



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
June 4, 2018; 8:00 a.m.  
David Lawrence Jr. Community Meeting Room

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

**Board Absentees:** Maurice Kemp; Alan Eckstein; Gladys Montes (excused); Iris Strachan

**Staff Attendees:** **Evelio Torres;** Angelo Parrino; Milton Silvera; Jason Johnson; Pamela Hollingsworth; Fiorella Altare; Michelle Meilan; Mercy Castiglione; Jackye Russell; Ana Sejeck; Tammy Garcia; Laurie Dunn; Jose Hernandez; Belkis Torres; Ana Rodriguez; Lisney Badillo; Anabel Espinosa; Corey Jackson; Miguel Alfonso; Wilfredo Ayala; Sandra Gonzalez; Belkis Torres; Zoyla Edwards; Alex Sanchez; Erika Erched; Ileana Vallejo

**General Attendees:** Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Aaron Slavens; Moriat Riestra (Miami-Dade); Maya McElrath (Nolo Consulting); Juanita Walker (Sheyes); Christine Coptley (Citrus Health); Rachel Spector (The Children's Trust); Jorge Gonzalez (The Children's Trust); Nolo Martinez (Nolo Consulting); Daniela Foerch (FIU)

## 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 (14) voting members.
- A. Alfonso stated as the board members were walking into the meeting there was a video playing sent by S. Fagundo. The video was made by one her VPK teachers highlighting engaging and fun classroom activities.
- A. Alfonso stated there are many things that make the ELC team special, including their high standards of professionalism, their caring, and their loyalty to the organization's mission. Today we have the great pleasure of recognizing the dedication and service of team members who have been with the organization for 10 years. They are:
  - Michelle Meilan
  - Fred Hicks
  - Mercy Castiglione
  - Sandra Gonzalez
  - Pamela Hollingsworth
  - Jose Hernandez



- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board he would like to congratulate Matthew Bruno who was just named chair of the Centro Mater foundation.
- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board he would like to thank Alex Soto and International Finance Bank for their generous \$1,500 donation to the ELC Foundation. Donations by or board members and corporate partners serve a dual purpose. The donations are always put to good use to support scholarships for children and they also encourage others to give.
- A. Alfonso thanked D. Lawrence and E. Torres for hosting a very successful and well attended “Movement Talks” dinner for community leaders. The Jeffersonian-style dinner began with very simple question for everyone at the table: “What is your earliest childhood memory?” The discussion was lively and it was also very encouraging to see so many of our leaders focused on the early years. We discussed everything from health care to safety and security to education to community wellness. Since so many thoughtful ideas came out of the meeting, it will be followed up with a summit or other gathering.
- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board we would like to honor and thank SueEllen Bennett of the St. James Children’s Center in Islamorada for her many years of service to the children of the Florida Keys. E. Torres has stated that SueEllen is an absolute blessing and provides a high quality program to the children, hence her ongoing support from parents and the community. An article has written about her dedication, love and support to the children in the Keys News.
- A. Alfonso stated that on behalf of the board he would like to congratulate Dave Lawrence for receiving the Florida Blue Sapphire Award, recognizing him for his ongoing work and advocacy for Florida’s youngest.
- A. Alfonso congratulated the United Way of Miami Dade for being selected by Citi Foundation’s Community Progress Makers Fund. The \$500,000 grant is for two years and will be used to accelerate economic opportunities in Miami.
- A. Alfonso reminded the board that there is no board meeting in July.

## II. **Approval of Minutes**

**Adrian Alfonso**

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

## III. **Executive Committee Report**

**Adrian Alfonso**

- Resolution 05072018-01 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the contracts listed within the background section of this resolution, adding all funding sources and shared services as allowed under funder’s guidelines.
- Resolution 05072018-02 Authorize the President and CEO to apply to, negotiate, execute and receive funds from the grantors listed in the background section of this resolution.



- Resolution 05072018-03 Authorize the President and CEO to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Assessments, General Repairs/Improvements and Playgrounds for our Early Head Start child care centers.
- Resolution 05072018-04 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, execute and receive funds from The Children’s Trust for tiered payment differentials and contract slot payments.
  - Motion to approve resolution as a block by B. Eadie.
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

#### **IV. Nominating Committee Report**

**Heather Carruthers**

- H. Carruthers stated that the Nominating Committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup> and interviewed Aaron Slaven. After various questions his commitment to our cause was evident and the committee approved his nomination to the Board.
  - Motion to approve nomination by H. Carruther.
  - Motion seconded by M. Bruno.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

#### **V. Monroe Advisory Committee Report**

**Heather Carruthers**

- H. Carruthers stated that the Monroe Advisory Committee met on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the following items were discussed:
  - Enrollments in both School Readiness and VPK continue to grow:
    - VPK - The number of children in the program in December was 437 representing a net increase of 4 children when compared to 433 for the month of February 2018.
    - School Readiness - There continues to be no wait list of pending applicants for Monroe County and we continue to send invitations to families to enroll their children. The School Readiness count for March was 464 representing a net increase of 14 children when compared to the final unduplicated child count of 450 for the month of February 2018.
  - Quality Counts/PFP
    - We have hired a Key West based Monroe Quality Counts Specialist, Ms. Christine Picanso. She has successfully taken on the role, and has already jumped right into performing visits with many providers throughout the Lower Keys.
    - The Quality Counts program is undergoing a transition for all providers to mirror the Performance Funding Program, once the transition is complete, Specialist Picanso, and Keller will provide further information to all applicable providers.
    - The Quality Counts program has 8 current providers actively participating, with our 4 newest providers just finishing up their first round of Devereux Inspections.
  - Grants/Conferences/Meetings
    - Continued to distribute funding from the Save The Children grant (\$165,000 to date) to providers in Monroe affected by the hurricane.
    - Working with Child Care Aware on additional funding for playgrounds.



- Staff attended the 60th Annual Florida Association of Education of Young Children (FLAECY) conference along with a number of providers in Orlando in September.
- We are the recipient of an Ocean Reef grant through United Way to serve families between 150-200 FPL in Key Largo. United Way is also exploring additional opportunities to partner with us to service more Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) families.
- Outreach Activities
  - Michele, Amber and Laurie gave out books to providers for Literacy Week in January.
  - 2 parent focus groups were conducted in February and March at St. James and Community Co-Op to ascertain parents thoughts about the hurricane evacuation, recovery and reparations.
  - Laurie represented the ELC at a Human Services Panel for the Healthy Start Leadership Team in February in Key Largo.
  - Met with Save the Children representative on March 15 to do follow up visits at Banana Cabanna, Kreative Kids and Barbara Demming's home.
  - Laurie represented the ELC at a playground project meeting for Marathon Lutheran entitled "Marathon Lutheran-Working together to help families" to inform the church and community of the need for childcare in Marathon and the key role the facility has as a church to provide that.
- Supports and Trainings
  - Diana facilitated Advocacy trainings for providers in Key Largo, Marathon and Key West in February.
  - Laurie and Michele are currently facilitating the Junior Journey of Hope psycho-social training at Community Co-Op, Marathon Lutheran and Inez Martin. The Inclusion team in Miami is helping cover the trainings in the Upper Keys.
  - The next competency test is scheduled for May 19 at the Marathon Lutheran School.
  - The Monroe County Conference and Resiliency Summit team is currently meeting weekly to plan our next conference on Sept 22 at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel.
- Inclusion
  - Continual referrals to Early Steps and Child Find.
  - Many providers are catching concerns prior to ASQ results and making referrals earlier.
  - In January, Benchmark Human Services was awarded the contract to administer the Early Steps program in South Florida. They will be taking over services starting on May 1. They are currently hiring all new staff and are planning for a smooth transition to reduce a backlog in the evaluation process.
- Teen Parent
  - Currently have 1 teen parent in Marathon, 1 pregnant teen in Marathon, 1 pregnant teen in Key West and 1 pregnant teen in Key Largo.
  - The new contract year begins on July 1 and is currently being reviewed for any necessary changes.
- Provider Visits
  - All centers are up and running now, including Kreative Kids. Demming Family Child Care Home is awaiting licensing approval.



## VI. Finance Committee Meeting Report

**Bob Eadie**

- Resolution 06042018-01 - Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, execute and receive funds from Save the Children to provide training for hurricane preparedness and psychosocial support for childcare providers, children and families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.
- Resolution 06042018-02 - Requested: Authorize the President and CEO to apply for 2.6% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) funds for the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant.
- Resolution 06042018-03 - Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate, execute and receive funds for the Initial Budget for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- Resolution 06042018-04 - Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the lease listed in the background section of this resolution.
- Resolution 06042018-05 - Authorize the President and CEO to accept \$201,251.00 from the Department of Education, Office of Early Learning for the Early Learning Performance Funding Project.
  - Motion to approve resolution as a block by B. Eadie.
  - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- B. Eadie stated that financials seem to be business as usual and that the ELC's administrative cost are remarkable low. They due show that the ELC will be in a deficit but it is manageable and additional funds have been requested from OEL.
- B. Eadie stated that the waitlist for Miami-Dade County has approximately 3600 children on it and Monroe County remains at 0.
- B. Eadie stated that the EHS Credit Card Report can be found in the packet for board members to review.

## VII. Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting Report

**Judy Schaechter**

- J. Schaechter stated that the Programs Policy & Strategy Committee had met early that morning and reviewed 6 resolutions. The first 5 resolutions have already been ratified by board through other committee reports except for:
  - Resolution 06042018-06 Authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment to the Florida Office of Early Learning for approval to implement the 2018-19 Florida Office of Early Learning Sliding Fee Schedule.
    - Motion to approve resolution by S. Fagundo
    - Motion seconded by H. Carruthers
    - Motion unanimously passed,
- J. Schaechter stated that the EHS Federal Food Program was reviewed.

## VIII. Presentations

- a. Small Business, Big Impact

Rick Beasley



- b. Community Needs Assessment Report
- c. House Bill 1091
- d. Performance Funding Program
- e. VPK Readiness Rates

Maya McElrath  
Fiorella Altare  
Rachel Spector  
Erika Erched

**I. CEO Report**

**Evelio Torres**

[http://www.elcmdm.org/about\\_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR06042018.pdf](http://www.elcmdm.org/about_us/Board/minutes/Board/CEO%20report/CEOR06042018.pdf)

**II. Public Comments**

**Adrian Alfonso**

**III. Adjourn**

**Adrian Alfonso**