



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
March 5, 2017; 10:00 a.m.  
Murray Nelson Government Center  
102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037

**Board Attendees:** Adrian Alfonso; Theresa Axford ; Rick Beasley; Maurice Kemp; Matthew Bruno; Loreen Chant; Bob Eadie; Alan Eckstein (via conference call); Shaleen Fagundo; Gilda Ferradaz; Philip Gassman (via conference call); James Haj; Gladys Montes; Abilio Rodriguez; Judy Schaechter (via conference call); Gerald Schwartz; Alex Soto (via conference call); Marisol Diaz (via conference call); Davis Lawrence

**Board Absentees:** Heather Carruthers; Iris Strachan

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Milton Silvera; Fred Hicks; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fiorella Altare; Michelle Meilan; Mercy Castiglione; Jackye Russell; Zoyla Edwards; Ana Sejeck; Ileana Vallejo; Tammy Garcia; Lidia Clark; Diana Ragbeer; Jose Hernandez; Leslie Gutierrez; Leigh Cooper

**General Attendees:** Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Barbara Alvarez; Dadou Joseph

## 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 (16) voting members.
- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board he would like to wish David Lawrence a Happy Birthday (born March 5, 1942).
- A. Alfonso stated that on September 8, 2017, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe was scheduled to host our Annual Awards Ceremony during our Children First Conference. Hurricane Irma had other plans. We had to put the Awards Ceremony on hold to concentrate our efforts on helping families and providers recover from Hurricane Irma's aftermath. Although the conference was cancelled, we want to take this opportunity to officially recognize and highlight the Monroe County Awards' recipients of the:
  - David Lawrence Jr. Raising the Bar on Quality Award
  - Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award

The David Lawrence Jr. Raising the Bar on Quality Award is intended to recognize the devotion of a team of professionals working in a childcare center or family childcare home that provides high quality early care and education. This includes creating opportunities that involve parents in their children's education; providing culturally responsive instruction and care; and working as a unified team to improve learning outcomes. We are honored to present the 2017 David Lawrence Jr. Raising the Bar on Quality Award to:



- Barbara Alvarez – Family Child Care Home
- Wesley House Family Services - Wesley House Family Services is the child care center recipient, but they are unable to attend today, so we will present the award to them at the next Monroe Advisory Committee meeting on April 5th.

The Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award honors a teacher for his/her ongoing dedication and service. This award recognizes a distinguished educator for inciting intellectual curiosity, supporting colleagues, and actively engaging with students' families to inspire a love of learning throughout the community. We are honored to present the 2017 Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award to:

Dadou Joseph, VPK Teacher, Burton Memorial Child Development

- A. Alfonso stated that on February 15th, the Early Learning Children's foundation held its Circle of Friends Reception and 5 children were given the scholarships for school readiness services.

## II. Approval of Minutes

**Adrian Alfonso**

- A. Alfonso called for the approval of the meeting minutes from February, 2018.
  - B. Eadie moved to approve the minutes.
  - T. Axford seconded the motion.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

## III. Audit Committee Report

**Adrian Alfonso**

- Alfonso stated that On February 28th the Audit Committee met and reviewed the audit conducted by Verdeja and de Armas. A. Alfonso announces that it was a clean audit and that Octavio Verdeja will be at the April board meeting to give a more detailed report.

## IV. Finance Committee Report

**Bob Eadie**

- B. Eadie stated that the financial were reviewed and they that are reflecting that we will end the fiscal year in a deficit..
- B. Eadie stated that the snapshots were reviewed and Miami Dade County has a wait list of approximately 1400 children. Monroe County will remain open with 0 children on the waitlist.
- B. Eadie stated that the EHS credit card expenditure report was included in your packet for board review.



**V. Provider Services Committee Report**

**Rick Beasley**

- R. Beasley stated that Committee met on March 1st and reviewed the following case:
  - The Learning Nest Academy the provider had a 30 gap on the current Liability Insurance policy. After ELC staff reviewed further there was various gaps in insurance during 2013 – 2018. After reviewing all documents the committee decided to terminate the provider’s contract with a 5 year revocation.

**VI. Legislative Committee Report**

**Mathew Bruno**

- M. Bruno stated that the Legislative Committee met on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the following items were discussed:
  - The House is considering raising the 6% match requirement to 8%. The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is meeting and exceeding the current 6% requirement. Several other Coalitions are not meeting the current 6% match and are requesting waivers. E. Torres is scheduling meetings with various legislators and writing letters to ask them to reconsider this move.
  - The proposed funding formula legislation was not supported in the Senate and there was not a companion bill filed in the House. The bill died, but the sponsor, Senator Greg Steube from Sarasota has indicated a willingness to reconsider filing again in the future.
  - E. Torres will participate on a workgroup with Association of Early Learning Coalition members to work toward developing a funding methodology that will be fair to all.

**VII. CEO Report**

**Evelio Torres**

[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03052018.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR03052018.pdf)

**VIII. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**IX. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**