC.

As a campaign director for Ketchum, Inc., Mogul helped plan the national campaign to raise \$100 million for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Washington D.C. Prior to that, Mogul served in the United States Peace Corps from 1964-66, taught fifth grade in Baltimore, and worked with community planning and advocacy organizations.

Mogul serves on a number of national United Way committees including the United Way International Committee, National Professional Council, Southeast Regional Council and as a member of the United Way of Florida Board. He was tapped to lead a national, United Way system response focused on the long-term rebuilding needs of the individuals and communities following disasters like Hurricane Katrina. In Miami, he serves on the boards of the Zoological Society of Florida and the Early Learning Coalition, as a trustee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Orange Bowl Committee, and the Superintendent's Business Advisory Council. He also serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Labor, Education and Health Advisory Council.

Mogul earned his B.A. degree in 1964 and a master's in social work and community planning in 1971, both from the University of Maryland. In 2006, he received an honorary doctorate degree from Johnson & Wales in business administration. He is a

recipient of Miami Coalition of Community and Justice's Humanitarian Award and Mercy Hospital's Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh Humanitarian Award. In 2003, the Mogul family received Family Counseling Services' Family of the Year Award.

He resides in Coral Gables, FL, with his wife Alesia, a community volunteer and activist. Their son Elliott is an attorney with Cleary Gottlieb in New York City. Their son Maxwell is a student at The Learning Experience and a Florida Special Olympics gold medalist in track and field and a silver medalist in basketball.

Provider Services Committee Meeting Has Been Cancelled!

Providers, please note that the PSC meeting originally scheduled for November 5 at 1:00 p.m. in the ELC Board Room has been CANCELLED.

For additional information on upcoming meetings and events, please visit <http://elcmdm.org/events/index.asp>.

Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work she accomplishes in bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight **Qin He**, Data & GIS Specialist.

Qin He first joined the Early Learning Coalition in an IT-support role for two years and subsequently in what is now her current capacity as data and GIS specialist. Presently she creates geographic information systems (GIS) maps and data reports, the latter primarily of the enhanced field system (EFS).



"I enjoy being resourceful," she says, "The data reports I work on provide the essential information for making better decisions." Likewise, the GIS maps of early care and education data she creates are used by government officials such as members of the senate, house, board of county commissioners, city and county mayors, and public school board members and superintendent.

As a valued employee, Qin appreciates the early-learning knowledge she has acquired through her five-year tenure at the Coalition. Furthermore, she is grateful to play a part in developing a positive future for children. Her supervisor, Fred Hicks, CIO, concurs, "Qin is the silent hero. She delivers quality on every project and can be relied upon in a pinch. Her analytical skills compete with the best minds in the County. Qin is a true unsung hero for children in our community."

Prior to her tenure at the ELC, Qin was a programmer analyst at the University of Miami for five and a half years. In her spare time she enjoys reading books, exercising, and raising her son.

Our Partners

Much of our success is attributed to the contributions of our valued partners. After all, they play a key role in helping us bring high-quality early care and education programs and services to our children. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).



As the largest school district in Florida and the fourth largest in the United States, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), provides high quality education to its students, empowering them to lead productive and fulfilling lives as lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Founded in 1885, M-DCPS is also the second-largest minority public school system in the country and one of a few to offer optional international studies programs and bilingual education. The district is managed by the School Board of Miami-Dade County, which appoints a superintendent to head the administrative portions of the district. The current superintendent is Alberto Carvalho.

M-DCPS offers the VPK program in over 200 sites throughout Miami-Dade County and participates in Quality Counts.

For more information on Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), please visit www.dadeschools.net.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR) Updates

The ELC and IBM Team up to Provide 50 New Computers to Early Learning Centers Serving Hispanic Children

As previously mentioned, the ELC has received a grant as part of a \$2 million nationwide initiative by IBM to provide computers and teaching curriculum to schools and nonprofits focused on supporting education within the Hispanic community, the fastest growing group in the U.S. population.

The Coalition has received 50 new Young Explorer™ computers for use in early learning centers throughout Miami-Dade County. The unit is housed in brightly colored, kid-hardened Little Tikes™ furniture and equipped with award-winning educational software to help children learn concepts in math, science and language. It also comes with teacher training and classroom curricula. Early care and education providers were selected based on their children's identified needs and assessment information, as well as geographical location.

We know that early childhood care and education prepares children for school and lifelong success. The Coalition in partnership with the IBM KidSmart program can lay the foundation for success in the classroom, and hopefully one day lead to more Hispanic scientists and engineers.

Children from the Le Jardin Community Center in Homestead enjoy learning on the new Young Explorer™ computer unit.



Providers: Check Your Attendance and Enrollment Online

Providers now have the ability to check their attendance and enrollment information online through Miami-Dade County's secure web portal. Providers need only a username and password to enter this site and receive up-to-date information, including the enrollment and termination dates of children enrolled at your facility. Once providers receive a username, password, and training, they will also be able to submit all attendance rosters electronically. In order to obtain a username, password, or additional information, please contact Ed Nelson at 305-514-6023 or enelson@miamidade.gov.

Post-Attendance Audits

Miami-Dade County has begun conducting post-attendance audits at provider sites. Providers are reminded of their responsibility to provide copies of attendance rosters and daily sign-in/sign-out sheets upon request from the post-attendance auditors.

Providers: Please Complete and Submit Your ASQ Forms Promptly!

We are requesting your assistance in the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screening-process implemented by Miami-Dade County. Please complete, review and return your ASQ forms promptly, following the instructions included in your ASQ packet.

In October 2009, Miami-Dade County will present workshops on how to complete the Ages and Stages Questionnaires. Please contact 305-270-2905 (South) or 305-953-6007 (North) for more information.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Updates

How to Register for VPK Trainings

Please visit our VPK website at <http://www.vpkhelp.org/resources/trainings.html> to learn the 13 steps to successfully register for VPK trainings. Courses include VPK Educational Standards, Integrating the Standards, and Emergent Literacy for the VPK Classroom. Instructions on how to cancel your registration or obtain your certificate, transcript, and/or CEUs are also available.

80:20 Attendance Rule FAQs and Examples

Parents and providers, please visit <http://www.vpkhelp.org/policies-and-forms/forms.html> to read AWI's FAQs and examples regarding the VPK 80:20 attendance rule.

ELC IS GOING GREEN: Join our e-mail list by sending your center name, address, phone number and e-mail address to nali@elcmdm.org.