



Board of Directors Meeting

September 08, 2025

The Children's Trust
Monday, September 8, 2025
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way - Ryder Room
4:54 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Board Members
(Present)

Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chairman
Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair
Matthew Arsenault, Treasurer
TBD, Secretary
Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Dr. Daniel Armstrong
Alex Auguste
Cathy Burgos
Silvia Castellanos
Norie Del Valle
Lourdes Diaz
Gilda Ferradaz
Gioia Gentile
Hon. Norman Gerstein
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Osmani Gonzalez
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Hon. Orlando Prescott
Alfred Sanchez
Miriam Soler Ramos
Luis Suarez
Laurie W. Nuell
Benjamin Nussbaum

S t a f f

James R. Haj, President & CEO

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Leigh Kobrinski, Assistant County Attorney

S T A F F

1
2 Alejandro Aguirre
3 Amanda Gorski
4 Bevone Ritchie
5 Carol Brogan
6 Danielle Barreras
7 Elizabeth Garland Lauren
8 Feliz Becerra
9 Imran Ali
10 Jacques Bentolila
11 James R. Haj
12 Juana Leon
13 Juliette Fabien
14 K. Lori Handon
15 Lisanne Gage
16 Lisete Yero
17 Michele Mordica
18 Natalia Zea
19 Rachel Spector
20 Victoria Gandul
21 Wendy Duncombe
22 William Kirtland
23 Ximena Nunez
24 Yuliet Alfonso
25 Yvette Thompson- Echevarria

1 (Thereupon, the following
2 proceedings were had:)

3 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: All right.

4 Welcome, everybody.

5 First, just a couple of standard
6 reminders that if you're recusing
7 yourself, which I don't think will be
8 applicable to this meeting, from a
9 resolution, state your name and
10 organization, and why you're recusing.

11 If you do have a comment or
12 responding to something, please speak
13 into the microphone.

14 And turn off your microphones who
15 are not speaking, because these can be
16 pretty sensitive.

17 First of all, I wanted to welcome
18 our new Board Members, Gubernatorial
19 Appointees.

20 We have Benjamin Nussbaum.

21 He's the Chief Financial Officer
22 for the Village of Key Biscayne, as well
23 as a CPA and Certified Public Pension
24 Trustee.

25 He began his career in public

1 accounting before serving the last 12
2 years in municipal finance leadership
3 with the City of Miami Beach and the
4 Village of Key Biscayne.

5 Under his stewardship, Key Biscayne
6 maintains the lowest overlapping millage
7 rate in Miami-Dade County, and one of the
8 strongest pension-funded ratios in
9 Florida.

10 He lives in Palmetto Bay with his
11 wife and three young children and is an
12 avid soccer fan.

13 Welcome, Benjamin.

14 We also have, also a Gubernatorial
15 Appointee, Miriam Solaire Ramos, over
16 here. She is a Land Use and Zoning
17 Partner at Holland & Knight, and is Board
18 Certified in city, county and local
19 government law.

20 She is an active civic leader, and
21 currently sits on several not-for-profit
22 boards and Florida Bar committees.

23 She served as President of the
24 Cuban American Bar Association in 2022,
25 and has been recognized by Legal Elite,

1 government and non-profit attorneys,
2 Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in
3 America.

4 She earned a BS and JD from
5 University of Miami, and is a proud wife
6 and mother of two children, 21 and 17.

7 Welcome.

8 And then, over here, Luis Suarez, a
9 Shareholder and Attorney for Heise Suarez
10 and Melville, P.A.

11 He previously served as a partner,
12 an equity partner for Boies Shiller and
13 Flexner, LLP.

14 He served as a Commissioner on the
15 11th Circuit Judicial Nominating
16 Commission, and earned his bachelor's
17 degree from the University of Florida,
18 his master's in Business Administration
19 from George Washington University, and
20 his JD from Villanova University.

21 Welcome, Luis.

22 And I'm also happy to announce that
23 Dr. Clara Ospina is on a reappointment
24 to our Board.

25 Welcome.

1 A couple other announcements.

2 A congratulation to Norie Del
3 Valle.

4 She's -- join us in celebrating her
5 as the incoming Board Chair of
6 Philanthropy Miami. With nearly 30 years
7 of experience at United Way, and a proven
8 track record of driving collaboration,
9 outcome-based solutions, Norie brings
10 unmatched insight and commitment to the
11 community we impact.

12 Congratulations.

13 We also had a congratulations for
14 Isaac, but I don't see him here. So
15 we'll save that.

16 And this is just a reminder event.

17 After our next TRIM hearing, we'll
18 have a social event, a brief social
19 event. That will be this information
20 sitting in front of you. So please join
21 us at the Trust Offices once that meeting
22 is completed.

23 Are there any public comments for
24 this meeting?

25 MS. LEON: There are no public

1 comments, Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Okay.

3 So we are going to bring the
4 nomination of the secretary up in a
5 minute. But in the meantime, I will ask
6 if there's a motion for the approval of
7 the June 16, 2025 Board of Directors
8 meeting, and I'll be the acting
9 secretary.

10 BOARD MEMBER OSPINA: So moved.
11 Clara Ospina.

12 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Okay. We have a
13 motion.

14 Second?

15 BOARD MEMBER PRESCOTT: Prescott.

16 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Thank you.

17 All those in favor -- Oh, sorry.

18 Any comments? Questions?

19 All those in favor?

20 BOARD MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Any opposed?

22 Great.

23 The motion carries.

24 The minutes are approved.

25 And I'm going to turn it over now

1 to Dr. Bagner, who is going to give our
2 Nominating Committee Report, the only
3 actions of item on this agenda.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Great.

6 Thank you, Ken.

7 Good afternoon, everyone.

8 I hope everyone had a great summer.

9 Welcome back.

10 The Nominating Committee has been
11 very busy over the past few months. We
12 are going to start first with the
13 discussion of an At-Large vacancy that
14 actually was a result of a change in the
15 statute, creating another At-Large member
16 for our Board.

17 So the Nominating Committee met on
18 June 16th to review the applications for
19 this At-Large member. And after
20 thoroughly reviewing and discussing the
21 applications, the Committee unanimously
22 recommended that Dr. Danny Armstrong fill
23 the position.

24 Dr. Armstrong, who joins us today,
25 is a Pediatric Psychologist with close

1 to 40 years at the University of Miami
2 School of Medicine. He has held key
3 leadership roles in child health
4 organizations at the state and national
5 levels. His extensive experience
6 encompasses leadership, research,
7 clinical strategy, advocacy, education,
8 and philanthropy.

9 We're honored to benefit from his
10 dedication and expertise on our Board.
11 And I'm privileged to have the
12 opportunity to make this announcement.

13 So, can I please get a motion to
14 move forward this motion to approve
15 Dr. Armstrong to fill this At-Large
16 position?

17 BOARD MEMBER SANCHEZ: Alfred
18 Sanchez. So move.

19 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Thank you.
20 And a second?

21 BOARD MEMBER GERSTEIN: Second.
22 Gerstein.

23 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Thank you.
24 Any discussion, comments from the
25 Board?

1 All right. Hearing none, all those
2 in favor of Dr. Armstrong joining the
3 Board as our new At-Large member?

4 BOARD MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Any
6 opposed?

7 Passes unanimously.

8 Congratulations, Dr. Armstrong.

9 Ken, can we have the opportunity to
10 make some comments?

11 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Sure.

12 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER:
13 Dr. Armstrong, if you want to make any
14 comments, welcome to the Board.

15 BOARD MEMBER ARMSTRONG: Yes.
16 Thank you.

17 I have a long history with
18 Children's Trust.

19 I helped Dave Lawrence and Chuck
20 Hood with the original proposal many,
21 many, years ago. So it's just a
22 wonderful opportunity to join the Board
23 and be part of this amazing mission.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Thank you,

1 Dr. Armstrong.

2 We have one other item on the
3 agenda to get through before we start our
4 TRIM.

5 And this is, as many of you know,
6 Marissa Leichter, who served our Board
7 for many, many years, has rotated off as
8 a gubernatorial nominee. And that opened
9 up the position for secretary on our
10 Board. And so Jim, as most of you
11 probably saw, sent down an e-mail on
12 August 29th soliciting nominations for
13 this position. Fortunately, for all of
14 us, Laurie Weiss Nuell expressed interest
15 in the position. The Nominating
16 Committee just met prior to this meeting
17 to discuss Laurie's nomination for this
18 position, and unanimously approved making
19 the recommendation for the Board.

20 So with that, can I get a
21 nomination to discuss this item of having
22 Laurie be the secretary for our Board?

23 BOARD MEMBER HOLLINGSWORTH: I'll
24 move it.

25 Hollingsworth.

1 BOARD MEMBER GRIMES-FESTGE:

2 Second.

3 Grimes-Festge.

4 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Thank you.

5 Any comments, discussions?

6 I will say we are thrilled to have
7 the opportunity to have Laurie back on
8 our Board, and with her expertise serving
9 as Board Chair for six years in the past,
10 and stepping up to take this important
11 role.

12 So hearing no other comments, all
13 those in favor?

14 BOARD MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: Any
16 opposed?

17 Motion passes unanimously.

18 Congratulations, Laurie.

19 BOARD MEMBER NUELL: Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CHAIR BAGNER: That's all
21 for now for the Nominating Committee.

22 Back to you, Ken.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank
25 you.

1 Unless anybody has any further
2 business for this meeting, we will
3 adjourn the meeting and head into the
4 TRIM meeting.

5 It's 5:05 p.m.

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