



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**September 8, 2020; 8:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 943 1330 3566**

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso; Rick Beasley; Loreen Chant; Bob Eadie; Jenni Roig; Gilda Ferradaz; James Haj; Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald Schwartz; Alex Soto; Iris Strachan; Aaron Slavens; Marisol Diaz; Sandi Bisceglia; Chuck Mohr; Deena Hoagland; Gladys Montes; Jane McQueen, Joycelyn Lawrence; Matthew Bruno; Lisa Taylor; Maurice Kemp

**Board Absentees:** Francia Alexandre

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Lisney Badillo; Pam Hollingsworth; Ana Sejeck; Fiorella Christie; Fred Hicks; Anabel Espinosa; Mercy Castiglione; Alex Sanchez; Diana Lane; Laurie Dunn; Victor Caballero; Erika Erched; Juan Castillo; Lissandra Curbelo; Michelle Meilan; Ana Rodriguez; Belkis Torres; Ileana Vallejo;

**General Attendees:** Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Dave Lawrence; Claudio Reidi

**I. Welcome and Introductions**  
**Alfonso**

**Adrian**

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanabria called roll and a quorum was established with twenty-two (22) voting members.
- A. Alfonso congratulated Rick Beasley for being appointed Chair of the Greater Miami Chamber.
- A. Alfonso stated that ELC staff continued to hold weekly provider meetings via Zoom to provide updates from the different ELC departments.
- A. Alfonso welcomed Claudio Reidi from Lehtinen Schultz Riedi de la Fuente, who will give a fiduciary responsibility training.
- A. Alfonso stated that the annual Children's Conference will be held on Sept. 12 via Zoom Meeting.



- A. Alfonso stated that the ELC had spent \$456,866.65 on the PPE distribution. The ELC distributed facemasks, gloves, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, touchless thermometers to all contracted providers.
- A. Alfonso thanked Gladys Montes for agreeing to be the Chair of our Programs, Policy & Strategy committee.
- A. Alfonso stated that this would be Dr. Abilio Rodriguez's last board meeting as his second term was up. He thanked Dr. Rodriguez for all his dedication and hard work.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from March 2020.
  - B. Eadie moved to approve the minutes.
  - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
  - Motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Bob Eadie**

- B. Eadie stated that the Finance Committee met on August 27<sup>th</sup> reviewed, and approved resolution:
  - Resolution 09082020-01 Authorize the President and CEO to request a carryover balance from unused 2019-2020 One-time Supplemental in Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) funds to use in fiscal year 2020-2021 for continued support in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Early Head Start childcare centers.
    - Motion to approve resolution in a block vote by B. Eadie.
    - Motion seconded by G. Schwartz.
    - Motion unanimously passed.
- B. Eadie stated that the June financials were still in process and should be completed by the end of the month. July's financials were presented and it is business as usual. This is the first month reflecting the provider rate increase and the ELC continues to pay on enrollment not attendance.
- B. Eadie stated that the reconciliation snapshot which reflected that 100% of the letters have been mailed out to providers. Once the providers approve of the amount owed, the payment plans begin. OEL has agreed to postpone the beginning of these payment plans until January. Once repayment begins in January, providers will have a year to reimburse the coalition.



- V. Caballero stated that each underpaid provider is given 10 days to respond and the overpaid 20 days. C. Mohr asked if the ELC knew of any providers that were at financial risk of closing due to these reimbursements. A. Sanchez responded that so far no one has stated this. M. Bruno asked if we are looking at these payment plans on a case-by-case basis. E. Torres responded that the initial payment plan is a 12-month plan but if we see that a provider is in hardship, the ELC will ask OEL to add additional months. L. Chant suggested that the provider reconciliation/tracking the median balance should be added as an agenda item to the Provider Services Committee. R. Beasley chair of the committee agreed. C. Mohr suggested that the ELC start looking at the trends in weaker providers.
- B. Eadie stated that there were no charges on the EHS credit card report.

#### **IV. Strategic Planning Committee Report**

**Loreen Chant**

- L. Chant stated that the Strategic Planning Committee met on August 24<sup>th</sup> reviewed and discussed the following items:
  - Incorporate break-out groups' recommendations into existing committees
    - Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee – Leading for Equity & Capacity Building
    - Provider Services – Provider Sustaining and Strengthening
    - Monroe Advisory Committee – Monroe County Initiatives
  - Provider Sustaining and Strengthening
    - Help providers maximize their enrollment
      - Ad campaign in process to promote safety and return to child care
      - Data on capacity, attendance and enrollment will be gathered and examined
      - Weekly provider Zoom meetings to solicit feedback from providers
      - Full-time payment for school age children
      - Flex (virtual) VPK program
    - Identify community partners as resource clearinghouse
      - Types of resources needed identified
      - More than one entity identified based on needs
  - Virtual Programming
    - Provide training and professional development to providers
      - Expanded training through PDI
      - Miami-Dade and Monroe Public Schools as a resource
      - Miami Dade College resources
  - Capacity Building
    - Convene Early Learning task force
      - Nominating Committee to take lead on identifying members, action items and proposed outcomes of task force



