

Monday, July 29, 2024, at 3:00 pm  
Hybrid Meeting  
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100  
Tampa, FL 33619

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**Facilitator:** Aakash Patel, Chairperson of ELCHC Board of Directors

**Committee Members Present:** Adam Giery\*, Aakash Patel\*, Dr. Jodi Marshall\* and Tracye Brown\*

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

None.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None.

**ELCHC Staff:**

Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Gary Meyer\*, Abby Perez\*, Sharon Hayes\*, Kiyana Scott

**Other Attendees:**

Dennis Herbert, Yander Tovar, Paul Quin, Kelly Flannery\*, Noelle Wostal\*, Jonathan Ferro, Alina Shaffer, Felicia Thomas, Brian Mays, and Mrs. Mays

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Quorum Verification**

Noting a quorum had been established, Aakash Patel called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Chairperson, Patel shared with the committee why he serves on the ELCHC Board of Directors as well as his ten year history as serving on the board.

Chairperson, Patel asked each committee members: Adam Giery, Tracye Brown and Dr. Marshall to share why they also serve on the ELCHC Board of Directors.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

A. Approval of May 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

*A motion to approve the May 20, 2024 Governance Committee meeting minutes was made by Adam Giery. A second was made by Tracye Brown. The motion carried unanimously.*



B. Approval of the Committee Appointments

***A motion to approve the committee appointments from the last Board of Directors was made by Adam Giery. A second motion was made by Tracey Brown. The motion carried unanimously.***

C. Recommendation of Applicants for Board of Directors Membership

Dr. Hicks introduced each of the seven applicants in attendance and asked that they introduce themselves to the committee and share

a. Felicia Thomas, Vice President of Operations-Children's Medical Service Health Plan

Ms. Thomas shared that she has a passion and understanding of the importance of early education. Ms. Thomas also shared she is passionate about special needs children receiving the same opportunities as children without special needs. She shared with the committee that early education begins in the home and is also passionate about healthcare and seeing young children receive the best possible education and care from birth onward.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Ms. Felicia Thomas to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

b. Noelle Wostal, Realtor ReMax

Ms. Wostal shared she was previously a schoolteacher, she also shared about her adopted son and understanding the importance of quality education for all children. Ms. Wostal shared her excitement and passion about education and the opportunity to make a difference as a potential board member.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Noelle Wostal to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

c. Brian Mays, Brokerage Owner-Patriot Mark Realty

Mr. Mays shared with the committee that he was a military veteran and currently the owner of a brokerage that supports military families and first responders. Mr. Mays explained he was eager to make a difference in the lives of young children in the county. Mr. Mays also shared he is the father to one daughter and two sons.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Brian Mays to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

d. Jonathan Ferro, Synovus Bank

Mr. Ferro shared with the committee that Synovus Bank is committed to the community of Hillsborough and strives to be active business partner in different organizations to the betterment of the county. Mr. Ferro shared that is passionate about the affordability of early childcare and education. Mr. Ferro shared that prior to his current position at Synovus Bank he was a trial lawyer in Miami-Dade County and represented victims of domestic violence and witnessed young children unfortunately, going through the system. Mr. Ferro shared his spouse was a former teacher as was his grandmother and expressed his passion for quality education.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Jonathan Ferro to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

- e. Alina Shaffer, TECO

Ms. Shaffer shared that TECO has a historic partnership with the ELCHC. Ms. Shaffer shared that she believes in the mission and vision of the coalition. Ms. Shaffer also shared that she is the parent to two children in Hillsborough County.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Alina Shaffer to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

- f. Kelly Flannery, South Tampa Chamber President and CEO

Ms. Flannery shared that she has known Chairperson, Aakash Patel for some time. Mrs. Flannery shared that she is the parents to a four-year old that is about to start pre-kindergarten. Mrs. Flannery also shared that she is involved with Bosses for Babies on a state level and would love an opportunity to be involved in early education on a county level.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Kelly Flannery to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

- g. Ashley Porch

Dr. Hicks spoke on his recommendation of Ms. Porch who was unable to attend today's meeting. Dr. Hicks shared that Ms. Porch is extremely connected in the community much like Chairperson Patel and would be a great asset and addition to the ELCHC Board of Directors.

***Adam Giery made a motion to recommend Ashley Porch to the full board of directors for membership. Tracey Brown made a second. The motion passed unanimously.***

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Applications received by the Governor's Appointment Office as of April 15, 2024

Dr. Hicks shared that he had met with Mr. Robert Hyde with Suncoast Credit Union who has shown interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Dr. Hicks explained that Mr. Robert Hyde did apply through the Governor's Appointment office for an appointed seat on the ELCHC Board of Directors.

- B. Dr. Fred Hicks, Chief Executive Officer-Evaluation

There was committee discussion on when to evaluate Dr. Hicks's performance on key metrics. There was a consensus that the date should be set to his work anniversary in November however, that date comes later than the deadline set by the Department of Early Learning for evaluation submissions which is August 30 of each year. There was also committee discussion as to which evaluation form would be used for Dr. Hicks's merit increase the DEL form or the ELCHC specific form.

Chairperson Patel asked that this discussion be moved to the August 12<sup>th</sup>, Executive Committee meeting for further discussion.

Chairperson Patel requested that the DEL evaluation be sent out to the entire board with a deadline of August 12<sup>th</sup> to guarantee that responses could be recorded and sent to DEL before the deadline of August 30.

C. Proposed Bylaw Revisions

Board Attorney, Paul Quin presented the bylaw proposed changes as presented in the agenda packet and explained that if the full board approved the proposed changes the Department of Early Learning would still need to approve all changes to the ELCHC bylaws.

Chairperson, Patel requested that the proposed bylaw changes be added to the executive committee agenda for the August meeting for further discussion.

**CEO REPORT**

Dr. Frederick Hicks reported on the following in a brief three- minute summary at the request of Chairperson Patel due to time constraints.

- Dr. Hicks shared that the Children's Summit is by invitation only and to date more than enough funding had been raised to cover the costs of expenses.
- Dr. Hicks also shared the "Be the Ball"-Baker and Emily Mayfield's Foundation once again graciously had chosen the ELCHC to be the benefactors of this golfing event to be held at Top Golf on August 25 with a start time of 3:00 pm.

Ms. Kiyana Scott, Manager of the Social Media team shared that the cost of an individual ticket is set at \$500.00 or that anyone interested could join a team that had already formed.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chairperson Patel announced the next meeting of the ELCHC Governance Committee was scheduled for September 23, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Citing no further business, Adam Giery made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 pm. Chairperson Patel made a second. The motion carried unanimously.*

Read and approved by: Robert Hyde  
Robert Hyde  
ELCHC Board of Directors, Secretary

30/04/2025  
Date

Signature: Robert Hyde  
Robert Hyde (Apr 30, 2025 13:13 EDT)

Email: robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com






# 07.29.2024 Governance Committee Draft Meeting Minutes\_UnapprovedDraft

Final Audit Report

2025-04-30

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