



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso (chair); Charles Auslander; Russell Benford; Tina Carroll-Scott; Heather Carruthers; Robert Eadie (treasurer); Gilda Ferradaz (vice-chair); Philip Gassman; Helene Good; David Lawrence Jr.; Dr. Judy Schaechter; Alexander Soto; Alan Eckstein; Dr. Mara Zapata; Gladys Montes; Magaly Abrahante (rep); Rick Beasley; Shaleen Fagundo; Abilio Rodriguez; Gerald Schwartz

**Board Absentees:** Theresa Axford; Lucy Pineiro

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Lisa Sanabria; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Fiorella Altare; Pamela Hollingsworth; Kerry Allen; Lisney Badillo; Sandra Gonzalez; Wilfredo Ayala; Christine Hughes; Mercy Castiglione; Lidia Clarke; Isabel Afanador; Pam Witter; Aileen Martinez; Quin He; Jason Johnson; Hubert Cesar; Victor Caballero; Ileana Vallejo; Vivian Jeudy; Katherine Delgado; Belkis Leon; Corey Jackson; Belinda Jeanty; Mabel Ferro; Cheryl Hunter; Margie Robinson; Nancy Julmiste; Joshua Diaz-Rivera; Valencia Tarvin-Stoval; Lucretia Jones; Delfina Ledesma; Maria Hernandez; Chemika Burkhalter; Ashley Holland; Sandra Mira-Navarrete; Otilia Gonzalez; Sandra Marrero

**General Attendees:** Santiago Echemendia, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Sarah Bruzun, Liberty Academy; Liliana Salazar, MDCPS; Shanna Pointville, Excel Kids Academy; Michael Kaplin, Devereux; Jackie Romillo, CHN; Emmounte Banks, Room 2 Bloom; Anna Wheedley, MDCPS; Juanita Walker, Sheyes of Miami; Maria Riesha, MDCPS; Terry Rutherford, MCI; Shelia Dudley, Room 2 Bloom

## 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 stated that the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has committed to becoming a catalyst for social change and equity. Leading for Equity workshops which include a poverty simulation serve as a resource dedicated to facilitating authentic conversations with community leaders and partners. It is in the spirit of collaboration that the Board of Directors are invited to participate in a Poverty Simulation. In an article found in the Miami Herald about the alarming number of children in Miami-Dade who are living in poverty Miami-Dade County's economic-research arm produced the report. The first of three looking at poverty in the county, among the findings:
  - About 149,000 children live in poverty. That is about 30% of all children.
  - The poorest fifth of the population earned an average of \$8,829 in 2013, compared to the wealthiest fifth who earned \$176,876.
  - About one in five Miami-Dade households lives in poverty. That's defined as earning less than \$23,625 a year for a family of four.
  - In all, about 541,000 Miami-Dade residents live in poverty, out of a population of 2.5 million.



- Miami-Dade's black population has the most severe poverty problem.
  - The poverty rate for black residents was 29 percent, compared to 21 percent for Hispanics and 12 percent for white non-Hispanics.
  - A poverty Simulation was set to take place September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- A. Alfonso took the opportunity to thank Lucy Pinero for serving as board secretary for a number of years. Stating that Lucy has been a strong voice on the executive committee and never hesitated in supporting policies that improve the quality of care for all children. A. Alfonso reported that Deputy Mayor Russell Benford agreed to serve as Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee.
    - H. Good moved to approve appointment.
    - R. Beasley seconded the motion.
    - Motion was passed unanimously.
  - A. Alfonso moved to appoint Lucy Pineiro and Dr. Magaly Abrahante to the legislative committee.
    - A. Eckstein moved to approve appointment.
    - G. Schwartz seconded the motion.
    - Motion was passed unanimously.
  - A. Alfonso moved to appoint the Provider Services Committee as the "Review Hearing Committee": Rick Beasley (chair), Shaleen Fagundo (co-chair), Abilio Rodriguez, Mara Zapata and Helene Good.
  - A. Alfonso moved to appoint Commissioner Heather Carruthers To the Programs & Policy Committee as a representative from Monroe County.
    - A. Eckstein moved to approve appointment.
    - J. Schaechter seconded the motion.
    - Motion was passed unanimously.
  - A. Alfonso stated Ready4K is one of our newest initiatives in partnership with Stanford University. A pilot of READY4K! was conducted among mostly low-income families at 31 San Francisco schools during the 2013–2014 school year. It was such a success that researchers now plan to roll it out to 50,000 families in 16 states next year, which will include Florida. The texts, which are sent three times a week during the school year, suggest simple literacy-boosting activities for parents to do with their kids at home. The text messages made parents more likely to participate in home literacy activities with their children. This increased engagement translated into learning gains for preschool-aged children in areas of early literacy. The board members will be included in this program so they may personally experience the messages that are sent to families.
  - A. Alfonso stated that an article included in your board packet stated that federal officials say that young children with disabilities should be receiving educational services in inclusive settings in greater numbers. Specifically, the federal agencies are urging states to create task forces focused on early childhood inclusion, implement policies and allocate funding to facilitate such programs and set and track goals for expanding inclusive learning opportunities. Meanwhile, early childhood providers are encouraged to enhance professional development, work with families and ensure specialized supports are available, among other steps, to increase inclusion. Helene Good agreed to take on the task of working with staff and any other board member who would like to join her to develop recommendations on how to improve and expand the inclusion services provided by the Early Learning Coalition. The hope is that within a two month period Helene will be able to present recommendations to the Program Committee who will then forward those recommendations to the full board. Volunteers were P. Gassman, B. Eadie, G. Montes, M. Zapata.
  - A. Alfonso stated that the cost of caring for a child in America keeps rising, but childcare workers' salaries are not. A person working in child care for 22 years, was quoted as saying "I've seen firsthand how our broken child care system is holding our communities and our families back. Working parents can't afford quality care, and child care workers can't



cover rent, groceries and basic bills for our families.” They are paid just \$10.75 an hour to take care of our country’s most precious resource – our children. This means they can’t afford a car and health insurance. Most child care workers are among the lowest paid workers in cities around the country. Sadly, though, many parents are in the same situation, as far as not getting paid enough to afford rent, food and healthcare and relying on public assistance to survive. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici said “Families need a reliable and affordable child care system that’s available when they need it. And importantly, the care should be provided by skilled child care workers who are paid enough to support their families,” In DC this week, child care workers, parents and families who are also struggling to juggle bills and make sure their kids are happy and safe when they are at work are taking the “In the Fight for \$15” are taking recommendations to elected leaders. In May, parents and child care workers met with Hillary Clinton to talk about what is needed to provide the best care without living in poverty. It hurts entire community when hard-working parents can’t make ends meet and child care workers live in constant stress and anxiety about where to get their next meal. It’s time to have a child care system that supported all families and working parents.

- A. Alfonso stated that he will now have E. Torres introduce the Early Learning Coalition’s leadership team.

## II. Approval of Minutes

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
  - R. Benford moved to approve the minutes.
  - R. Beasley seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

## III. Finance Committee Report

**Bob Eadie**

- Resolution 07292015-01 Authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the grant agreement and/or contract with The Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services.  
Fiscal Impact: The contract is a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,000,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion to approve resolution by A. Eckstein
  - Motion seconded by R. Beasley.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Resolution 07292015-02 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, receive funds and execute The Children’s Trust Leverage and Match contract. Fiscal Impact: The contract is a not-to-exceed amount of \$480,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion to approve resolution by A. Eckstein
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  - C. Auslander declared COI
- Resolution 07292015-03 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, receive funds and execute the contract with The Children’s Trust for Quality Rating Improvement System (“QRIS”). Fiscal Impact: The contract is a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,800,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion to approve resolution by R. Beasley
  - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  - C. Auslander declared COI
- Resolution 07292015-04 Authorize the President and CEO to release the invitation to negotiate (ITN) for Customer Service Training services listed in the background section of this resolution. Funding Source: SR/VPK/TAP/Refugee
  - Motion to approve resolution by M. Zapata



- Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
- Motion was unanimously passed.
  
- Resolution 07292015-05 Authorize the President and CEO to issue an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for a Public Awareness and Outreach campaign listed in the background section of this resolution. Funding Source: SR/VPK/TAP/Refugee
  - Motion to approve resolution by H. Carruthers
  - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  
- Resolution 07292015-06 Authorize the President and CEO to respond to the School Board of Miami-Dade County's Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Agency to provide Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) Child-Care Services for Children who meet legislative eligibility. Fiscal Impact: TBA
  - Motion to approve resolution by A. Eckstein
  - Motion seconded by R. Beasley
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-07 Authorize the President and CEO to respond to the School Board of Miami-Dade County's Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Agency to provide Diversity Training Services. Fiscal Impact: TBA
  - Motion to approve resolution by A. Eckstein
  - Motion seconded by M. Zapata
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-08 Authorize the President and CEO to respond to the Health Foundation of Florida's request for proposals (RFP) for an Agency to provide nutrition and health services. Fiscal Impact: The grant/contract amount resulting from the request for proposal award shall not exceed \$150,000.00.
  - Motion to approve resolution by R. Benford
  - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-09 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the lease for the Redetermination Unit listed in the background section of this resolution. Fiscal Impact: TBA
  - Motion to approve resolution by R. Beasley
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-10 Authorize the President and CEO to apply for a license, negotiate, and receive funds from the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Center and execute the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Contract for Monroe County. Fiscal Impact: The contract is a not-to-exceed amount of \$60,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion to approve resolution by M. Zapata
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-11 Authorize the President and CEO to apply for a license, negotiate, and receive funds from the Florida HIPPY Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) Center and execute the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Contract for Collier County. Fiscal Impact: The contract is a not-to-exceed amount of \$110,000.00 for fiscal year 2015-2016, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion to approve resolution by R. Beasley
  - Motion seconded by J. Schaechter
  - Motion was unanimously passed



- Resolution 07292015-12 Authorize the President and CEO to accept from OEL the following Notice of Awards:  
The Final NOA for School Readiness FY 14-15 bringing the Total Coalition Award to \$105,286,272.  
The Final NOA for VPK FY 14-15 bringing the Total Coalition Award to \$56,515,059.  
Funding Source: SR/VPK
  - Motion to approve resolution by R. Beasley
  - Motion seconded by M. Zapata
  - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- Resolution 07292015-13 Authorize the President and CEO to accept from OEL the following Notice of Awards:  
The First Notice of Award for School Readiness FY 15-16 is \$111,810,470. This includes: (1) Base (FY 14-15) \$106,806,203.00 (2) New Money \$961,305.00 (3) CCEP FY 15-16 \$2,333,472.00 (4) CCEP FY 14-15 \$1,709,490.00 TOTAL 111,810,470.00  
The First Notice of Award for VPK for FY 15-16 is \$58,392,739.  
Funding Source: SR/VPK
  - Motion to approve resolution by A. Eckstein
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
  - Motion was unanimously passed

#### IV. Provider Services

**Rick Beasley**

- R. Beasley stated that loss prevention has reason to believe that Ms. Delgado from The Bright Stars Learning Center knowingly by false statement misrepresented the Coalition by omitting material facts used in making a determination to receive the School Readiness Program.
  - Recommendation is to terminate the contract in accordance to the policy and procedures of the ELC and the State referring to the School Readiness Provider Contract page 10 (10).  
Florida Statute 1002.91  
Florida Statute 414.39  
Florida Statute 414.41
  - In accordance with Florida Statute 414.411- The case has been reported to:  
The Florida Office of Early Learning  
The Department of Children and Family Services  
The Department of Financial Services, Public Assistance Fraud
    - Motion to approve termination by H. Carruthers
    - Motion seconded by A. Eckstein
    - Motion was unanimously passed
  
- S. Echemendia gave a brief summary of the new ELC policy as pertaining to grievances and DCF violations. The new policy is in compliance with our child safety policy as consulted with OEL. The final word in terms of action plans and termination of providers will now be with the Review Hearing Committee and full Board will receive a report.
  - Motion to approve new policy by b. Eadie
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
  - Motion was unanimously passed



## V. Programs & Policy Committee Report

Dr. Judy Schaechter

- J. Schaechter stated that the Committee discussed four (4) Resolutions relating to HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters). All four (4) Resolutions were approved.
  - **Resolution:** Apply for a license to administer HIPPY in Monroe County
    - Apply for and accept funding from the State HIPPY Technical Assistance Center to serve 25 children
    - The ELCMCM will co-fund HIPPY in Monroe County for 25 children
  - **Resolution:** Apply for a license to administer HIPPY in Collier County (in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of South West Florida) for 50 children
    - Apply for and accept funding from the State HIPPY Technical Assistance Center to fund 50 children
    - No ELCMDM funds will be expended in Collier County
  - **Resolution:** Respond to an RFP issued by Miami Dade County Public Schools to deliver Diversity Training
    - The ELC has been delivering Diversity training through its HR department for many years and has provided Diversity training to MDCPS in the past
    - The ELC has provided an array of training services with a diversity focus through its Professional Development Institute for the past 2 years
  - **Resolution:** To accept the updated Coalition Plan, created within a newly adopted template from the Office of Early Learning
    - Motion to approve new Coalition Plan by A. Eckstein
    - Motion seconded by C. Auslander
    - Motion was unanimously passed
- J. Schaechter stated that the Committee heard the following updates:
  - The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start which now has more than 200 children enrolled
  - The Children's First Conference: Literacy is a Family Affair which is taking place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September at Ronald Reagan High School in Doral
  - Too Small to Fail: A partnership with Clinton Foundation and Univision that will include a focus on 'bridging the word gap' in vulnerable children

## VI. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Dr. Mara Zapata

- The updated strategic plan was presented for approval. Additional changes are to be made.
  - Motion to approve new Strategic Plan with additional changes by B. Eadie
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
  - Motion was unanimously passed

## VII. CEO Report

- The presentations are available at the following link:

[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR0803205.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR0803205.pdf)

## VIII. Public Comments

Adrian Alfonso

## IX. Adjourn

Adrian Alfonso