- Add Great Miami Chamber member to Board
  - Nominating Committee to review statutory requirements for ELC board members and make recommendation on how to move forward
  
- Monroe VPK Initiative
  - Conduct Monroe County Needs Assessments
    - Request for Quotes to identify a vendor to conduct
  
- Communication
  - Identify options to improve communication with providers
    - Weekly Zoom meetings with providers
    - Creation of Provider Facebook Group to share information and as a forum for providers to also communicate with each other
    - Blasts to be sent at 7:00 am so they show up at the top of the inbox when providers open their e-mails in the morning. Urgent blasts will be limited, but will continue to be sent at different times. This is meant to increase the percentage of e-mails open by providers.

#### **V. Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee Report**

**Gladys Montes**

- G. Montes stated that the Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee met on August 31<sup>st</sup> reviewed and discussed the following items:
  - EHS enrollment, attendance and meal programs were reviewed and accepted
  - EHS Parent Orientation was held on August 26 and 27 and parents received information about all the services provided by EHS
  - Annual Retreat Initiatives
    - Leading for Equity - Modify the Value 'Equity' in the ELCMDM strategic plan. Use the strategic plan as the on-ramp to examine ELCMDM practices and programs through an equity lens.
    - Capacity Building - Expand board opportunities to Chamber of Commerce, it was decided that this recommendation will be moved to our Nominating Committee. Evelio will have a meeting with a few chamber members to discuss how better to continue with this recommendation
  - Teletherapy - Therapy treatment provided through a live, audio-visual connection over the internet. It has ensured consistent treatment, parent caregiver involvement is promoted, promotes carry-over of functional skills in child's natural environment, delivery model allows for more flexibility and provides greater access to qualified providers.



## VI. Monroe County Advisory Committee Report

Sandi Bisceglia

- S. Bisceglia stated that the Monroe County Advisory Committee met on August 25<sup>th</sup> reviewed and discussed the following items:
  - Legislative want to know the way the dollars are spent. Closing Achievement Gaps, areas where there are a lot of poverty and social issues. In Monroe County, we have done some work and we want to hone in on the areas that have the biggest need. Act with Urgency.
  - 30% of our emails to providers are open and 70% remain unopen
  - Covid-19 Mini Grants, Monroe, \$38,000 and Health/safety and Mini-grant, \$36,000. To summarize we had a very successful program across the state to serve children of health care providers and first responders, they received free childcare regardless of income.
  - As of August 18, we had 324 approved VPK certificates and as of today, we have 343. School based sites started the Flex VPK on August 19. Private sites begin face to face VPK at various dates starting on August 17. We have no SR applications in the queue right now. They are still being pulled daily.
  - Centers are having a hard time trying to hire teachers. We have a classroom that is closed and several of the other centers said they are having the same problem. Part of the problem is the pay that we have in early childhood. Right now, a low of people are concerned with coming into centers and being around the children as well as the parents. Another reason why enrollment is low is because of virtual schooling, a lot of parents are home with their children trying to teach them.

## VII. EHS Policy Council Committee Report

Belkis Torres

- B. Torres stated that the Policy Council did not have a meeting in July. The June 17, 2020 meeting was routine. The Following items were discussed:
  - The April Expenditure Report was shared as well as the May Enrollment, Attendance, and Nutrition reports.
  - A resolution was presented and unanimously approved by the Policy Council allowing the ELC to request a modification on the Early Head Start grant application which was submitted on May 1. The modification would permit the program to offer a home-based option in addition to the center-based option. If approved by the Regional Office, the home-based option can be a viable alternative for childcare partners struggling to keep their businesses open.
  - During the meeting, the program staff advised the Policy Council members of the following:
    - First, 26 centers were open for service and five remained closed.
    - Second, the Office of Head Start increased the COVID-19 funds from \$217,500 dollars to \$629,106. In order to determine how to best use the funds, the program issued a survey to the Early Head Start child care partners. Results from the survey are being used to purchase items to protect children and staff from the spread of COVID 19.



- Finally, the program submitted the availability calendar for the federal review. Although the program is not expecting a federal review during the 2020-2021 school year, they are required to submit an availability calendar every year.

**VIII. Fiduciary Responsibility Training**

**Claudio Reidi**

<https://www.elcmdm.org/about-us/board-of-directors/minutes-meeting-packages>, pages 48-64

**IX. CEO Report**

**Evelio Torres**

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/CEO%20Report%20092020%20final.pdf>

**X. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**XI. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**