



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
March 02nd, 2015; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Adrian Alfonso (Chair); Gilda Ferradaz (Treasurer); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.); Charles Auslander; Roderick E. Beasley; Russell Benford; Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott; Philip Gassman; Helene J. Good; David Lawrence, Jr.; Harve Mogul (via conference call); Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Robert Eadie; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Theresa Axford; Shaleen Fagundo; Dr. Mara Zapata); Lucy Pineiro

Board Absentees: The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman (Vice Chair)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Lisa Sanabria; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Fiorella Altare; Ana Rodriguez; Yasmin Wong-Peraza; Pamela Hollingsworth; Kerry Allen; Yesenia Reyes; Milton Silvera; Dr. Christine Hughes; Le Chau; Victor Caballero; Paloma Lopez-Barcena

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Luis Diaz, Vittoria Chirighin, Devereux; Emmounte Banks, Room 2 Bloom; Silvia Palenzuela, MDCPS; Gladys Montes, UWCFE; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Shelia Dudley, Room 2 Bloom; Cynthia Hereford, Shining Light CDC; Juanita Walker, Sheyes Learning; Terry Rutherford; MCI; Abby Thorman, UF; Jackie Romillo, Citrus Health; Julienne Barhar, Devereux; Cathleen Armstead, MDC Headstart/EHS

I. Welcome and Introductions

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanabria called roll and a quorum was established with sixteen (19) voting members.
- A. Alfonso stated that if anyone has a conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board, to declare the conflict and see Lisa Sanabria for a form.
- A. Alfonso introduced this meeting's Board Member Spotlight: Commissioner Heather Carruthers.
 - H. Carruthers
- A. Alfonso stated the following item was included in this month's Board packet:
 - ELC Board Attendance
- A. Alfonso reported that an OIG (Office of Inspector General) investigation concluded February 26th, 2015 with the arrests of three individuals for lining their own pockets by scamming parents in connection with a program that provides subsidized child care and pre-school services for at-risk kids. The investigation found that a former employee of CHS (Children's Home Society) and two of her associates organized a scheme to defraud the program by falsely designating children as "at-risk" in order to place them in a higher priority of eligibility ahead of other children. Signatures of CHS supervisors were also forged to effectuate the phony paperwork. That paperwork was then submitted to the County's Child Development Services Division. The trio charged parents between \$100 to \$500 in cash per child, per referral; however, none of the parents were aware that the applications fraudulently designated their children as "at-risk" kids.



As a result of this scam, the trio caused the Office of Early Learning to disburse over \$156,000 in benefits for the immediate placement of children who were not at risk.

- D. Lawrence stated that the event “Humbled by the Journey” was a success generating 900 participants.

II. Approval of Minutes

Adrian Alfonso

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from March 2nd, 2015.
 - A. Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes.
 - T. Axford seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.

III. Nominating Committee Report

David Lawrence

- D. Lawrence stated that the nominating committee had interviewed four potential new board member. They were Alan Eckstein, Gladys Montes , Dr. Judy Schaechter and Alexander Soto

IV. Programs, Policy & Provider Services Committee Report

Shaleen Fagundo

- S. Fagundo stated that the Department of Children and Families issued a licensing one (1) Class 1 licensing violation to Cristina Worthley Family Day Care Home on December 17, 2014. The licensing violation, as described in the Inspection report, states as follows:
 - Non- Compliance Description: 12-07 - Children in care had access to a water hazard or swimming pool, in that [pool is not completely surrounded by fence or barrier on all four sides and alarm is located on the inside of the door of the house.
- The committee is recommending suspension pending the 120 hearing from DCF
- S. Fagundo called for the approval of suspension.
 - R. Eadie moved to approve the suspension.
 - C. Auslander seconded the motion.
 - Motion was passed unanimously.
 - Lucy Pineiro recused herself.

V. Finance Committee Report

Gilda Ferradaz

- Resolution 02252015-01 authorize the President and CEO to receive funds from The Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start.
 - Motion to approve resolution by R. Eadie.
 - Motion seconded by H. Good.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 02252015-02 authorize the President and CEO to receive funds from The Children’s Trust Early Head Start Match contract.
 - Motion to approve resolution by A.Rodriguez.
 - Motion seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
 - Charles Auslander recused himself.



- Resolution 02252015-03 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the following contracts: Jackson Health System, Citrus Health Network, Family Central, Inc., University of Miami, Miami-Dade College, University of Florida, Solutions Focused Training, Early Head Start Provider Contracts, Start-up Planner.
 - Motion to approve resolution by T. Axford.
 - Motion seconded by S. Fagundo.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Resolution 02252015-04 Authorize the President and CEO to release Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the following services External Auditing Services, Sub-recipient Financial Monitoring Services.
 - Motion to approve resolution by C. Auslander.
 - Motion seconded by M. Zapata.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- G. Ferradaz reviewed the financial statements and stated that School Readiness revenues continue to show a variance. This variance is expected to decrease due to the letter that were sent out these past two months for new enrollments.

- A. Martinez stated that the ELC usually see a surge in enrollment January thru March but we will continue enrolling children till the end of the year.

- G. Ferradaz state that the VPK variance has decreased. The TAP program continues to reflect a surplus and the ELC continues to wait for an RFQ from Miami Dade Public Schools.

VI. Early Learning Florida

Dr. Abby Thorman

VII. CEO Report

Evelio Torres

- Sliding Fee Scale
- The presentations are available at the following link:

Pamela Hollingsworth

http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03022015.pdf

VIII. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso