THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

“VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR WITH A QUORUM OF MEMBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT AND SOME MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY”

The Children’s Trust Board of Directors Committee Meeting was held on March 1, 2021 commencing at 2:00 p.m., with a quorum of members physically present and some members attending virtually. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Daniel Bagner, Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr. Daniel Bagner, Chair (Zoom)
Gilda Ferradaz, Vice-Chair
Mary Donworth
Steve Hope
Marissa Leichter
Dr. Susan Neimand (Zoom)
Judge Orlando Prescott
Mark Trowbridge
Kenneth C. Hoffman, ex-officio (Zoom)
STAFF:

Leigh Kobrinski
James Haj
Muriel Jeanty
Lisete Yero
Imran Ali
MR. CHAIR: So, welcome. Good afternoon, everyone. I’ll call this meeting to order. Thank you for joining, those of you in-person, those of you online. As you know, we’re going to be interviewing all the candidates today that we selected to invite for interviews. We have six candidates and we’re going to speak to each of them for twenty minutes.

Before we begin, I wanted to check to see, I think last time we did this, we may have rotated asking the questions, each of us took a question. I’m happy to do that again. I’m also happy to do all the questions myself. I’m wondering what folks think. Anyone has a preference?

MS. LEICHTER: I thought we -- oh yeah. Because then I was going to say, I thought maybe one of us took each candidate. But I think you’re right, everyone took a question, so we kind of -- everyone did every candidate. Right?

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, I think we had a few -- we have -- let’s see. We have five questions, plus I’m asking if they have any questions. And I see, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, I see eight of us. So not everyone will have a question. If we do
it that way.

DR. NEIMAND: Personally, I’m fine with Dan asking all the questions since we’re masked and its -

MS. LEICHER: Yeah, maybe just at the end, Dan, ask us if we have any follow up and if any of us have follow up, we can just butt in.

DR. BAGNER: That sounds good. I was thinking the same thing. I think in this hybrid virtual format, it probably is easiest if I just take the lead and I’m happy to do that.

MS. LEICHER: Yeah, I’m so inclined to like rip off my mask and ask a question. It seems so weird with it on.

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, no, don’t do that.

MS. LEICHER: No, I know.

DR. BAGNER: So, any other questions before we – I think everyone should have -- all right, great, its posted on the screenshare and also maybe in front of you, is our schedule. I think there was a change to it, although maybe I was the only one aware of that. So that’s a schedule --

MS. JEANTY: Yes.

DR. BAGNER: -- of folks coming in. Everyone see that?
MS. JEANTY: Well, the first person is already there, just let us know and then we will let that person in. I think it's Heather Bins.

DR. BAGNER: Great. So, we'll go ahead, you know, I think I'll stick to the script of the questions, but we can certainly veer off if you have follow-up questions. After each question I'll check in with you all. I think we also quickly introduced ourselves to the candidate last time. I think that will be nice to do. And I'm trying to think of the best way to do that.

MS. LEICHTER: Do you want to call on us?

DR. BAGNER: I'll call on you. I'll just go in the order that you're on my screen. That my change periodically, but I'll go ahead and call on each of you to introduce yourself to the candidate and you can just briefly say your name and your role on the board and how long you've been on the board.

MS. LEICHTER: Dan?

DR. BAGNER: Yeah?

MS. LEICHTER: One question. Because I know, like, the person who was asking the questions last time, like gave a little spiel before they asked the questions, especially focusing on, like, the time commitment. And I know that is question number five.
But I was wondering if you were going to, like, lay it out at the beginning or kind of just, like, really drill it in when you get to that question. Because, you know, especially with COVID and everything, quorum is, like, really important right now. Not to say, like, oh, are you -- even to touch on COVID, but let’s just pretend like it’s not, you know, number five, I think is an important question. So, I don’t know. I was just reflecting on that from prior interviews.

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, we actually added that. I don’t think that was an actual question that we had. I think it just came up last time, so we added it as a question to ask this time. We thought it was best to add at the end. Although it may come up when we ask if they’re, if they serve currently as a board member on another agency --

MS. LEICHER: Right.

DR. BAGNER: -- because that also -- that is something as well, just so you’re all aware, we did get a response from our attorney, and if they are serving on another county board, and, Jim, correct me if I’m wrong on this, but I believe they will have to choose if they want to serve on The Trust, they will not continue to be able to serve on that other county
MR. HAJ: That is correct. That's the legal opinion.

DR. BAGNER: So, we’ll have to verify that with -- I think there was a question with one of the candidates, that they may be serving on another board.

MR. HAJ: There were two that are serving on a board. We clarified the advisory question, they said yes, it does also pertain to the advisory.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. Can you remind me, Jim, who those two candidates were?

MR. HAJ: Edward Abraham and Patricia Ares-Romero.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. So, they’re both serving on an advisory board and they would have to no longer serve on that advisory board if they were to be on The Trust?

MR. HAJ: They’re on the board. I’m not necessarily sure if it’s the advisory or not, but we sent the two specific boards that they were on to our attorneys and they said they’re going to have to make a choice.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. So, we’ll go ahead and get started. The other, just briefly before we bring the
first candidate in, at the end of this meeting we’ll
go through the candidates, we’ll discuss them and
vote. If whoever is controlling the Zoom, maybe
there is a way you could do a poll question at the
end, that might be the easiest way to vote. Do like
an initial temperature on how folks are feeling about
the candidates. So if we could explore that when we
get to that point. And then we also discuss briefly
the open treasurer/finance chair position. Because
Steve is stepping down from the board.

MR. HOPE: Mr. Chair, just quick question. In
terms of question one through six, are we going to
assign a question to each member? How is that going
to work?

DR. BAGNER: I’m just going to go ahead and ask
them myself. I think that might be easiest in this
format. And then if in between questions, feel free
to jump in. I’ll also open up opportunities here and
there for other committee members to ask questions if
they have questions.

MR. HOPE: Okay, thank you.

DR. BAGNER: You’re welcome.

We will go ahead and introduce ourselves to each
candidate. Okay, great. Why don’t we go ahead and
bring in our first candidate, Heather Bins?
MS. LEON: Okay, she’s in.

DR. BAGNER: Hi, Ms. Parschal Bins. My name is Dan Bagner, I’m the chair of the nominating committee. You’re on mute.

MS. BINS: Hello, how are you?

DR. BAGNER: I am great, thank you. How are you?

MS. BINS: Good, good.

DR. BAGNER: Welcome to our hybrid committee meeting, where we are interviewing candidates for this at-large position for The Trust. I’m just going to go ahead and have each of the committee members introduce themselves to you and then we’ll go ahead and ask you some questions.

MS. BINS: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, so we’ll start with the -- just go in order with how they are in my screen. So, I’m going to start with Mary Donworth.

MS. DONWORTH: Good afternoon, I’m Mary Donworth, and I represent the United Way on The Trust board.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Mary.

Gilda.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, my name is Gilda Ferradaz, and I represent the Florida Department of
Children and Families.

Dr. Bagner: Steve.

Mr. Hope: Good afternoon, I’m Steve Hope, and I’m the at-large member who you’ll be replacing if you are the candidate selected.

Ms. Bins: Hello.

Dr. Bagner: Mark.

Mr. Trowbridge: Good afternoon, Mark Trowbridge. I represent the business community through the Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers of Commerce.

Dr. Bagner: Judge Prescott.

Mr. Prescott: Good day to you. My name is Orlando Prescott, I’m a circuit court judge, and I represent the judiciary in this -- on the board.

Dr. Bagner: Marissa.

Ms. Leichter: Good afternoon, my name is Marissa Leichter, I’m a gubernatorial appointee, however I work for Florida Foster Care Review.

Dr. Bagner: And Dr. Neimand.

Dr. Neimand: Everybody gets a first name except me. My name is Susan Neimand, I am the Miami-Dade College representative, where I serve as the Dean of the School of Education.

Dr. Bagner: Thank you. Oh, and I missed Ken,
MR. HOFFMAN: I’m actually not a member of the committee. I’m Ken Hoffman. I’m the Chair of The Children’s Trust Board. Good to meet you.

MS. BINS: Nice to meet you.

DR. BAGNER: And you have some other staff here as well. Jim Haj, president and CEO. Imran. Let me see if there’s any other -- due to time constraints, I’m going to go ahead and jump right into some questions that we have for you.

MS. BINS: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: And I already, briefly, I think I might have just very briefly introduced myself, but I’m Dan Bagner, I am the representative from FIU. That is my role in The Trust. I’ve been in The Trust for five years now.

So, to start off, can you tell us a little bit more about the unique qualities and abilities that you would bring to The Trust as a board member?

MS. BINS: Well, first and foremost, greetings, and it was a pleasure to meet all of you. My name is Heather Parschal Bins. I’ve been in the business of education for essentially 20 years, 16 of them with Broward County Public Schools. So, I would think that my diverse -- I would be able to bring a
different perspective to the board in regards to me
being first and foremost on the front lines. So, I
see daily what programs do and how they impact
students and families. Your mission for The
Children’s Trust is to plan and advocate those,
particularly for families and children. That's what
I do on a daily basis.

So, I currently, like I said, for 16 years, I’ve
been a classroom teacher, I’ve been a literacy coach
for six years. I’ve also been an agile professor at
Barry University. So, I’m very well versed in
literacy and, in particular, early literacy, as well
as comprehension. And I’ve been -- I’m a proud
assistant principal of New Renaissance Middle School,
which is located in Miramar, Florida, for the past
four years. So, I’ve had the ability to work in all
age levels, from elementary even onto high school, as
well as university level.

So, I think my experiences definitely lend
itself to being -- and serving as an asset on the
board in terms of just having that knowledge base,
that skill base of literacy and different programs
because that’s what I do on a daily basis, is measure
the effectiveness of a program at a particular school
location.
DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

Any follow up questions from the committee members?

Okay. Have you ever served on a board or as a board member in any other agency, and if so, what were some successes and challenges that you had from your experience?

MS. BINS: Well, I would definitely say that I have not served on any board, but there’s never a, I guess, never an opportunity not to start. And what drew me to this particular board was that it is solely right aligned with the mission of what I love, which is children and families. So -- and in being a school administrator, you know, we do our own form of school advisory and board and evaluating the various things that come to our school campus. In terms of curriculum, in terms of enrichment, all these various programs that come through.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. And on that note, what do you see as the major issues facing children and families today and also in the next five years from now?

MS. BINS: We are going to -- the pendulum is going to shift in education. Due to the pandemic, you will see that, you know, there’s an influx of
kids who are right now, who are at home doing remote
learning, e-learning, the kids who are on campus.
You will see that there will be a divide amongst,
that there’s going to be an academic slide in terms
of achievement levels and students being able to
pretty much handle that task, task at hand. The
other piece is the digital divide. So not everyone
is afforded the opportunity or has the ability to
keep up with their remote learning because not
everybody has access to computers or Wi-Fi. So that
is also an issue that I do see in the schools.

The other piece that the State of Florida is
going to be changing is their standards. So no
longer will they just be doing the common core -- and
of course I’m sure everything will still look very
similar, but things will change, which means that
there will be a need for teachers, learning the
different standards, you know, so there’s going to be
some professional development on that end. But
before you wait for that, there are going to be kids
who are going to need -- have that, you know, level
of understanding, so that they can go ahead and meet
mastery of that particular grade level. So there’s
going to be a serious need for remediation,
remediation programs, enrichment programs, programs
that provide different types of resources for students to handle the technology.

Once we’ve gone into this e-learning environment, and even if we get a handle on this pandemic and we return back to schools 100 percent, there are still going to be students who are, you know, teachers are not going to go back to the traditional way of teaching. That is completely out of the window. So there will be some things that will still need to be maintained through technology. And there’s just going to be a lag of students who are just going to be left behind. So those are some of the things that I think is going to definitely impact and change within the next five years.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you for that. We actually had our board retreat last week and that was a common theme in discussion, is some of the challenges and divides that we’re going to see and we’re currently seeing with the COVID pandemic.

Any follow up questions before I move on to the next questions?

MR. HOPE: Yes, Mr. Chair, Steve Hope.

Ms. Bins, given the fact that you indicated that as a result of some of the challenges that families face during COVID, primarily, for example, due to the
technological divide, do you -- how do you envision your role as a board member and The Trust, how can The Trust address some of these issues, what are some of the recommendations that you will most likely put forward?

MS. BINS: Well, there are several companies who are investing in education and just investing, like, for instance, you have Comcast, you have Verizon, Innovative Learning. These are different programs that are providing resources, like giving a child access to an iPad and the iPad has a certain amount of gigabytes, you know, a particular month. You know, these are different programs -- oh, and Sprint also did one as well, where the students would have little hotspots. So there are different programs out there that have been of some type of resource, but it’s not going to be able to touch the masses.

And so looking at those programs, evaluating the effectiveness, what is the possible return on them? It could be issuing out a bunch of iPad’s, laptops, hotspots, but what does that plan look like in the next three years? Because I could already tell you that if you could get a middle school kid an iPad, you know, you hope they’ll take care of it, but what happens when it breaks? And then, are you going to
be able to return those items, are they going to be able to be replaced? So there are so many different levels to evaluate the effectiveness of a program to see what really best fits, you know, and how you can, again, impact the masses.

MR. HOPE: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. Moving on. From what you know about The Trust, what would you say are The Trust’s major strengths and weaknesses?

MS. BINS: So I’m going to tell you my introduction to The Trust. I absolutely love your book club. That was the first thing that actually caught my attention, from the zero to five. So that was sent to me and I went ahead and enrolled. And I have my daughter and she’s only nine months at this point, but I receive a book every month. And the beauty of it is that you guys have an instructional resource on how to use the book. So it’s not just I’m going to give you this book for the month, but -- and as a literacy specialist coach in me, the fact that you all wrote everything down to the pieces of how to, as a parent, be able to read this particular book to your child and what was the benefit and then you’re even aligning how cognitively -- and meeting the kids where they’re at particularly, you know, for
their appropriateness of age. I absolutely love it. So that was my introduction to The Trust. And then -- so when I looked at it, I was like, let me dig a little deeper into this. So I, you know, read up and how everything is pretty much funded, the different programs that you capture, the parent workshops, all of these different things, which I think is definitely a strength of The Trust and that is the reason why it caught my attention. And again, I said, your mission is aligned to pretty much my passion. So that’s the reason why.

DR. BAGNER: Great. Well, thank you, we’re very proud of our book club and the recent -- we’ve recently expanded the age, so your daughter would not have gotten that a few years back. But we’ve expanded that to zero to five and including all those guides along with the books. So that’s something we’re very proud of.

Any weaknesses that you’ve identified or ways to improve what we’re doing?

MS. BINS: Well, you know, at the top I can’t just -- I’m not fully involved in The Trust. Given the opportunity, I’m sure there will be things that I would like to recommend or suggest, but on the surface level, as a constituent of Miami-Dade County
and a parent, I do not see that.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you.

And our final question is, given that you’re, I imagine, extremely busy as an assistant principal of a school, wondering how you’re going to manage a time commitment for being on our board, which does require, at the least, monthly board meetings, and then most, if not all, of our board members are also members of committees where we have also monthly committee meetings, so wondering how you’re going to juggle those professional responsibilities with this board position.

MS. BINS: That’s a good question. So definitely knowing these meeting in advance, my question would be, is the flexibility to still be virtual? That would be a factor. And I’m just going to be honest with you, you know, considering that I work in Broward and The Children’s Trust is all the way in Dade County, even by the time I leave work, I would be mostly in traffic, and you know how 95 is. But it’s not something that isn’t unreasonable. It’s something that if I know is on the calendar and then these are things that I can make arrangements for.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. Yeah, thank you for your honesty. In truth, so right now we have a
little bit of flexibility, obviously you see some of
us remote, some of us in-person, but we’re, we are
limited to what we can do due to state rules and
regulations around county boards. And so we do have
to have quorum in-person. I know our board chair
here has been advocating for the ability to do things
more remotely, but in some ways our hands are a bit
tied. But that may, you know, perhaps due to COVID,
those things may change.

I don't know, Ken, if you want to chime in on
that point at all.

MR. HOFFMAN: I think we’ve been operating under
the same constraints as all public boards in the
county and we’ve had a little bit of, call it relief,
to be able to act virtually in this COVID
environment, but we don’t expect to be acting
virtually or being able to allow a significant
portion of the board to act virtually, unless there’s
a medical emergency or typical excuses. So it is a
requirement that we be able to have in-person
attendance for both board meetings and committee
meetings.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. And the remaining
couple of minutes, turning it to you, if you have
questions for us.
MS. BINS: Yes. So, I do. I see that your board meetings are every what, Thursday, I’m sorry, every third Monday of every month from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; is that correct?

DR. BAGNER: Correct. Sometimes there’s a change if there’s a holiday, so sometimes it’ll occur on Tuesdays, but generally speaking, correct, it’s on those Mondays.

MS. BINS: And there’s a requirement for every member to also be a part of a committee, is there a limit on committees?

DR. BAGNER: I don’t think there’s a limit. I would say probably all of our board members are on at least one committee and many of our board members are on more than one committee. And some of our, just so you know, some of our committees meet more regularly than others, so our program committee and our finance committee are our committees that meet very regularly, usually once a month, and then we have other committees, like this one, for example, this nominating committee, where we don’t meet regularly, but we meet when there’s an opening like this, or if there’s other situations that require us to meet.

MS. BINS: Okay. I just want to say thank you, thank you for even extending, you know, taking my
application and allowing me to get to this piece. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve, but I know that you all have certain things you are looking for in terms of time, you know, requirements. And so I just want to say that I do lead by, and I love this quote that -- by superintendent Judith Billings, which it says that, “Children are the priority. Change is the reality. Collaboration is the strategy.” And so I kind of live by that, you know, in everything that I do, so I just think this is just another opportunity to go ahead and do that, so. I don’t have any other questions but I just want to say thank you for the opportunity.

MS. LEICHTER: Mr. Chair, I actually have a follow up question.

DR. BAGNER: Yes, sure, go ahead.

MS. LEICHTER: Sorry, I didn’t want to butt in, but I was waiting for an open door.

DR. BAGNER: No problem. Go ahead and butt in.

MS. LEICHTER: So, you know, we have your information and we know that you live in Miami-Dade County --

MS. BINS: Yes.

MS. LEICHTER: -- and you, you know, just said you’re a new mom in Miami-Dade County, however, most
of us on the board, and I think maybe all of us, practice in Miami-Dade County and you practice in Broward, not to say Broward and Miami-Dade don’t exhibit similar issues or, you know, children and families in Broward don’t exhibit the same issues or matters that children and families in Miami-Dade do, but, you know, we are working and on the front lines and are involved in agencies and organizations in Miami-Dade County. And I’m just wondering how you’re going to bridge your expertise and experience mostly in Broward County to the issues and matters we face in Miami-Dade County?

MS. BINS: Well, you know, that’s a good question. So even though I am a Miami-Dade resident and I am a graduate of Miami-Dade Schools, so Miami-Dade is my home, although I work in Broward. I consider it South Florida. Our situations are very similar across the board, just like there are various pockets of different demographics in Dade County, there are various pockets of demographics in Broward County as well. So again, all of those different issues are pretty much aligned and are the same, especially with what is going to come down the pipe, you know.

We have all of these different legislations of
things that are taking place, which are changing at --
for education and what the expectation right now,
even with testing. And that’s an example where, you
know, with testing -- I apologize for that. Again,
everything is pretty much -- I don’t see it being an
issue, I see that my experiences will just be able to
enhance or definitely bring a form of insight to the
board.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, well thank you, Ms. Bins.

Again, it was a pleasure to meet you and thank you
for your time and for your commitment to children and
families in South Florida and in your role as
assistant principal. And we will be in touch with
you. And we appreciate you applying for this
position.

MS. BINS: Thank you so much. Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. Nice to meet you. Take
care.

MS. BINS: All right, you too.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, so in lieu of time, why don’t
we -- I think we should just go through each
candidate and then we’ll just discuss them all. I’m
taking a few notes, hopefully you’re all taking notes
too, and then we could discuss them as a group
together at the end.
Okay, so we can go ahead and bring in our next candidate, Mr. Clarence Jones.

Good afternoon, Mr. Jones. Can you hear me?

You’re on mute.

MR. JONES: Okay, I’m sorry about that. Good afternoon.

DR. BAGNER: No worries. We can hear you now.

Welcome to the nominating committee for The Children’s Trust. My name is Dan Bagner, I’m the chair of this committee. And I am on The Trust board as a representative of FIU and I’ve been on this board for five years. I’m going to go ahead and have all the committee members introduce themselves to you and then we’ll go ahead and get started.

So starting on my left, Mary.

MS. DONWORTH: Good afternoon, I’m Mary Donworth, and I represent the United Way on the board.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon.

DR. BAGNER: Gilda.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, Mr. Jones. My name is Gilda Ferradaz and I represent the Florida Department of Children and Families on The Children’s Trust board.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon, ma'am.
DR. BAGNER: Steve.

MR. HOPE: Good afternoon, Mr. Jones. My name is Steve Hope and I’m the at-large member for which you or one of the candidates will replace me. Thank you.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon, sir.

DR. BAGNER: Mark.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Hello, Mr. Jones. I’m Mark Trowbridge, I represent the business community on The Trust through our Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers of Commerce. Welcome.

MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.

DR. BAGNER: Judge.

MR. PRESCOTT: Greetings, Mr. Jones, my name is Orlando Prescott, I’m a circuit court judge, and I represent the judiciary on this board. Greetings.

DR. BAGNER: Marissa.

MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, Mr. Jones. My name is Marissa Leichter. I’m a gubernatorial appointee on the board, however I work for Florida Foster Care Review.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon to you as well.

DR. BAGNER: Susan.

DR. NEIMAND: Good afternoon, I’m Susan Neimand, I am the representative for Miami-Dade College, and I
serve as the Dean on the School of Education.

MR. JONES: Good afternoon.

DR. BAGNER: We also have Jim and Imran. Would you like to introduce yourselves briefly?

MR. HAJ: Dr. Jones, good afternoon. Good to see you.

MR. JONES: Jim, good to see you as well.

MR. ALI: Hi, I’m Imran, I’m the Chief of Staff for The Children’s Trust. Nice to meet you.

MR. JONES: My pleasure.

DR. BAGNER: And, Ken, I see your video off, but we have our board chair, Ken Hoffman, on the call as well. So welcome to our committee. As you know, we are searching for an at-large position, which Steve mentioned he was stepping down in his role, so it’s to fill his position. So, we have some questions for you and then we’ll certainly leave time open for questions at the end that you have for us.

So, I’ll go ahead and get started with just telling us a little bit more about what unique qualities or abilities that you would bring to The Trust in this position?

MR. JONES: Okay, thank you. It’s a pleasure to meet each and every one of you. The work that you do is valuable and hopefully I can be a contributor as
well. First and foremost, I love children. I can't make that any plainer, any clearer. My whole life and career has been about, for and with children and their families.

As I'm sure you're aware, based on my resume, I served -- after coming out of the military at about 20 years old, I served as a teacher aide and worked my way through college at the University of Memphis in Tennessee. And at that time, I began working with children then and I loved it. I served as teacher and principal in three different schools and up the line until I reached the superintendent levels.

I have watched very keenly, although I’m retired now, I’ve watched very keenly the conditions that children and their families face here in our county, Miami-Dade County. I’m aware that you kind of have to approach the whole challenge educationally, economically, through their social and environmental lives, to have the right kind of effect that’s needed for them to grow, not only academically, but physically and beyond. And so I’ve always had a keen interest in making sure that children were developed appropriately so that they can grow and get the fullest out of their lives.

I served as an agile professor at Nova
University, at Barry University, and at Florida
International University teaching early childhood and
other programs related to childcare and children’s
lives. The other issue that’s of a big concern is
the health, having been an elementary school
principal, so many children come to school with all
types of health conditions that, some we can't see,
some our physical, some are mental. And it has a
great bearing on how well they will do in the
classroom. You know the saying that, we lose them by
third grade if we don’t do something to intervene at
that time.

So, The Trust, and I remember when we voted for
it, I believe in 2001 or ’02, The Trust has served as
a mighty instrument to improve the lives and
condition of children and families in this community.
And I just would like to be a part of it. I’d like
to contribute more to this area that has nurtured me
since I was a little boy living in the projects of
Liberty City to today having the highest degree in my
field. And that’s one of my reasons I have a great
interest in it.

DR. BAGNER: Great. Thank you. And thank you
for all that you’ve done for the community and that
you continue to do for the community. A follow-up
questions is, have you served or are you currently serving as a board member at other agencies, and if so, what are some successes and challenges you’ve had from your experience on those boards?

MR. JONES: Not at agencies. I’m now chair of the, what is called the Ultraboston (phonetic) Classic. If you know anything about Black Miami, for years we had a football classic between Florida NM University and various other HBCU Schools. And it was like a social event of the year here in Miami. It has since moved to Orlando, where they have the game between Florida NM and Cook. But anyhow, we’re bringing it back, the classic, back to Miami. And I serve on that board. We’re working with ESPN to publicize it, to show it on TV. And we think it’ll be a great rallying point for this community, to bring that back. So I serve on that board as chair. I have served on other boards that are more private. One, Recapturing Vision, which is a recipient of grants from The Trust throughout the years. I sit on the board of my church, Second Baptist Church, on the community development board, where we have also been recipients of the afterschool care program through grants we’ve received through The Trust and it’s been extremely helpful in our community in Richmond
Heights area. Beyond that, I’m not active on any other boards.

DR. BAGNER: Very well. Thank you for sharing all those boards that you’re serving on and volunteering with. Given that, it sounds like you’re very busy, even though you retired. So wondering, given your busy schedule, how would you manage a time commitment for responsibilities on this board?

MR. JONES: Well, it’s not as busy as you may think that it is. And so much of the work is kind of interconnected. The things I do with my church are truly connected to the things that we do at the trust. We’re just like little miniatures in that we have emphasis on our afterschool care programs, the parents, the community, things that -- for the children, and our summer camps. So those two kind of will blend together. The Classic does not require a lot of work on my part. The executive director and the staff, we’ve gotten a -- we’ve gotten seed money from the NFL and some other places that we have a professional staff that’s doing most of the work to prepare for the upcoming events for this year’s Classic. So, in actuality, I have a lot of spare time. I’m not working or doing anything, basically, every day.
DR. BAGNER: Okay. Great, thank you. You touched upon this a little bit, I think in your opening statements, but if you can elaborate a bit more on what you see as some of the major issues facing children and families today and also in the next five years from now.

MR. JONES: It’s been -- with COVID, COVID has kind of really thrown a monkey wrench to a whole lot of things, to be honest with you. We’ve had our children who really had not been in school. They’ve had this hybrid form of learning, this virtual teaching. I have grandchildren that, I won’t say necessarily falling behind, but they’re not motivated, they’re not -- they’re missing that interaction that they would normally have in a school setting.

So, what I see in them is just a little microcosmos of what I would imagine an entire community is. Children are frustrated. They are falling behind somewhat. They are -- its effecting their mental health, their physical health. That’s one of the major problems. As a result of the, and even prior to COVID, one of the reasons The Trust exists is the deficiencies that are so apparent in so many communities. In childcare, you know, parents
being able to leave their children in safe places while they work. Having afterschool programs. Plain and simple nutrition, which is a major that’s going on now in COVID. The schools, we used to feed kids breakfast and lunch, and some of those kids, that was the best they would receive during the day. That pretty much is -- thanks to Mr. Carvalho, we’ve done some of it in the school district. But it’s not having the same effect as if they were in school, so. That's a major problem.

Health disparities. COVID has really brought them out. I had a sister that died from COVID, and to me, that seems like it was an unnecessary death. And it has to do with the disproportionate resources that go into different communities. That’s still pretty obvious, wherever you look in Miami-Dade County. And having grown up in the Liberty City area, I have a keen awareness of some of the things that I think have been, I won’t say unfair, but uneven. So that is a major concern. And then parents, so many of our parents don’t know what to do. I remember had a program called Florida First Start, when I was over early childhood education school district, that focused primarily on parents, how to train them. Train them really on how to raise
their own children. That’s unfortunate, but it has been a problem. So there’s so many skills and so many things that we can do with parents, that you are now doing, that we could probably do even more to enhance their skills in working with their children.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, thank you. And I’m so sorry to hear about your lost and your sister.

MR. JONES: Yeah, thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Does anyone have any -- we have one more question for you, but I’m just going to take a quick break and see if anyone else wanted to jump in.

MR. HOPE: Mr. Chair, this is Steve.

So you’ve touched on some of the deficiencies and disparities that exist in minority communities and at-risk communities, and you’ve identified at least some of the things that you would like to see The Trust do. Can you elaborate a bit more in terms of if you were to be nominated to the board, what are some of the changes that, or recommendations that you would make to improve some of these communities that have been left behind?

MR. JONES: That’s a tall order, that’s an extremely tall order. There’s so many things that need to be done to improve the lot of all of our communities. My expertise has been in the field of
education and how that applies to the development of children and to society and community in general. We obviously are not putting, I think, enough resources, and I know The Trust is putting as much as it can because -- and I know the money comes from tax dollars and what have you, but we’re obviously still not putting enough money in the early childhood development so that children are better prepared when they enter school so that they can succeed. How do we do that? You know, we have a -- the early childhood pre-K program. Universal pre-K. It’s not really universal because when I was in the school district, we ran the program, we got funding from the State of Florida that really only provided enough funding for a half day. We were able to, through parent fees and some grants, what have you, to offer full day programs for children. I would like to see that expanded, where every three and 4-year-old child, and those with special needs, in particular, have the opportunity to receive organized instruction, organized development. In the settings that are best beneficial for them.

So my emphasis would be in the field of education and how that comes together to advance children. Now that may require some things with
parents, that may require stuff with the Health
Department, things that you’re already doing. I
don’t know, funding levels, I don’t know what could
be expanded. You know, this is like a petri dish,
for me. I’m just looking at a lot of new stuff based
on my past knowledge. And perhaps I could offer
something that can be helpful. I don't know, but I
offer myself.

MR. HOPE: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. On that note,
what you do know about The Trust, what would you say
are The Trust’s major strengths and weaknesses?

MR. JONES: The Children’s Trust, to be honest
with you, has been a lifesaver for this community.
Just think, it’s been around, what, 17, 18, 19 years.
Think about the desert that existed, especially in
certain communities. The desert, the healthcare
desert, the education desert that exist and still
exists in so many communities. So I’m not a critic
of The Trust. So I think, if anything, The Trust has
added and expanded its role based on its revenues
annually. I looked at the budget in preparation for
this, at least I glanced at it. And it was
interesting to see that the money was going to where
the need was. There was not this overlap or this
waste. There was a little bit put into the
operations, but for the most part, staff and
operations, all that remains static. What additional
monies that were available were going into direct
services. And those services serve the kids in the
communities. So I’m not a critic of The Trust. I
don’t know enough about it, I guess, at this point,
to say this is a weakness, and that is a weakness,
but I do see all of the strengths that it has.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. Do you have
questions for us?

MR. JONES: No, it’s just a pleasure and an
honor to have an opportunity to present myself in the
presence of such distinguished individuals. All of
you permitting yourselves to betterment of the
community. I honor and respect each of you for that.
I think I’m cut from saying help. You just want to
do something to help folks and to help children. If
that’s what The Trust, but thank God for that. If
not, there’s other stuff that I’ll do.

DR. BAGNER: Well, thank you so much for that.
Does anyone else have any final questions?

Okay, wonderful. And I apologize, I think I
called you Mr. Jones before, but I realize that
you’re Dr. Jones, so --
MR. JONES: That’s fair enough.

DR. BAGNER: -- Dr. Jones, thank you for being with us today --

MR. JONES: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: -- and for your time, we really appreciate and it was wonderful to meet you.

MR. JONES: It’s my pleasure.

DR. BAGNER: Take care.

MR. JONES: All right, God bless.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. So I’m thinking two more and maybe we take a two or three minute break, I know you’re all not working with me here, but can maybe use a -- we’re running good on time, so we’ll go ahead do that and take a quick two, three minute break. Get up and stretch.

So I think our next candidate is Dr. Patricia Ares-Romero. I’m sorry, can you remind me, I was just wondering what he was, when our previous candidate was talking about the boards, that was not one of the boards we were thinking was a conflict, correct?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: No, she’s the -- the next one up is.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. Right, it was the next one and then --
MR. TROWBRIDGE: After Abraham.

DR. BAGNER: Dr. Abraham, great.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Those are the two that are other county board engagement.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. So we’ll inform them of that when they talk about that. Okay, great. We can bring Dr. Romero in.

MS. LEON: Dan, she’s not in the waiting room yet.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, okay. And she’s on for this time, correct?

MS. LEON: 2:55.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, 2:55. We still have a couple minutes, okay. We could do a break right now. Sure, yeah. Do you want to take a quick stretch, everyone? I’m going to do that. I’ll be right back.

MS. LEON: Okay, Dan, we have Patricia in the waiting room, just let me know when to let her in, okay.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, thank you for letting me know. We’ll wait another one minute or two to give everyone a little bit of a breather here.

MS. LEON: Okay.

MS. LEICHTER: Mark also stepped out.

DR. BAGNER: Great, we’ll wait until he gets
back.

MS. LEON: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, I think everyone is back, is that right? Okay, it looks like everyone is back. We can bring Dr. Ares-Romero in.

MS. LEON: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

Hi, good afternoon, Dr. Ares-Romero. How are you? You’re on mute right now.


DR. BAGNER: No problem at all. My name is Dan Bagner, I’m the chair of the nominating committee, also a board member. I am the FIU representative on The Trust. I’ve been a board member for six years. We’re going to go ahead and just introduce all the committee members, and then we’ll go ahead and get started with some questions.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Sure. Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: I’m going to start with Mary.

MS. DONWORTH: Good afternoon, I’m Mary Donworth, and I represent the United Way on The Trust board.

DR. BAGNER: Gilda.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, I’m Gilda
Ferradaz, and I represent the Florida Department of Children and Families on The Trust board.

MR. HOPE: Good afternoon. Steve Hope, at-large board member.

DR. BAGNER: Mark.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Good afternoon. Mark Trowbridge, I represent the Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers of Commerce and our business community on The Trust.

MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, Doctor. My name is Marissa Leichter. I’m a gubernatorial appointee on the board of The Children’s Trust and I work for Florida Foster Care Review.

MR. PRESCOTT: Good afternoon to you. My name is Orlando Prescott and I’m the judicial member of the board.

DR. BAGNER: Susan.

DR. NEIMAND: Good afternoon, I’m Susan Neimand. I am the representative for Miami-Dade College where I serve as the Dean of the School of Education.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. And we also have our board chair, Ken Hoffman.

MR. HOFFMAN: Hi, I’m Ken Hoffman. I’m chair of The Children’s Trust board. I’m not an official member of the committee, but sitting in on their
decision making. Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: And we also have here Jim Haj, our CEO and president, and Imran Ali, who is our Chief of Staff.

So, welcome. Thank you for your time today. We’ll go ahead and get started with some questions for you for this position. So just to start, if you could tell us a little bit about some of the unique abilities and qualities that you would bring to The Trust as a board member.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Well, thank you. Thank you for this opportunity from such a distinguished board, so I really thank you for your time this afternoon. So, well, I’m the CEO of Jackson Behavioral Health Hospital. I’ve been in this role for about, this is going to be, it’s my fourth year, which has been wonderful, it’s been a wonderful experience for me. And what I’ve seen over the years and one of the reasons why I was interested in applying for this position was all the children that we were seeing that were being brought into the hospital under Baker Act, some were being hospitalized. And, you know, my question has always been, and, you know, I serve on the health impact for the United Way also, and it’s just been what can we do more, what else can we do in
our community to prevent this, right. And it really
starts at the beginning. It starts at how can we
support our children early on to prevent some of
these things happening later on in life. And of
course we also see the adults that are coming in with
so many issues. And this year has really served, I
think, you know, 2020 has been kind of a year of
stepping back and evaluating and really looking at
those things that are important to us. For me, it’s
been, what else can I do in the community, for our
community.

So innovative ideas is one of the things I love
doing the most. I’ve started programs here at
Jackson because I just love creating projects that
really make a difference in peoples lives. So things
like that I think I would bring to the board, aside
from, I guess, my medical background.

DR. BAGNER: I mean, just out of curiosity,
what’s the innovative project that you, or an example
of one that you brought to Jackson?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Sure. When the opioid crisis
started here in Miami, I went to do medication
assistant clinic to prevent people from dying from
opioid use disorder. And so they told me it wouldn’t
be able to be done. They said Jackson will never be
able to do it, it’s such a complicated thing and, you know, we’re not going to be able to treat opioids. And so we did, we got a grant with the BGA, actually with Judge Cohen, I don’t know if any of you know her. So we wrote a grant and we opened a clinic in July of 2017. And it’s been running and its very, very successful, I’m glad to say. And it’s been a wonderful thing for our community and for the hospital. So I usually don’t take no for an answer.

DR. BAGNER: Incredible. Congratulations on that success. It’s good to be persistent to help the community. Wonderful. I know you just mentioned briefly that you’re on the United Way, on a board with the United Way, so in that role, and if you’re on or were on any other boards, what are some examples of success and challenges that you’ve had in your experience on those boards?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: I would say one of the most challenging ones was on the advisory board for substance use for addictions. It’s been very challenging. Just because you kind of try to accomplish so many things and sometimes we kind of kind of really been out our bandwidth, right, and so we really need to be more strategic. So I think, you know, when I joined the board, trying to really get
our mission, and our vision, our strategic plan in
order, was one of the most challenging things. You
know, we were able to actually get a strategic
planning meeting together, I was nominated as the
chair, and we were able to do that, and then COVID
hit. And so that’s been one of our biggest
challenges, really, getting back and running. Right
now because of the change in our mayor, we still
haven’t been assigned a person for our board, so
we’re still -- we haven’t met this year. So those
are some of the challenges that I find. But
definitely it’s wonderful to be able to participate
in something like that.

DR. BAGNER: Right, so it’s more logistical
challenges with assisting with that.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Yeah, logistics, yeah. Just
really kind of, you know, getting used to all this
zooming.

DR. BAGNER: Sure. One point we did want to
bring up to just raise your attention, so your role
on the United Way board, that is something that we
were advised -- you’re on the United Way board, is
that right?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: I’m not on the board. No, I’m
not on the board.
DR. BAGNER: You’re not on the board?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: I’m not on the board. I’m just on the health impact council.

DR. BAGNER: Okay.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: So I’m not on the board of the United Way.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. You’re not on the board of any other county --

DR. ARES-ROMERO: The Addictions. I am on that.

DR. BAGNER: Okay.

Leigh, is that the board that you were referring to?

MS. KOBRINSKI: If that’s a county board? It sounds like. There is a provision in the code that anyone serving on The Children’s Trust is not allowed to serve on any other county board simultaneously without the provision in the ordinance that states as such.

DR. BAGNER: Was that hard for you to hear?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Yeah.

DR. BAGNER: Sorry. I’ll try to do it less legalese. So we’re just bringing it up to you because if you -- so in our code, if you are on a county board, The Trust does not permit you to serve on another county board.
DR. ARES-ROMERO: Understood.

DR. BAGNER: So if you were to be selected for this position and you wanted to take it, then you would have to no longer serve on that board.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Okay, understood. Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: So just wanted to inform you of that. I don’t know if you have any initial thoughts, and probably didn’t realize that, but I just wanted to make sure you were aware of that and see if you had any other follow up questions about that or thoughts about that.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: No, I mean, I wasn’t aware of that, that there was that in the statute. So yeah, I mean, I think it’s something that I would have to think about.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. Moving along, what do you see are some of the major issues that are facing children and families now and in the years to come, five years from now?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Well, kind of, from my vision and the way I see it, you know, I think there’s going to be a lot more mental issues coming in the next few years. People are talking about the next pandemic and it’s going to be a lot of the behavioral things. And it’s just because of this severe stress that
we’ve all been exposed to and a lot of people haven’t had access to services, right. You know, we talk about problems with inclusion and diversity and other areas in our community that just don’t have the access or are afraid to ask for help, right. Because if I think there’s something mentally wrong with me or I’m having some issues, then I am crazy, right, or I am not okay. So I think those are really some of the issues that we are going to be seeing in the future.

We are already seeing them now. We’re having a lot of kids coming in that don’t even want to be seen on Zoom because of them pulling their hair because of the anxiety, they’re afraid of not being able to be accepted once they go back to school, things like that that we’ve had a lot -- a lot of suicidal attempts. So in addition to everything else that we’re seeing in the community, right, so the fear of being sick or making other people sick, you know. And also we’ll be looking at the financial situation, right, what is the economy going to look like in the next 18 months. And how does that effect our community, how does that effect our children.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you for that. As a psychologist, I agree wholeheartedly with -- when
you’re on the frontlines there, seeing the kids and experiencing these challenges. Knowing what you know about The Trust, what would you say our The Trust’s major strengths and weaknesses?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: I think one of the things I was really impressed about was how you got a website going two weeks into the pandemic, or three weeks, or whatever it was, about for staying home. I thought that was very impressive how The Trust was able to get that done. Because that’s really what we needed to do, right, we really needed to act fast. A lot of us really didn’t know what we were doing, so actually, that, I was very impressed by.

I also took a look at the review of the financials that was posted. So a lot of great work that has happened. As far as weaknesses, I really can’t speak to those because I’m not really familiar with them. But I’m sure it’s such a huge endeavor, what The Trust does, that I’m sure there’s a lot of room for improvement and growth like there is in anything else.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. And finally, I can imagine, given your role and your involvement in several organizations, that you’re extremely busy. And so how would you manage a time commitment to our
board, given all your responsibilities?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Sure. I tell my kids and everybody else, if it’s not on my calendar, it doesn’t get done. So I’m very organized. So if it’s on a calendar, if I have the meeting scheduled, you know, whenever it is, I think it was the first Monday of every month, are the meetings, so if it’s on the calendar and I schedule myself, I’m perfectly fine. And usually that’s the way I function. Now, if it’s not on the calendar, I can’t promise anything.

DR. BAGNER: Our secretary of the board, Muriel, is fantastic at organizing everything and emailing us and calling us and making sure that we’re attending — we know when the board meetings are. And you’re correct, they are the third Monday of every month with exceptions when there’s a holiday, sometimes it’s on a Tuesday, but that is the minimum requirement. And then all of our board members are also on at least one other committee, so those committees also, some of them meet pretty regularly. Like our programs committee or our finance committee, those also meet once a month, generally on Thursdays. And then we also have other committees like this that meet less regularly and then just come up when there are things to be discussed.
DR. ARES-ROMERO: And the responsibility of committees, how many committees are you expected to be on?

DR. BAGNER: So, at a minimum one. I would say that all of our board members are on at least one committee and then there are some board members that are on more than one committee.

I’m going to open it up to, we have a few more minutes, so I’ll open it up to the other committee members and see if others have questions for you. Or if you have questions for us also.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: What are your goals for this year, for 2021, have you decided on what the goals are?

DR. BAGNER: That's an excellent question. We actually just had our board retreat last week.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Oh, good.

DR. BAGNER: And so we will start to -- we had a lot of great discussions and a lot of the things that you raised today are related to some of the disparities that we see in our community. We had a huge initiative this year regarding equity and that’s something that certainly can be a priority in this upcoming year. Also, things related to the pandemic came up. We will be sifting through all of the
excellent discussion that we had and figuring out how to move forward.

But feel free for anyone else to jump in to add to that or clarify.

I guess I said the right thing. Any other questions that you have for us?

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Just one more. What are the pain points, is there one pain point that as a board you find challenging? Or maybe you’re not able to tell me that.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Doctor, it’s Mark Trowbridge from our board. That’s a great question. You know, we have a very diverse board. We’re also a large board. We operate in the sunshine, so you have some experience with that. If you want to characterize it, the pain points, I think it’s, you know, keeping everybody engaged, having conversations that sometimes can be somewhat challenging. We bring in a large amount of money each year through our assessment. That money is gone in an instant. You think about the services that we provide. And so trying to prioritize within those priorities and to Dr. Bagner’s point, you know, we just had our board retreat and the fascinating conversation that takes place is that we all look through our own particular
set of lenses, which is what makes us unique, I think, as a board, but we also understand that we have overarching goals, and so there will never be enough resources to reach into every community and every day there are new challenges that arise. So I appreciated your earlier comment in your notes about seeing how quickly we have pivoted in the early days of the pandemic, but much of that credit goes to the great team that is behind the board that is representing so many of these entities.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Wonderful.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Mark.

Any other comments or questions?

MR. HOFFMAN: Interesting way of asking a question. Pain points. Because it is a challenge, as Mark says, to have a large board, but also a board that is constantly changing. We have representatives from a number of organizations throughout the community that’s built into our statutes. We have individuals, like for this position, at-large position, who are with us for a limited time, but enough time to absorb the work of The Trust. It’s a constant educational opportunity and challenge, I think, is the way I put it.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Wonderful.
DR. BAGNER: Yeah, I’ll just echo the sentiments that the staff always arises to the challenge. So we have so many challenges, if you think about COVID, and as you said how quickly -- the website was just one of the many things that our staff quickly pivoted and responded to this crisis in ways that are astounding in terms of the impact they’ve had on children and families, so. Our staff is just incredible.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Wonderful.

DR. BAGNER: Other questions that you have, or other committee members have questions for Dr. Ares-Romero?

Okay, well with that, thank you very much for your time. I know that you’re very busy and we appreciate you spending the time with us and answering our questions.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Of course, thank you. My pleasure. Thank you for the time.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. Take care.

DR. ARES-ROMERO: Bye-bye.

DR. BAGNER: All right, so I’m running a tight ship here. We’re still right on time. So I think we probably are a few minutes ahead of schedule for --

MS. LEON: We have our next candidate, do you
want me to let her in?

DR. BAGNER: Sure. We could -- that’s Dr. La Greca, right?

MS. LEON: Yes.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. And just so you all know, I actually know, not well, but I know Dr. La Greca, we’re in the same field. She’s a prominent clinical child psychologist at the University of Miami.

MS. LEON: Okay, should I let her in?

DR. BAGNER: Yes, sure. People are here, we can get started early.

MS. LEON: All right. Thanks.


DR. LA GRECA: Yeah, I’m doing fine. How are you doing?

DR. BAGNER: I’m good. It’s wonderful to see you.

DR. LA GRECA: Yeah, good to kind of see you, too, here.

DR. BAGNER: Right. It would be wonderful to be in-person, but in light of the circumstances. Thank you so much for joining us. And thank you for joining us a little bit early, I know you’re not scheduled to a few minutes from now, but we’re a
little ahead of schedule. So welcome to the
nominating committee. I am chair of this committee.
And as you may or may not know, I’m also board member
as the FIU representative on The Trust. I’ve been a
member now for six years. We’re going to go ahead
and I’m going to have the nominating committee
introduce themselves to you.

DR. LA GRECA: Okay, great.

MS. DONWORTH: Hi, I’m Mary Donworth, and I
represent the United Way on The Trust board.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, I’m Gilda
Ferradaz, and I represent the Florida Department of
Children and Families on The Trust board.

MR. HOPE: Good afternoon. Steve Hope, at-large
board member.

I represent our local business community through the
Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers of Commerce.
Welcome.

MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, my name is
Marissa Leichter. I’m a gubernatorial appointee, but
I work for Florida Foster Care Review.

MR. PRESCOTT: Good afternoon. Greetings. My
name is Orlando Prescott, I’m a circuit court judge
and I’m our judicial representative on the board.
DR. NEIMAND: Good afternoon, I’m Susan Neimand. I am representative for Miami-Dade College where I serve as the Dean of the School of Education.

MR. HOFFMAN: Good afternoon, I’m Ken Hoffman. I’m the Chair of The Children’s Trust board and ex officio member of the committee.

DR. BAGNER: And Jim and Imran, do you want to briefly introduce yourselves as well?

MR. HAJ: Good afternoon, I’m Jim Haj, president and CEO of The Trust.

MR. ALI: Imran Ali, Chief of Staff for The Trust.

DR. BAGNER: Great. Thank you all.

So we’ll go ahead and get started. I’m going to just ask you some questions. And just to let you know, Steve, who just introduced himself as a member of our committee, he is the at-large member who is leaving the board, unfortunately, so this is the position that would be filled, is Steve’s position.

DR. LA GRECA: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: We’ll get started with, if you could tell the committee a little bit more about some of the unique qualities and abilities that you bring to The Trust in this board position.

DR. LA GRECA: Sure, I’d be happy to. For those
of you who don’t know me, I’m a professor, a
distinguished professor at the University of Miami.
My background is in clinical child psychology and
also pediatric psychology, meaning that my interests
have really stand both children and families mental
health as well as physical health. And I’ve been
working this area for a long time now. I’ve been in
the community now for about 40 years. And I think my
skills will be compatible with The Children’s Trust
is that I have a very strong research background, but
also practice background.

So my interests have been for many, many years
in risk and resilience in youth and families. And
again, I take it from a mental health perspective as
well as from a physical health perspective. And so
I’ve done research and also practice work in that
area. So, for example, one of my big areas of
expertise is children and disasters and the impact of
disasters on children and families both in the short-
term and in the long-term. And actually with
Hurricane Irma, also the evacuation process and how
that affects you. And now with the COVID pandemic,
that’s been another area related to that, that I’ve
been working in. And I’ve been trying to both
understand like what puts children and families at
risk, as well as how to help them.

I take some of the work that we do from a science perspective and translate it into workbooks for parents to help their kids, which we disseminate freely in the community. I’ve done, also, workshops for -- I actually did a workshop for The Children’s Trust last August, before the start of the school year. But to other community agencies and national agencies about how to help children deal with these kind of issues when they come up. And so that’s one area of expertise, in the risk and resilience area. But also, aside from disasters, I’ve also been working for many, many years on youth peer relations, both the good part, like the peer support and the friendships, as well as the impact of peer victimization and cyber victimization, and how that affects youth both physically, as well as from a mental health standpoint. And again, have developed preventive interventions for that, which have been very well received.

I also have expertise in terms of children’s chronic disease and factors that help kids maintain a long standing chronic disease, like asthma or diabetes. But I think what is important is over the many years that I’ve been working, I have a very
strong science and practice background in these areas. And they are areas that have remained high interest in the real world for kids. So with climate change, Miami-Dade being a voluble area for disasters, we’re all worldwide experiencing the COVID pandemic, so some of that’s led to, of course, for some children, like isolation, social isolation, peer relations become important. I don't know, I think all these difference areas of expertise, I think, maybe put me on a good position to work with the wonderful organization like The Children’s Trust, where you’re trying to develop and implement programs to help children and families in the community.

So I think my expertise as fitting in well in terms of having the background to help, help you with programs that you may want to promote in the community. And I also have a strong measurement background, so how to measure programs for outcomes that you’re implementing or knowing how to screen kids who are in trouble. I can go on and on, but maybe I should stop there and see what kind of questions you have. But I just think I have a very broad base of interest in children and families for many years that could be useful for an organization like The Children’s Trust.
DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you.

Any questions?

Okay, wonderful. Thank you for that. You’re certainly speaking to the choir and talking to me with research and practice. That’s one thing I’ve been pushing the board, certainly with collecting data and figuring out to make sure that the things that we’re doing are working, which I would say that our board has been doing a really great job doing.

You were going to say something else?

DR. LA GRECA: Yeah, no, I was just going to say, I also want to say that my interest in working with The Children’s Trust is not at all self-interest. I am really interested in trying to, you know, I spent my whole career doing work that I want people to be able to use and implement it in the community. And so anything I can do to help people use the best available information and science to help the community, is really what I’m interested in. I’m not at all interested in like applying for a grant or, you know, that’s not my motivation. I just really want to see research in action, like where people actually do things in the real world, is what would be really exciting to me about the position.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you.
So I know that you’ve served on many boards in our profession, but the rest of the committee do not know that. So maybe I’m hoping if you could speak maybe about that or any other boards in the community that you served on and what kinds of successes and challenges that you’ve had from those experiences.

DR. LA GRECA: Sure. I’ve served on quite a few boards and committees in a service mode for the American psychological Association on a national level. For example, I have chaired their committee on children, youth and families. I most recently chaired their publication and communication board. I’ve also chaired a task force on children and disasters. There’ve been a number of children’s, the board of Professional Affairs is another one I was involved in and chaired for a while. I think I’ve had at least one after another kind of experience. And actually, currently, right now, I am the president of the Society of Clinical Psychology, which is a division of the American Psychological Association. I think we’ve had a number of successes on these boards.

I think one of the things I like doing is I like working with people and I like working collaboratively. And, for example, when I chaired
the task force for children and trauma, rather than
write a long research paper, which a lot of other
task forces have done, what we’ve decided to do was
help the American Psychological Association develop
fact sheets and information sheets that they could
disseminate broadly, that dealt with children and
trauma. So that way, if a parent or a teacher or, in
particular, because this was the American
Psychological Association, if a mental health worker
wanted to know what should I do now that all of a
sudden I’m helping a child after a disaster, where
could they go for information.

So we were trying to translate what we know and
best practices and science into actual real world
kind of implementation strategies for publication and
communication board. The American -- I chaired that
last year and I’ve been on the board for five years
prior to that. And that publication board oversees
journals, scientific journals, but also it oversees
books and professional books, but also boos for
children. And I think we really, you know, this is a
challenging position for publishing, but I think we
managed to have a very flourishing publication
program under the boards direction. So that’s like
another area that I worked in. And let me just say,
in the Miami community, one of the boards that I do
consult with is, but not at all related to The
Children’s Trust, is a group called Serendipity,
which develops educational materials for children.
They do a lot on water pollution and they do programs
in the schools. In fact, if you’ve ever been to one
of the parades in Miami and seen Officer Smith go by
in a big fish costume, that is Serendipity. So I do
also assist them in some of their nonprofit work in
terms of how to reach people in the community. So
those are some examples.

As an administrator of the clinical training
program at the University of Miami, that’s also
involved a lot of work with agencies in the
community, like to place practicum students in those
locations and so on. I’ve been doing that, probably
for too long, I’ve been doing the director of
clinical training for about 20 years. So anyway,
those are some of the -- and also, let me say, a lot
of my work has been with the community agencies, or
Department of Pediatrics, or the Miami-Dade schools,
so I’ve come across people in the community in a lot
of different contexts.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. As someone who
just took over the Director of Clinical Training
position, my institution, for one year, I can't
imagine doing it for 20 years.

DR. LA GRECA: It’s been a long time. But we
moved up from, I don’t know what are ranking was
nationally, but we moved up to 18 out of about like
200 graduate programs in the country. So that’s an
accomplishment I would say.

DR. BAGNER: Absolutely. Absolutely. So
shifting gears a little bit, I’m curious if you could
speak to the board about what you think are the major
issues that are facing children and families today
and also in the next five years.

DR. LA GRECA: That’s a good question. Well,
certainly right now, we’ve got a lot of fallout from
COVID. You know, certainly there’s a lot of food
insecurity, there are many vulnerable families,
particularly families, low income families, minority
families. I think children with any kind of
disability right now are really in need because the
educational system has been very complicated with a
lot of remote instruction. A lot of kids are missing
out on education that they would normally be getting.
And I think its compounded for those to have any kind
of developmental disability or any kind of other
special learning needs. And I think this is going to
be something that’s going to play out over a period
of time because, you know, you can't just catch up
academically very quickly in a lot of cases. So
those kind of issues can compound themselves
tovertime.

I think for kids it’s also very hard, the whole
pandemic has been very hard for most people, from a
social isolation standpoint, but I think it’s been
especially hard for children who haven’t been able to
go back to the full kind of activities that they did
both in school and out of school. I think another
vulnerable population right now are mothers who are
having to juggle helping their kids get educated at
home and working. Many mother’s, especially in the
more working class mothers, may be also either losing
their jobs, or furloughed from their jobs, or having
to go on because they’re essential workers.

I think there are a lot of stresses on families
right now. You know, I think that’s going to
continue for a while. I’ll be really interested to
see how the vaccination scenario plays out because
not everybody amenable to being vaccinated and, you
know, so I think some of the fallout from the
pandemic is going to take a while to clear out. I
think, you know, we will continue to have issues that
relate to climate change. We will continue to have hurricanes. One of the things I learned after Hurricane Irma was even just the stress of having to evacuate and knowing where to go and how to get there. It was very, very stressful for many parents and kids. We did a project on that and mothers who were the informants in our study, reported a lot of stress and a lot of physical health issues following the -- who had more stresses around the evacuation.

I think because we’re in an area where there are a lot of immigrants and the immigration has policy has changed and is changing, we’re going to continue to see a lot of issues around how do we help families that are trying to integrate into the community, or people who’ve even being here for a while but have immigrant status. I think that we’re going to see those kind of stressors affecting children and families. And I think they’ll need attention moving forward now and certainly in five years, I think, those will continue to be issues of interest.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. What you know about The Trust, what would you say are some of The Trust’s strength and weaknesses?

DR. LA GRECA: That’s a great question. I don’t know about your weaknesses, so maybe you have to tell
me those, maybe I should be asking you that question.

I just know that I’ve seen programs that were funded by The Trust that I thought were amazing. I’ve had contacts with a couple of them, mostly by virtue of knowing colleagues or knowing people who have been working with them, but like, for example, one of my students was working on the pediatric mobile van that was funded by The Children’s Trust, that took a mobile van and went out in the community to do well care visits for kids. And a lot of them saw kids that came from very poor immigrant areas, where they would not otherwise have received services. And one of my students who was working on that, actually wound up doing her dissertation with the population from the pediatric mobile van. But I know that service. I thought that service was terrific.

I believe The Children’s Trust also funds some of the parent-child interaction therapy training that goes on at the Mailman Center. I don't know, Dan, probably some things going on at FIU too. I don’t know about some of those programs so much. I know there’s a summer camp that I’ve seen for kids with autism and developmental disabilities. So those are the kind of projects. I think what I see as a strength is trying to reach the community in an area
of need and trying to do it in a very planful way and trying to collect information about how well the programs going and how its evaluated. I think all those things are great. I think Miami-Dade is lucky to have you.

Let me just say, from working, I did a project in the Miami-Dade schools a couple of years ago on helping kids, adolescents who were peer victimized and who were already reporting anxiety and depression. And it was a research project, but it was, you know, application. And I was really struck by how few psychological services that are in the schools or in the community in some respects. So The Children’s Trust, to me, seems to fill a gap that’s really important in the community. A lot of families don’t have access to mental health, physical health, food, services. And so I think what you’re doing is great.

I have to say that I found out that you had an opening from listening to MPR, that’s how I found about this. And I was very excited the morning that I heard that on the radio, so. Anyway, but maybe you can tell me what you think your strength and weaknesses are. I don’t know about the weaknesses.

DR. BAGNER: Does anyone want to chime in? I’ve
done a lot of talking, but.

MR. HOPE: This is Steve. Just have a quick question.

DR. LA GRECA: Sure.

MR. HOPE: Not on the strength and weaknesses, but just a general question. So there are certain segments of community that believe they have been marginalized. And this marginalization, some believe, has an impact on many children and families. So as part of your research and studies, is this in the area in which you have found this perception to be true, and if so, as a board member, while The Trust has done a significant amount in addressing some of these issues, what are some of the recommendations or observations would you bring to the board, hopefully to help us to continue to address some of these issues?

DR. LA GRECA: That’s a great question. You know, I do think there are communities, people in Miami-Dade communities in Miami-Dade that have been and do feel marginalized. I know that’s certainly true of some of the immigrant community that’s in Miami. Certainly we’ve had a very active movement in the Black Lives Matters over the past year, you know, I’m certain that there are a number of communities
that are feeling kind of left out and marginalized. How I can address that as a board member is to really be mindful of that and to be looking for opportunities that could help to support some of those families and children in the community. I was struck by when COVID first occurred and the schools were shutdown, one of the populations that was left out initially with children who relied on school for breakfast and lunch. And for many kids that was their only meal of the day. And I was happy to see that the schools and the counties stepped up to still provide some of those food services for those children and families even if the school wasn’t open. I think part of it is, a large part of is keeping that on your radar the whole time and making sure that no child is overlooked and that whatever programs are being developed are trying to address children and families who are particularly vulnerable and who may feel marginalized.

MR. HOPE: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: One more question and then we can turn it back to the question you had for us. You know, I know, and probably all of us on this committee know, you’re extremely busy, all the things you just talked about. So given your extremely busy
schedule, how would you manage the time commitment to this board as a board member?

DR. LA GRECA: Well, that’s a good question too, Dan. Well, first of all, I’m somebody who is very energetic, enthusiastic, hardworking. So I make time for anything that I consider to be important. I would consider this to be something that’s important. I’m also making a few adjustments in my professional life that might allow for more time to devote to community activities. So, for example, I had a huge research lab for many, many years as a professor, but now my lab is very small, and maybe extremely small, just one person. I don’t have many demands on me for graduate student education as I’ve had in the past and those are pretty heavy demands, like shepherding somebody through a thesis and dissertation project. So that area of my work is really lightening up.

This year we’re up for our accreditation from the American Psychological Association as director of clinical training or any of the sub-studies submitted. I’m waiting for the site visit. And once that’s over, I hope to transition that to somebody else. So I’m also expecting that that aspect of my social life will be a lot lighter moving forward, so. But I never take on anything that I don’t feel like I
can handle.

   DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. I’ll open it up
to other committee members, if anyone has questions
or anyone wants to speak to Dr. La Greca’s question
about our strength and weaknesses.

   MR. TROWBRIDGE: Hey, Daniel, its Mark. We’re
all pretending to be frozen.

   DR. BAGNER: I saw your hand go there, I thought
you were going to say something.

   MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you for that question. I
think, you know, this has probably been
characterized, even today as we’ve done some
interviews, the challenges that we face in The Trust.
So we are a large board, a large board that
represents a variety of organization interests and
certainly a cross-section of our community, but I
think the biggest need for us is finding folks like
yourselves who want to bring their expertise to the
table, dedicate their time. Because in addition to a
monthly board meeting, we do ask every member of the
board to serve on at least one committee. We have a
number of standing boards as well as organizational
boards like this that meet periodically as required.
But I also think being evangelists for The Trust and
the work that we’re doing.
We spend a significant amount of tax dollars. What I love about serving on this Trust is that we do everything in our power to minimize our overhead and to put every dollar back out into the community and yet there still is a significant need. And so while that is something we’ve always contended with, I love that the fact that we work in the world of best practices. And you understand that more than anyone we’ve been talking with because that’s what you do every day, not only in your professional work, but in your training of the future students and professionals. So I think it’s just getting folks who really understand what our goals are and being in lockstep with the work we need to do for the community.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Mark.

Any other questions that you have for us?

DR. LA GRECA: How have you guys liked going on Zoom, how has this been for you? Has it been a challenge?

DR. BAGNER: It’s a great question. I think you may get different responses from each of us, I’m not sure. For me, I actually think we found many of our meetings that we were able to do via Zoom worked quite well. We were constrained by the statutes in
terms of when we have meetings, how many people have
to be physically in-person to constitute a quorum.
And so we had a little bit of a period where we were
able to avoid that due to the emergency order, but
now we’re kind of in this hybrid situation, which
gets a little tricky, where we do have to have people
in-person for quorum, but we can also have board
members join via Zoom. We were able to do our work
throughout the pandemic. Really the credit goes to
the staff for responding extremely quickly and
effectively to the needs of the community. As an
example, getting PPE equipment out and addressing
some of the high demands that were placed on children
and families. So the staff were able to really pivot
very quickly and effectively. In terms of the board,
I think we were able to do our work as well via Zoom.
But I’ll -- if anyone else wants to chime in, feel
free.

MR. HOFFMAN: I will just say that Zoom is
terrific in the sense that it can get everybody
together, but it’s exhausting for those of us who
spend large portion of our day on Zoom. I think only
time will tell what the physical effects and mental
effects of that will be in future years, just like we
talk about the effects of online learning in the
pandemic. So it’s great, but it’s not great.

DR. LA GRECA: I think I would agree with you on that for sure. It’s got its pros and cons, but.

What is your process from here, I mean, so today I know you’re interviewing a number of people for the board, where does that go next?

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, good question. This committee will then select a candidate from the folks we’re interviewing today as our recommendation to the board, and then that will go to the full board for a vote at the next board meeting, which I believe is March, I’m not going to remember.

Jim, when is the next board meeting?

MR. HAJ: March 15th.

DR. BAGNER: March 15th, thank you. That’s the next step and we’ll certainly be in touch.

I believe, Muriel, you’ll probably be in touch with the candidates before the board meeting to inform them of their status, correct?

MR. HAJ: That’s correct, Dan.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you, Jim.

Any other questions?

DR. LA GRECA: No, I don’t think so. Not at this moment.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, great. Well, it was lovely
seeing you, of course it would have been better in
person, but nice to see you and I’m glad the
committee had a chance to meet you.

DR. LA GRECA: Same here. I’m glad to meet you
all. Thank you so much for your time.

DR. BAGNER: Take care.

DR. LA GRECA: Bye.

DR. BAGNER: Bye-bye.

Okay, well right on schedule. Is our next
candidate in?

MS. LEON: Jose? He’s there. I’m going to let
him in?

DR. BAGNER: Yeah. Are we good? Does anyone
need a quick break, or are we good to have Jose in?

So, Jose is the Chief Medical Officer at Citrus.

MR. HAJ: Dan, Marissa was asking -- asked if we
could have a 10 second break.

DR. BAGNER: Of course. Why don’t we take, we
have two minutes, why don’t we take a full two minute
break.

MS. LEICHTER: It is lovely, but very talkative.
I need to just --

DR. BAGNER: Absolutely. Let’s take a two-
minute break.

(Off the record.)
DR. BAGNER: Okay, that gave me a chance to check on my kiddos. Just to give a heads up, I’m going to put myself, at four o’clock, when I’m not talking, I’m going to put myself on mute because my kids actually have remote piano lessons starting at 4:00, so you’re going to hear a little accompaniment in the background. But I’ll switch myself on and off mute so it’s not totally distracting.

All right, well I think we’re all back. So we can go ahead --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yeah, we’re just waiting for Jim --

DR. BAGNER: Oh, Mary.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: There’s Mary, so you’re good.

DR. BAGNER: Great. And is it Dr. Pagliery, for those of you who know, is that how you pronounce his name?

MS. LEON: Yes.

DR. BAGNER: Great. Okay, well we can go ahead and bring in Dr. Pagliery.

MS. LEON: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: Good afternoon, Dr. Pagliery. I think you’re still connecting to audio. You’re on mute.

DR. PAGLIERY: There.
DR. BAGNER: There you go.

DR. PAGLIERY: Okay, great.

DR. BAGNER: Welcome. Good afternoon. My name is Dan Bagner, I am the chair of the nominating committee and I’m a board member and representative for FIU. I’ve been on the board for five years now. We’re going to go ahead and have the committee members introduce themselves to you.

DR. PAGLIERY: Okay, great.

MS. DONWORTH: Good afternoon, I’m Mary Donworth, and I represent the United Way on The Trust board.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, my name is Gilda Ferradaz, and I represent the Florida Department of Children and Families on The Trust board.

MR. HOPE: Good afternoon, I’m Steve Hope, I’m the at-large board member. Thank you.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Hello. I’m Mark Trowbridge, I represent our local business community through the Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers of Commerce. Welcome to you.

MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, my name is Marissa Leichter, and I sit in one of the gubernatorial appointment seats on the board, but I work for Florida Foster Care Review.
MR. PRESCOTT: Good afternoon and greetings to you. My name is Orlando Prescott, I’m a circuit court judge and I’m the judicial representative on the board.

DR. NEIMAND: Good afternoon, I’m Susan Neimand. I am representative for Miami-Dade College and I serve as the Dean of the School of Education.

MR. HOFFMAN: Hi, good afternoon. I’m Ken Hoffman. I’m the Chair of the board and an ex officio member of this committee.

MR. HAJ: Good afternoon. Jim Haj, president and CEO.

MR. ALI: Imran Ali, Chief of Staff for The Trust.

DR. BAGNER: Great. Thank you all.

Well, Dr. Pagliery, we’re going to go ahead and just ask some questions. Just so you know, this at-large position, you just met Steve Hope, he is the at-large member who is leaving the board, unfortunately, and so this position will be to fill his position.

DR. PAGLIERY: Okay, thank you.

DR. BAGNER: So if we could start with telling us a bit more about your unique qualities and abilities that you will bring to The Trust as a board
DR. PAGLIERY: Okay. Well, I have a, I’m a physician, I’m an internist. I practiced 16 years of emergency medicine from Mariners Hospital to South Miami Hospital, Homestead, and back to West Kendall. So I’ve taken care of children and adolescents in emergency care. But for the last four and a half years, I’ve been able to bring my interests and experiences to working with children and adolescents at Citrus, where I’ve been able to do a few things. I’ve been involved in the FIU Embrace Program that we created jointly. Right across from the FIU campus in Kendall. Where we take care of the needs of people who have developmental disabilities, such as intellectual, physical disabilities, and autism spectrum disorder.

I was involved in the COVID-19 planning, we initiated the COVID-19 planning so that we would start early vaccination for children, so that we would be on time by the time school rolled out. We also, I think, quite early, the beginning of March, first week of March, we implemented infectious disease programs so that we would reduce the risk for both of our staff and also to our patients and their families.
Also, my experience at Citrus has been such that I’ve been exposed to the treatment of people as a whole person, not just from primary care, but also in behavioral care and also attending to the socially determents of health, such as their home environment. Trauma informed care is a very important part in how we evaluate people. And so we address, perhaps, their food insecurity, housing security, level of education, some of these things can be impediments to really getting good care.

We also have available and make available to our clients getting insurance, whether its Medicaid or some other sort of program, so that we can bring them into the healthcare system and address their needs. Many times with our patients we also have to engage in case managers, social workers, to address not just their physical needs, but also their home environment, which plays a big role in their overall health. And especially for children and adolescents and those that have psychiatric disorders.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. I didn’t know you were involved in the Embrace program, I’m actually doing some work with them as well. We’re trying to implement some parenting groups for the parents who bring their adult children into the
transition program, to the college program.

    DR. PAGLIERY: Yeah, that’s what we formed over there, right across from the campus. Its working wonderfully. We’re getting very busy. And we’re actually having to expand the services because both for behavioral for both children and adolescents and adults, we’re having to expand our services there, as you know.

    DR. BAGNER: Yeah, right, right. Well, thank you. So have you served as a board member at other agencies before or currently, and if so, what are some of the successes and challenges that you’ve had in those positions? And in those experiences.

    DR. PAGLIERY: So I’ve worked on physician committees in Baptist Health to improve quality of care and delivery of care, facilitating patient through, as you’ve heard, the emergency services have been overwhelmed for years. And so we’ve had to be creative to reduce the burden on our physicians and nurses, and also so that we could process our patients claims quickly and address their needs. And make sure that they have appropriate follow up when they’re not admitted to the hospital. So I’ve worked in that capacity at Homestead hospital and also at Baptist Hospital and Baptist West Kendall. And at
Citrus, I’m involved yearly at the annual retreat with the executive board, where we plan out the forthcoming year. We evaluate the previous year and see if we are able to reach our goals and plan out different kinds of objectives that we’d like to reach to improve our reaches into the community and how we service them. Based on their needs.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. So what do you see are the major issues facing children and families today and in five years from now?

DR. PAGLIERY: Currently, I would -- well, unescapable is the pandemic that we’re addressing right now, right, and the need to educate the parents and children, adolescents to getting vaccinated and maintaining social distancing, wearing masks and avoiding conditions or places where they can get contaminated. So that’s an immediate need and this is something that we’re going to have to continue practicing for the next year or so. But also, there are lots of needs that I’ve seen in our community because I’ve been able to care for kids who’ve come from very impoverished backgrounds and I see the -- how their parents language barrier is an impediment to the kids getting good attention, good medical
care, and good behavioral care. But also, there’s
various levels of education and opportunities in our
communities and those are long-term kind of problems.
Many of them can be addressed with early childhood
development and emphasis on preschool education,
especially for those who don’t have that available.
And also having afterschool care, very important
because it’s a crucial moment for kids where they can
get in trouble and you can actually impact their
performance in schools by having them participate in
structured programs where they learn to interact with
others, they learn to have self-control, they can
improve their academics, they can improve their
behavior in school and outside of school. And their
achievement overall in a society is improved by this.
And it’s something that we can supplement to help
that the parents are going through. Many of our
parents work full-time and they’re not there for the
kids when they get out of school, so. I know this is
a very effective way of addressing.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. You certainly
touched upon some areas in The Trust that we have
high amounts of investment both in our early
childhood and afterschool programs, we have a lot of
excellent programs in both of those areas. So on
that note, knowing what you know about The Trust, what would you say are some of its strengths and some of its weaknesses?

DR. PAGLIERY: I have to be frank. I don’t know much about The Trust. I’d like to know. And I would like to find out further about The Trust. I know, for instance, at Citrus, we get support from The Trust with the early childhood education and treatments in the schools, in our school connect program because we have support so that we address children’s health literacy, first aid care, the enamel treatments in children, the identification of early behavioral problems, so that kind of work is crucial. I’m wondering, I’m wondering if our reach can also extend to those programs, which have shown to be beneficial for children’s development, not just in school, but also after school. And I’d like to know if we can perhaps explore that to benefit our society.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. And so I’ll ask a final question and then we’ll open it up for questions you may have and questions that committee members have. So I imagine in your position and in your role and all the things that you’re involved with, that you’re extremely busy. So given your
schedule and how busy you are, how would you manage a commitment to be a member of this board?

DR. PAGLIERY: So, I am the Chief Medical Officer of Citrus. And part of my agreement with Mary was that that would have direct patient care. So that’s very important to me. So I do patient care three days a week. And then I have two days a week, which are administrative care. So it’s not direct patient care. So I am flexible those two days of the week to dedicate to The Children’s Trust. I would be able to make the time.

DR. BAGNER: Are those days flexible or are they certain days? Because we have, for example, our board meetings, all of our board members, we have our board meetings typically on Monday afternoons, as an example. So I don’t know if there’s flexibility in your days that you have those administrative days.

DR. PAGLIERY: That’s one of my administrative days, Mondays.

DR. BAGNER: Great, okay. Good to know.

Okay, great. Well, let me open it up to questions you have and then also questions that are committee has for you. You can start with questions you have for us.

DR. PAGLIERY: So I’d like to know the extent of
the reach that The Children’s Trust has in our community. How early do you start supporting early childhood development? Or early childhood education. Because that’s determined to be a very important factor in children’s achievement levels. And it tends to narrow the gap between those who are wealthiest and come from parents who are educated and that’s, really, from a pediatric perspective, it’s early, the brain development in the first six years is crucial. So if they lose two years, three years of that exposure to diversity and the exposure to learning, to enthusiasm of the lifelong learning, we do a disservice to our children. And so I’d like to be able to make sure we have that reach into all our communities. And some are very hard to get at. And I know because when I worked down in Homestead and I would go and see patients of mine, in some of the really impoverished areas, it was dangerous. It was literally dangerous. So I cannot imagine growing up in that environment and these kids do.

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, good question. So we do have broad reach, and I would say depth as well. In terms of age, we start at day one and in some cases even before day one. And so you’re preaching to the choir, to me, specifically, and many members of this
committee, that we’ve been pushing for higher levels of investment in early childhood in those first few years of life. As an example, we have a book club that we just recently expanded to reach all children between birth to five. In terms of areas of the community that we focus on, we do have broad reach, where we also really try to target really high risk neighborhoods that you’re referring to.

DR. PAGLIERY: Okay. I have another question. Because part of the obstacles that we confront, as physicians, as practicing physicians, is that our population sometimes is not agreeable to getting vaccinated. It’s a real problem that we’re having now with COVID, right. So we have to convince them to get the flu vaccine, we have to convince them to get polio, diphtheria, pertussis, et cetera, to be on time. So, is The Children’s Trust able to partner with other organizations so that we have greater education out in the community, whether through TV, YouTube, radio? I think there’s a certain component of education that really would be very welcomed in our physician community.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you for sharing that. We did have a huge effort once COVID hit, to educate the public on safety measures. I don’t know if --
someone please jump in if we have efforts, perhaps thinking for the future, once vaccines become more widely available to the population, if we have efforts that we’re thinking about educational promotional type things.

MR. HAJ: Dan we had two things. We were on a phone call probably two weeks ago with Mr. Magoya from Jackson about this, as well as today somebody from the University of Miami reached out to us about promotional materials and just getting the facts out and getting information to the community. They’re going to send over, we will partner.

DR. BAGNER: Wonderful. As an example, Dr. Pagliery, our staff always being one step or ten steps ahead of us as the board. So it’s great to hear that we’re already moving forward with those efforts.

DR. PAGLIERY: I’m happy to hear that.

DR. BAGNER: Any other questions that you have for us, or committee members, any questions that you have for Dr. Pagliery?

MS. DONWORTH: Hi, this is Mary. I just have one quick question. How did you learn about this opportunity to join the board and what is your really driving motivation to be a part of the board of The
Trust?

MS. DONWORTH: Okay, thank you for that, Ms. Donworth. I actually heard, the first time that I heard that a position could open up in the board was maybe a couple of years ago when I was on the radio, just driving to work, I had the radio on and it was advertised that there was a position available on the board. And I said, I’d like to participate in it. I’d like to make Miami-Dade County a better place for children. And I’d like to raise all the children that need to be raised, I’d like to be able to raise them so that they can all compete. So my drive is that. My drive is for that to happen. Now, how I heard about this particular position, once again, I think I went on to your site and it was available and then I applied. That was it. But it is my interest that we share, that I know that I share with a lot on the board that we just want to raise our children’s ability to be in the best possible position to learn and to develop, and to be an active member of the community. And I know it’s a multifaceted, multipronged problem, but I’d like to be able to address that.

MS. DONWORTH: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Any other questions?
MR. PRESCOTT: I don’t have a question, but this is Orlando Prescott. Doctor, I just wanted to say thank you. You have no reason to remember me, but back in July when I was struck with COVID, I came to Citrus to be tested, and although you’re the CMO, you’re the one who administered my test to me and my daughter. And the treatment you gave, I just wanted to say thank you. And listening to him speak, that’s when I realized, I know this man. Because he was so nice, he gave me his cell number because the test did not come back in time, and he continued to keep in contact with me. So I just wanted to say, thank you, sir.

DR. PAGLIERY: Thank you, Your Honor.

DR. BAGNER: Wonderful. Well, on that note, that lovely note, thank you so much for your time, Dr. Pagliery, we appreciate it. And it was great to meet you and nice to talk with you.

DR. PAGLIERY: Thank you. It was a pleasure to meet all of you and a privilege. Thank you so much. Bye-bye.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

Okay, everyone doing okay? We have one more.

MS. LEON: Dan, are we going to vote when the time comes and select the two candidates that we like
the best and you’ll go with that, or how do you plan
to do the summing up and determination?

DR. BAGNER: Yes, so after this next candidate,
we’ll go ahead and discuss the candidates and vote
and we’ll be on one candidate it will come to. So
I’m thinking we’ll open up the floor. We don’t have
too much time at the end, but open up the floor for
comments and feedback and thoughts about the
candidates and then we will do a quick straw poll to
see where folks stand and if there’s one clear
leader, then that might make our job easier, or we
can go into further discussion and maybe narrow it
down.

MR. HOPE: I’m sorry, go ahead. Sorry to
interrupt.

DR. BAGNER: I was just going to say we want to
end today with having a recommendation for the board
for the next board meeting.

MR. HOPE: I just use a scale from 1 to 10 and I
-- based on the interactions, so I know if there is
any other methodology?

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, anyone else have any
strategies? I mean, I usually like the couple that
stand out for me. but I don’t want to be bias, I
figure its best and fairest to have everyone meet
everyone and then talk about it so we’re not putting
certain people at an advantage or disadvantage. So
let me go ahead, if the last candidate is here --

MS. LEON: Yes, I’ll let him in.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, great.

MS. LEICHTER: Steve took a break.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, Steve took a break, okay.

Hi, Dr. Abraham. Nice to meet you. You’re on
mute.

DR. ABRAHAM: Okay, now I’m off mute. How are
you?

DR. BAGNER: Now you’re off mute. Wonderful.

How are you?

DR. ABRAHAM: Always good. I’m great. How’s
your day?

DR. BAGNER: Good, thank you. So let me
introduce myself to you. We have a committee member
that just stepped out, but he should be right back.
My name is Dan Bagner and I am the chair of the
nominating committee with The Trust. I’m also a
board member. I am the representative from FIU,
that’s my role on The Trust and I’ve been a board
member now for five years. We’re going to go ahead
and have the committee members introduce themselves
to you and then we’ll go ahead and proceed with some
questions.

DR. ABRAHAM: Okay, great.

MS. DONWORTH: Good afternoon, I’m Mary Donworth, and I represent the United Way on The Trust board.

MS. FERRADAZ: Good afternoon, I’m Gilda Ferradaz, and I represent the Florida Department of Children and Families on The Trust board.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Good afternoon, Dr. Abraham, my name is Mark Trowbridge. I’m with the Miami-Dade Coalition of Chambers representing our local business community on The Trust.

MS. LEICHTER: Good afternoon, my name is Marissa Leichter, and I fill one of the gubernatorial appointee spots on the board of directors, however, my real -- my other job, my real job, I work for Florida Foster Care Review.

DR. ABRAHAM: Great, thank you.

MR. HOPE: Good afternoon. Steve Hope, at-large board member. Welcome.

MR. PRESCOTT: Greetings. My name is Orlando Prescott, I’m the judicial representative on the board.

DR. NEIMAND: Good afternoon, my name is Susan Neimand, I represent Miami-Dade College and I serve
as the Dean of the School of Education there.

MR. HOFFMAN: Good afternoon, my name is Ken Hoffman, I’m the chair the board and an ex officio member of this committee.

MR. HAJ: Dr. Abraham, Jim Haj, good to see you again.

DR. ABRAHAM: It’s good to see you. It’s great.

MR. ALI: Imran Ali, Chief of Staff.

DR. ABRAHAM: Great, thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Great. I think we’ve got everyone.

Well, it was nice to meet you. Thank you for joining us today. We’ll go ahead and get started with some questions. If you could start with telling us a bit more about what unique abilities or qualities that you would bring to The Trust as a board member?

DR. ABRAHAM: Okay, so clearly my background has been in healthcare. I’m a physician, most recently was a CEO of University of Miami Health System. Prior to that was the Dean at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Also Dean at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. My whole career has been in academic medical centers with a big emphasis most recently on health care delivery, taking care of populations, thinking about social determents of
health, how we think about the future of health, how one prevents illness. I make sure that we have a healthy population. Health care is very much moving in that direction, moving away from addressing, having patients come to the emergency room, taking care of illnesses, to think about how we can prevent illness.

So, for me, particularly in Miami, in this diverse community, my most recent position has very much interfaced with the populations in Miami, diversity of Miami and recognizing the kind of health needs that had been here and are present in Miami. So a passion for me has been improving health and addressing the social determinants of health. So it’s much more than just providing medical care, thinking about food insecurity, shelter insecurity, how we really -- how we have safe streets, and think about how we can improve the health of the populations that live here in this community. And for me, a CEO at the University of Miami, how we can improve the health of the populations we serve.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you, Dr. Abraham.

Do you serve on current boards, or in the past, did you serve on boards, and if so, what your experiences in those boards have been in terms of
your successes and challenges?

DR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, so I’ve recently moved on to a number of boards. I’m the vice-chair of the board for Urban Health Partnerships, a nonprofit that deals with underserved populations in Miami-Dade and Broward County, in Little Haiti, up in Broward County, here, the Latino underserved community as well. I’m also on the board of Florida Impact and Hunger that directly addresses issues with food and security across the state. It has a program in Miami Gardens addressed at getting out food to underserved populations in that area as well. Those are the major boards that I’m involved in at the present time. In the past, I moved to Miami from North Carolina. I was on the board of the YMCA there. I was also involved with community organizations in northwestern North Carolina at the same time.

DR. BAGNER: Great, wonderful. Thank you. Just so you know, I believe it’s probably related to that first board that you mentioned. We were advised by our legal staff that if you were to take this position, if you were offered this position, that our statute does not allow you to actually be concurrently on that board as well as on our board. So just something to keep in mind and consider if you
were to be offered this position.

   DR. ABRAHAM: Okay. And then the other
   committee I’m on, Ms. Jeanty asked me about this,
   whether I’m on any Miami-Dade boards, I’m on the
   Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee for Miami-
   Dade County.

   DR. BAGNER: Okay, so that’s the one -- am I
   correct, Jim?

   MR. HAJ: Yes, that’s the one where there’s
   conflict.

   DR. BAGNER: Okay, so that’s the one where there
   would be the conflict if you were to be offered --
   DR. ABRAHAM: Urban Health Partnerships is okay?
   DR. BAGNER: Yes, that's okay. It's the last
   one you said because it’s a county board.
   DR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Fine.
   DR. BAGNER: Okay. So it sounds like you would
   be comfortable not being on that committee anymore if
   you were to be offered this role, or it’s something
   you need to think about more?
   DR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, absolutely.
   DR. BAGNER: Okay. Shifting gears a bit. If
   you could tell us a little bit more about what you
   see are the major issues facing children families
   today and five years from now?
DR. ABRAHAM: Well, I guess the basic issues relate to children being the future of our community. And I think some of the issues have been made even more severe because of the recent pandemic. Food and security, insecurity with shelters, supportive home environments, being very important to children, access to healthcare and preventive health measures being extremely important. I think all of these have become more acute, particularly in our underserved populations over the last year. They were -- unfortunately, our society really doesn’t have a very robust social safety net for families and for children, in particular. I saw this every day in healthcare and I feel that it’s even more severe at the present time, these kind of inadequacies, and one could thing of other words, in our society. So children are very vulnerable population. And providing them with the support that they need to realize their potential, to grow up and be integrated, highly productive members of society, to lead healthy lives. These are all incredibly important issues and ones that really concern me very much, in particularly, in the present environment.

DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you. Knowing what you know about The Trust, what would say are The Trust’s
major strengths and weaknesses?

   DR. ABRAHAM: Well, the major strength is the focus of The Trust, for sure. Supporting families and children in important areas. Parenting, access to health care, healthy living, educational efforts as well. They really go across the spectrum. Again, I think coming back to what I was just mentioning, a lot of these programs should, in an ideal sense, be provided by governmental organizations. They’re not. And so The Trust being able to fill the gaps, being able to step up and address these very important needs provides an incredibly important role. And I’m aware of the funding that The Trust has. I’m sure you know about this more than anybody, all of you, about those funds, it’s great to have. I think you have about $170,000,000. But still, I’m sure that doesn’t come close to meeting the needs of these populations. So prioritization of how best to use those funds, to best serve populations, children and families is incredibly important. And really, The Trust being able to get maximum leverage from the funds available have very meaningful impacts on society and in particular in Miami-Dade County.

   DR. BAGNER: You’re absolutely right. We actually, just so you know, came out of our board
retreat last week, where we discussed how do we best use the funds that we have available to us in a strategic way and where do we want to -- there’s certainly never enough funds to go around to meet the needs of our community.

DR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, and I saw this everyday with patients that we would serve at University of Miami, not at Jackson, because remember, our connection for pediatrics is through Holtz, most of the physicians, almost all of the physicians at Holtz are University of Miami faculty. And it was something we saw every single day in terms of the needs of children, when they were ill -- but again, this issue about preventing illness, maintaining health in children.

DR. BAGNER: Great. So we can imagine that you’re extremely busy with multiple time commitments and responsibilities, so how would you manage your time to make a commitment to being a member of this board?

DR. ABRAHAM: So remember that I’ve stepped down from my role as CEO of University of Miami, in terms of my activities. I’m doing consulting and advising. I’m working with other house systems at the present time. I’m working with early stage companies that are transforming health care. But carving out time
for a major priority is something that I would absolutely do.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, great. Thank you. So I’ll open it up to you to see if you have questions, and also committee members, feel free to jump in with additional questions. What questions do you have for us, Dr. Abraham?

DR. ABRAHAM: Well, I think I would love to hear what came out of your strategic retreat, about some of the priorities.

DR. BAGNER: It’s a great question. The staff, it’s so fresh that the staff actually is in the process of helping to sift through all of the information that they got. But I could say that, at least from my experience, and other committee members, feel free to chime in, I was leading discussions on early childhood. And so a lot of our focus was on the needs and early childhood. It’s something that we’ve been trying to grow and expand over the past several years. And particularly around COVID and the immediate and long-term needs was a common theme that I heard, that those are going to be high needs for our community. But I’ll open it up to other committee members to chime in with some of their experiences.
MS. FERRADAZ: Hi, I’ll just jump in. I was looking at the school-aged education and one of the issues there is what will be the impact of the constitutional amendment on the minimum wage going up to $15 an hour. And will it be fewer kids getting serve, more kids getting serve. We obviously have to really look at the budget and understand who we go after and increase and the millage rate. So I think that’s going to be a key focus going forward for The Trust.

DR. ABRAHAM: Can I ask, are you worried the economy -- I’ve had a lot of discussions about the state finances. Going forth this is going to be a tough year for the state. I think we’re looking forward, hopefully, to the economy picking up speed again. Because of the millage rates, it really is a concern what funds are available and what funds will be available, at least in the short-term for you, and again, how to prioritize the use of those.

DR. BAGNER: It’s a great question. Unfortunately, we have -- I think I mentioned Steve Hope, who introduced himself earlier, is our at-large member who is unfortunately leaving the board, which is the position this is filling, but Steve is our current finance chair and treasurer, so he would be
best equipped to answer that very important question.

MR. HOPE: Thanks for putting me on the spot.

DR. ABRAHAM: Sorry.

MR. HOPE: So back in, I think it was September, we’ve voted on the millage rate for the current fiscal year, which will take us into September of this year. So pretty much in term of the revenue projections, the projections will -- were projected to be in line with the budget and expenditure, plus we also have a reliable operating reserve that kind of gives us the cushion to weather some of the challenges that, the short-term challenges that the economy faces. So we do not anticipate any disruption in our funding, at least for the current fiscal year.

DR. ABRAHAM: That’s reassuring.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Dr. Abraham, this is Mark Trowbridge. I would just add to that, you know, at the state level they’re currently projecting about a 2.6 billion dollar shortfall and the session starts tomorrow. And the one course of action required by our state legislature is to present a balance budget. And so though I think Steve is absolutely right about what’s happening here locally, we also keep an eye on what’s happening in the larger context. You talked
about the social determinants of health related to things like housing and I worry about some of those funds being raided to help patch the holes that will be in the budget. The positive news, and I can say this just from a business agenda, is that we may get certain things through the legislature, such as the collection of sales tax on internet purchases out of state, which has never happened in our state. Some due it voluntarily. That could be $600,000,000 right there. So we’re going to count, I think, on our elected officials and relationships we have, to do the heavy lift in looking at other sources, without taking away dollars that have been marked for other priorities.

DR. ABRAHAM: Good. Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Thanks, Mark.

Any other questions you have, Dr. Abraham?

DR. ABRAHAM: Well, I guess I have a real passion for the activities that The Children’s Trust does, but I’d be curious to know, for a new board member, what would you be looking for in terms of priorities as well?

DR. BAGNER: That’s an excellent question. I could start. Certainly someone with a medical background, like yourself, is something that we’ve --
we’ve had physicians in the past on our board, I’m a psychologist, we have some healthcare providers, but no physicians currently. So that is an area that we do feel like we need someone to bring that area of expertise. So that’s one of the reasons why we invited you here today, that was one of the important things. And I’ll let other folks chime in with other needs.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I think I’ll just pick up where you left off, Daniel, when you were talking about some of our strategic priorities. We’ve put a great emphasis over the last year on diversity and inclusion, but I think that goes through a number of constricts, but I would also echo your comments as well about having a physician. I think that is an opportunity for us here. And about a year ago when we had an opening for an at-large, we were also looking for that opportunity, we didn’t end up filling that with a physician. And so I appreciate some of your thoughts today, Dr. Abraham, because I think it falls in line with some of the questions we have had with the best answer by a physician.

DR. ABRAHAM: Great, I appreciate that. And again, I’ve tried to make it clear, my feelings about being a physician, health is a much bigger issue than
just taking care of illness. It's preventing illness, it’s really dealing with these social determinants of health. That’s a far broader field of vision than just thinking about how does someone become sick. It’s trying to make sure that their lives are supported, that they have a healthy lifestyle, that their environment allows them to reach their potential. So it’s a very broad definition of health, but it’s a very important one for our society.

MR. HOPE: Hi, this is Steve Hope. I think one of the board members indicated earlier that we’re such a diverse board, we tend to see things from different lenses and we approach our responsibility from different perspectives and experiences. So one of the areas that I’ve always, I guess, had some concern or interest in, is looking at the role The Trust plays when it comes to addressing the needs of those segment of the community that have been, or who envision themselves as being marginalized. And I noticed that in your early conversation you talked about some of the work outside of your medical field in terms of addressing the needs of at-risk families when it comes to food and other types of services. And I think, you know, I would be advocating for
someone who shares those values in terms of addressing some of the needs, primarily of children, as a whole, but also that segment of the community.

DR. ABRAHAM: Yeah. And again, this is something I feel very strongly about. Children are clearly a hugely vulnerable component of our society from multiple factors. Starting with the family. Starting with the home. Starting with shelter, food, issues, and then moving on to health and education and other functions related to supporting them.

Because of this and because they’re really our future, the activities of The Children’s Trust are just incredibly important. I hear this from all sides. I should mention that my wife is a guardian ad-litem and is involved with children who need protection, the interface with the court system as well. And so we as a family see this all the time. How children are treated in our society, their vulnerability, and in particular, Miami-Dade County, these kind of holes, again, in the social safety net through which children can so easily fall. Fall through.

DR. BAGNER: All right, any other questions from any committee members?

Well, thank you, Dr. Abraham, so much for your
time. It was a pleasure to meet you.

DR. ABRAHAM: And a pleasure to meet all of you. Thank you for taking time with me. I know this is the end of the day for all of you, but thanks for finding time to talk with me. I really very much appreciate it. I would love to be a part of the group.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you very much.

DR. ABRAHAM: Thanks.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, well we did it, everyone. Thank you so much, everyone, for your helpful questions and comments. So why don’t we jump right in. I’m just going to open up the floor. If while we discuss if somebody can, on the staff side, could generate like a straw poll --

MS. LEICHTER: I think Gilda -- I know I’m like the break reporter, but I think Gilda’s walking out. I think those of us here might need like a minute or two, Dan.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, sure, let’s take a minute. Two minutes.

MS. LEICHER: I’ll let you know when, if you can’t see from the overhead shadow, I’ll let you know when everyone comes back in.

DR. BAGNER: That sounds good. I can kind of
MS. LEICHTER: Can we chat a little -- we’re going to chat a little before we vote, right?

DR. BAGNER: Yes, 100 percent.

MR. HOFFMAN: Dan?

DR. BAGNER: Yes?

MR. HOFFMAN: Like I said, looking at the poll here, I appreciate that my input was taken into consideration in the prior ground. I don’t know that -- I’m not an actual voting member of the committee, so I don’t know that I should be tallied up in this final vote. I would be happy to weigh in when my turn comes on those I would vote for, but I don’t think it should necessarily be in the tally.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, great. Thank you for that. Yes, so if we can actually take Ken’s name off that, but we’ll certainly love to hear your input as we discuss.

MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, appreciate it.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

MR. HAJ: It was nice that we had such great candidates. That’s amazing.

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, I have to say, from the outside, I don’t know if we’re all back, but this is going to be a tough one. They were all, most of them
were excellent and I think most of them would make
excellent members in the board.

MS. LEICHTER: Yeah, the outreach must have been
really good this year.

DR. BAGNER: Go ahead, Susan.

DR. NEIMAND: I just want to say, we have to
look for what we don’t have already. And that makes
it -- it is a difficult decision and some of them
were really terrific. We have to look at who we
already have on the board, and what they represent,
and who they represent, and where are the gaps that
need to be filled. So I think that’s a perspective
that’s important to consider as we look at different
people. Because they were all excellent. There’s no
question about it. And they were all very committed
to children and the work that they do. But, you
know, I’ve said this before, some of them are
similar, bring to us what we already have and we need
to look to fill what we don’t have.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Susan. Would you be
specific --

MS. LEICHTER: We don’t have everyone back yet,
just so you know.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, not everyone is back. Let’s
hold off another minute. We’re just waiting for
Gilda?

MR. HOFFMAN: I will say it does show the value on advertising on WORN.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: My goodness, so many MPR listeners.

DR. BAGNER: That was a good investment.

MS. LEICHTER: All right, Gilda is back. If Susan wants to recap what she just said.

MS. FERRADAZ: So what I just said was, while all the representatives that we interviewed today were excellent and all of them care deeply about children and have demonstrated through the work that they do in the community, they all are very active in the community, I think as a board, we need to look at where the gaps are in terms of the skills that we presently have on the board and that we have to look for someone that fills one of those gaps. And if you want a specific example, we have Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall on our committee. And she certainly was a teacher and a principal and someone who served in a multiplicity roles as an educator. And so when I look at Dr. Jones, I’m not seeing a big contrast between what he brings to us and what we already have in terms of talents and abilities. So when I evaluated him, that was one of the
considerations that I had. That’s just my thinking in terms of the way that we should approach some of our conversations about who is going to be more effective on the board.

DR. BAGNER: Yeah, thank you, Susan, for that. It’s a really great observation in terms of what we have, what we need. I had some of the same thoughts. One of the things I keep on struggling with is balancing that with our vision for equity and diversity. And so, you know, trying to balance those things sometimes comes at odds. That’s what I’m struggling with personally, but.

MS. LEICHTER: On that same line, I had that feeling about Dr. La Greca. Dan, you’re awesome and we have a few other folks with your background on the board already as well, I think we have like a really strong psychological, PhD, professor. I think we have a lot of people on the board that bring that. So while I think she’s very qualified, I don’t think at this moment we need another person with that background.

I’m just going to go ahead and be transparent, I mean, not be transparent, I’m going to be transparent and say who I feel. I think I -- as coming from the same as Susan said on that thread, I would lean
towards the physicians, the last two we interviewed. However, I am leaning toward Pagliery because I feel that he is still in the trenches. I did notice that, you know, if you want to count this against him, I understand, he’s not that familiar with The Children’s Trust. I think there are a lot of people on the board, that came to the board not being that familiar with The Children’s Trust. So I don’t see that as a deficit necessarily. He can do his homework, he’ll have a meeting with Jim like we all had before we started. He would get acquainted with The Children’s Trust. I think it’s more important that his finger is on the pulse of what certain communities are facing in the medical area. He said, you know, he rattled off a few that stuck in my head. He said the resistant to vaccines, like he’s there, he knows it, just like you were to ask me, what’s the greatest challenge dealing with families in the dependency system, I’d rattle off two or three top issues and that’s because I’m still involved, I know what’s going on.

And not to belittle Dr. Abraham, I feel like he’s been a little bit more removed from the front lines, in a way. I’m sure he’s very qualified as well, but just from the 20, 25 minutes we had
speaking with both of these doctors, that was my initial reaction. And my second choice would actually be, I’m not sure if she’s a doctor, but the educator, Ms. Bins, the first person we interviewed. She would be my second choice. I know we’re only doing one, so if I would have to vote, I would say Dr. Pagliery and then -- so don’t put a one, I mean, we’re only allowed to vote for one person, right? Dan, are we only doing one?

DR. BAGNER: Why don’t we start with one and then we’ll see how that plays out.

MS. LEICHER: I thought Ms. Bins -- is she a doctor? I don’t know. I thought that she was very well-spoken. I think she would serve us well in the area of education, but I do feel like we do have a lot of educators on the board already, kind of like the psychologists. So that’s my vote, Dr. Pagliery. And if anyone wants to comment on my comments or ask me questions.

MS. DONWORTH: My top two, I’ll narrow it down to one. My top two were Dr. Jones and Dr. Pagliery. Dr. Pagliery for the same reasons that Marissa is saying, that we have -- we do need a doctor on the board, I agree with that. But he is like, you said, in the trenches. He’s there practicing every day and
it’s not just a private practice, it’s a very qualified health center that you see all kinds of needs there, not just the pediatrician and a private practice, so I felt that was good. And Dr. Jones I liked too, but I see Susan’s point on the other educator’s that we have on the board. So my vote would be for Dr. Pagliery as well.

MR. HOPE: This is Steve. So I’ll vote Dr. Jones first and Dr. Abraham second. And the reason for Dr. Jones, first and foremost, I think it’s important to maintain diversity on the board. So what I did was looked at total number of board members and representative of the population of Miami-Dade County. So if you take an African American mix of about 16 percent of the population, and then I look at that of a percentage of the board, we’re looking at about four to five members. However, taking that out of the picture, he brings a lot of experience based on his educational background, based on also his experience, of course working in the school system in terms of programs in at-risk communities. So he understands the need of the at-risk community in terms of the different programs that’s currently funded by The Trust in the south area. So those are the reasons that I would
select Dr. Jones as at least the first candidate.

Dr. Abraham also. I think a lot of the work that he’s doing, Holtz, University of Miami, in terms of working with at-risk families. He demonstrated he had a very strong understanding of the needs of those communities. So those would be the two candidates that I would select, with Dr. Jones being one, Dr. Abraham being two, and Dr. La Greca being the third person.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Steve. I might interject really quickly. I’ll save my comments for the end. But just to let everyone know, also Dr. Ares-Romero is a physician. I believe she’s a psychiatrist. So although we do have a lot of folks with mental health experience on the board, she kind of brings both of those areas. So I just wanted to note that to make sure folks were -- so she is technically a physician as well.

DR. NEIMAND: We’re only voting for one at this time.

MS. LEICHTER: I don’t know who is doing the three, but I guess Steve’s vote is for Jones, so the other two need to go away. Unless we’re all going to do three.

MR. PRESCOTT: So please help me. Where is our
greatest need, in the physician or the education?

DR. BAGNER: That’s a good question.

DR. NEIMAND: I’m going to vote for Dr. Pagliery also because I do feel that we need someone who is a physician on this board. We had one for a while but we haven’t for a long time. And the fact is that we are now in a pandemic and the viewpoint that he can bring in terms of what he is seeing on a day-to-day basis will inform all the other areas that we already have, the psychological aspects of children, the schooling of children, at-risk youth, everything that we stand for has a undergirding of medical needs and that’s where we are deficient, in my opinion.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I’ll add to that, but I will vote for Dr. Pagliery.

MR. PRESCOTT: I’m just acting as the label in the suit. Okay. What about Dr. Romero? She was on the front lines with Dr. Cohen in establishing the medical assistant substance use and addiction, dealing with strategic planning.

DR. BAGNER: Judge, I second everything you’re saying. I have to be quite honest, I was turned off by Dr. Pagliery’s lack of understanding of The Trust, and while I understand that could be something you could gain, I think it just highlights the priority,
right, if you’re interviewing for a role and your response is, I don’t really know much about The Trust, I don’t -- I was very turned off by that. You know, I also think that he, and it’s not to like -- I though all the candidates were excellent. But just to -- he’s not a pediatrician, he’s a family doctor and he does take care of kids, but that’s not his focus. So if I were to say the physician is who we want to go after, I would be more in favor of the other two. But I’m also very torn because I hear what Steve said and I think our diversity is very, very important. And so I’m not voting on anyone yet, I’m just waiting to hear from everyone, but I just wanted to throw in some of those comments and thoughts.

MS. FERRADAZ: I’m sorry, I was just going to jump in. I’m also thinking in terms of what is it that The Trust needs and it is a doctor. I will say I agree with you. I was shocked that Dr. Pagliery knew so little about The Trust and didn’t even take the time to go online and just prepare himself for this interview. And the reason I asked the question is because I know Muriel and Maria well at Citrus and it just made me wonder, did they think it would be a good idea for him to apply. And that may or may not
be the case, I don’t know. The passion for being on
the board did not come through to me.

    I really love Dr. Abraham. And I love his
background. I love the fact that he is the vice-
chair of Urban Health Partnerships. I love the fact
that he’s on the board of Florida Impact. I love the
fact that he’s really looking holistically at the
social determinants of health. Really focused on
prevention. The fact that he is retired as a
physician means he may have the time to devote. I
love the fact that he knew how much money we had,
that, you know, he really did his homework and
engaged in way that -- we want that, right, we want
somebody to bring that kind of leadership to the
discussion. I was just -- for me he was hands above
-- everybody was very good, but he was, to me, hands
above everybody else. I also really liked Dr. Jones,
but it was the same thing, looking at, we have a lot
of people coming from the education space. And so
would that really add, and if it adds, it subtracts
from looking for somebody with a medical background.

    DR. NEIMAND: So I agree with both of you that I
was a little disappointed that he didn’t do his
homework, that Dr. Pagliery didn’t do his homework.
But if you listen to his statement right before he
said that, he actually listed every one of the initiatives that we really focused on. Because I wrote them down. And then when he said, I don’t really know what you work on, I was a little taken aback because he just said them all. So from his own personal commitment in the community, he’s already invested in those kinds of things. So yes, I was not happy he didn’t do his homework, you know, I’m all about homework, but the truth is, that what he did say right before, really all of the initiatives that we are focused on. So as Marissa stated before, we can bring him up to speed because he’s already more than halfway there in terms of his personal commitments.

MR. HOPE: This is Steve. I agree when it comes to Dr. Pagliery because up to the point when he indicated that he knew very little about The Trust, I had given him the highest score and then I crossed it out because I thought that if this was something that he truly had an interest in, we have tremendous amount of information online that you can at least get an understanding of what you’re getting into and what kind of commitment is needed.

Dr. Abraham, on the other hand, demonstrated that he did his homework and brings tremendous amount
of experience. So if I have to choose between the two doctors, I’ll definitely go with Dr. Abraham because I think if you’re presenting yourself as a prospective board member, I think you want to show, in the early stages, that this is something you’re serious about, that you would take the time to at least research a little bit about the organization you want to be a part of.

MR. HOFFMAN: I’m not going to add a score here, but I do think that if we’re choosing between two doctors, I would agree with just about everything that Mary said. And again, this goes to what Steve just said as well, I think both of them showed clearly a passion to want to do this, but I think that Dr. Abraham is just clearly, to me, more interested in the position, maybe even qualified for it from his other activities. In fact, I think the two most qualified people that we saw were Dr. La Greca and Dr. Abraham.

I fully understand why we don’t need Dr. La Greca right now, but she seemed like a very, again, passionate for the position and for involvement. And I felt, again, between the two, if we’re focusing on doctors, that Dr. Abraham was more passionate for the position and why he was sitting in front of us. And
not ready to go, nobody is going to be ready to go. I do agree we can teach anybody about The Trust, but it’s a really difficult process because we -- it’s a lot to learn and I don’t even think I, anybody from the outside fully understands, unless they already educate themselves, fully understands how we fund, what we’re funding and the like. And again, Dr. Abraham, to me, had more of a sense of what we do, why we do it, and other connections in the community that would help us and him understand our funding process.

DR. BAGNER: Gilda, I don’t think we heard from you yet. Thank you, Ken.

MS. FERRADAZ: Me? Yeah, you did. I did.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, we did hear from you. Okay.

MS. FERRADAZ: About Pagliery with -- like I said before, that he is in the trenches. He’s not up here, you know, that we have a lot of people on the board that I think that are up here. We don’t have as many, you know, doing the actual work.

DR. BAGNER: So we’ve heard from everyone. Let me put in my -- I know I put in a few interjections, but I’ll throw in my two sense here. So I agree with Ken. I think from a qualification standpoint, I think Dr. Abraham and Dr. La Greca are the two most
qualified. I just want to throw out there that even though Dr. La Greca is not a physician, and I appreciate the kind sentiments that what I bring as a psychologist, she’s also a pediatric psychologist. So she brings in the health lens, which I think is something that when we’re thinking -- like someone is a physician, so they bring in that area, but it’s what part of that do we need as The Trust, right. So her expertise, as an example, is bringing in the knowledge and information and programming that she’s researched on kids experiencing pediatric illnesses, like cancer, diabetes, those kinds of things. Kids who are experiencing events like hurricanes. So she’s bringing in a unique piece to that.

I am struggling here because I feel like people are deciding if we narrow it down to a physician, but I’m almost wondering if is that the first vote we need, is whether or not we need a physician or not, or -- I mean, if we look at the numbers, no matter how I vote, the decision is clear. So if that’s how the committee feels, then we can move forward. I would personally disagree. I think that if we’re deciding between two physicians, I would select Dr. Abraham. But I’m wondering what other folks think, if that may be a question first, if we vote whether
or not we want to narrow it down to just physicians?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Does it make sense then to

share our second choices because a lot of us didn’t
do that, so?

MS. LEICHTER: I don’t think Judge Prescott

went.

MR. PRESCOTT: I didn’t vote yet, I was just

playing the soup ladle.

DR. BAGNER: That’s right.

MR. PRESCOTT: Once again, I’m dipping my ladle

back into the soup. Mr. Hope?

MR. HOPE: Yes, sir.

MR. PRESCOTT: As we talk about diversity, well,

how many members -- because I hear her speak about,

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, from the educational

standpoint, but we all know that some of our

commissioners and things of that nature, they’re on

the committee, but they’re not really here. So, are

we going to get the benefit of her being here?

Because, if not, how many people, because the

appearance of fairness is just as important as

fairness itself. So when we’re talking about

diversity, we want the community to know that this

board that represents them looks like them. And I
understand that. But then I asked a question, we can balance that, we can weigh that against our needs. And if we haven’t had anybody of color to fill a particular need, how can we fill that with somebody of color when they have not been applying for it?

That’s why I asked, what is our greatest need? If our greatest need is somebody in the medical staff versus the educational staff, we have several people of color from the educational staff, but none from the medical staff, but our greatest need is medical, then we fill the need. We fill the gap.

MS. KOBRINSKI: Judge Prescott, just so you know, there’s the members appointed by their position, there’s the superintendent and his designee, so Dr. Abrahante. Many do have members of the United Teachers of Dade and then also the school board. And then, I think, also, the PTA.

MR. PRESCOTT: Okay, so that’s four. Okay, and so we have four individuals that know the gambit of Dade County Public School, going from pre-K all the way through high school. Then we have people from the academia from universities that can cover that. We can honestly say, we filled a need on the board. Okay. If we’re going to weigh it, we’re going to weigh it. You know, then we fill a need on the
board. It’s not -- we’re not just going to place somebody on the board that doesn’t fill our need. Because I don’t think we’ll be doing our community much service doing that either.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, thank you for that, Judge. So maybe it would be helpful to -- in light of that, for everyone to give top two. Is that what I’m hearing as a recommendation?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Let me go back to your earlier question of then trying to narrow it down. I think there’s some consensus around the physician idea. We haven’t voted on that, but --

MS. LEICHTER: I just --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: -- it may help you draw distinctions if, like in my case, my second choice was being Abraham, so.

MS. LEICHTER: And just to go back to Dr. Ares-Romero, because you reminded us that she’s also a physician even though she’s a psychiatrist. I got, aside from that, aside from filling the need of a physician, I got a gut feeling that she would maybe not pick our board over the other county board that she’s involved in. Whereas, I’ve felt like Dr. Abraham, when that question came up to him, he indicated -- I mean, people can fake it until the
make it, but I felt like he was more interested in our board as a county board, than the current one that he might have to step down. But she was a little bit more coy about it. And when it was brought to her attention that she would have to choose, she was kind of just was like -- so even if we offered it, I know no one’s voted for her, but I’m just saying, even if we offered it to her, she would maybe not even accept based on her reaction to Dan pointing that out that she would have to choose. So just didn’t know if anyone else noticed that, but just wanted to put that out there.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you.

So I’m hearing -- yeah, I mean, maybe a quick show of hands as to a yes or no, we need a physician or not, might be a helpful place right now. I know we’re really close to time, but that might help in voting because it might, you know, if we’re just deciding between two or three versus all of them.

So can I get a show of hands of how many would like to see a physician in this position?

I’m seeing one, two, three, four, five. It’s pretty unanimous. Not everyone, but. So, given that, I propose that we vote base on the three physicians on the board -- on the candidate list,
between Dr. Abraham --

Yes, Steve?

MR. HOPE: Mr. Chair, before we vote. So, Jim just gave me a board ethnicity report. So when I looked at the number, there were some new names, which I had not taken into consideration. So one of the factors that I considered, when making my decision, was ensuring that there appropriate representation. At this point in time, the representation that is reflected is an excess of what I would be looking for. So, for example, I think it works out to about 28 percent of the overall board number at this particular point in time. So, for me, staff was one of the criteria. So I would then shift to my second vote, given that at least one of those criteria that I use as part of my assessment has been met. And the second, so I would then change mine to Dr. Abraham as a result of that information that I had.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, thank you for that Steve. That’s very helpful, I think, as we think about equity and diversity on our board.

So in light of the recent vote, I propose that we all go through, verify if not, but let’s all select one physician. Because at a committee, we
voted in favor of doing this with a physician.

So, I’ll start. I’ll keep my vote as Abraham.

MS. LEICHTER: Mr. Chair?

DR. BAGNER: Yes.

MS. LEICHTER: I don’t know if this impacts it, but if you do think you’re going to, if the top person is going to be someone who’s serving on another county board --

MR. PRESCOTT: An alternate.

MS. LEICHTER: -- you might want to consider an alternate. Because if Jim approaches them after this meeting and they decline The Children’s Trust position, you might -- you’d either have to have another meeting or you’ll need to have a backup.

DR. BAGNER: Marissa, thank you for that.

MR. PRESCOTT: If it is Dr. Abraham, he did express that he would step off the other board.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Well, if you’ve ever been to a CCTI meeting. No offense.

MR. PRESCOTT: And to the Chair --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I know you’re laughing behind your mask over there.

MR. PRESCOTT: -- I would ask, that although some of us believe that we need a physician on here, allow each member to vote their conscience, who they
believe is the most qualified to come on and not limit them to a doctor.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Judge. I appreciate that.

So yeah, maybe that vote previously is just kind of a temperature to where we are as a board and feeling where the need is, but for everyone to vote who they want to vote for.

So I’m going to stick with Dr. Abraham for my vote.

Gilda, are you going to stick with Dr. Pagliery?

MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, Mary sticking with your --

MS. DONWORTH: Yes, I’m sticking with Dr. Abraham.

DR. BAGNER: Steve?

MR. HOPE: Oh, yeah, Dr. Abraham for me. So I see we still have -- you’ll need to take off Dr. Jones.

DR. BAGNER: Right.

Okay, Marissa?

MS. LEICTHER: Yeah. I’m sticking with my original.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, Susan?

DR. NEIMAND: Sticking with Dr. Pagliery.
DR. BAGNER: I have a feeling I know where we’re going here.

Judge?

MR. PRESCOTT: Dr. Edward.

MS. JEANTY: Who?

MR. PRESCOTT: Edward Abraham.

DR. BAGNER: And Mark?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I’m switching mine to Abraham.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, well you made the job easier then, Mark.

Okay, so thank you all for that. So, it looks like the committee, with a very narrow vote, is for Dr. Abraham. I think based on what our attorney mentioned, I think if it’s okay with you all, I would be in favor of saying that Dr. Pagliery would be our backup in the event that Dr. Abraham would not want to resign off of his current board that he’s on. If that’s -- if there’s any objection to that, please let me know.

MS. LEICHTER: Can I like second that motion?

Can we -- do we have to make that into a motion?

DR. BAGNER: Do we need an official motion or?

Then vote?

MS. LEICHTER: Well, I’ll second -- like the second -- are you moving it?
MR. PRESCOTT: Since he’s Chair, I don’t think that he can move it.

MS. LEICHTHER: Okay.

DR. BAGNER: I can’t move it, yeah.

MS. LEICHTHER: I’ll move it.

MR. PRESCOTT: I’ll second.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, so the vote here is to have our nominee be Dr. Abraham and as a backup, Dr. Pagliery, in the event that Dr. Abraham does not want to step off of his current board, county board.

All those in favor?

ALL: Aye

DR. BAGNER: Opposed?

Anyone in abstention or in conflict?

Okay, so we’ll move forward with that recommendation and --

MR. HOFFMAN: Before we move to the next item, I’d just like to thank everybody, because this does take a lot of time and effort and extra reading. And I think we had excellent candidates to get us to this stage and tough choices. So I do appreciate everybody’s time and the effort and the thought process that goes into this.

DR. BAGNER: Yes, thank you, Ken. I second that. Thank you, everyone. I know this is a big
chunk of time of your afternoon.

The next item, I suspect is going to be very brief, I’m hoping. At least from my perspective. So with Steve stepping off the board, unfortunately, that is also opening up the treasurer position and also which in turn, becomes the chair of the finance committee position. So we have one board member who has expressed interest and that’s our very own Mark, Mark Trowbridge. So we can have a brief discussion, but I would be in favor of moving forward with Mark.

I think he’d be a fantastic --

MR. PRESCOTT: We can’t do that.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Would you like me to leave the room?

MR. PRESCOTT: Marissa pointed out how in the middle of a meeting, he will just get up and walk out, we can’t have him doing that and juggling our books as well, okay.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: It is likely to happen again. At 52, making calls.

MR. HOFFMAN: I think we should schedule interviews.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Would you like me to step out?

DR. NEIMAND: No, I move it.

MR. HOPE: I’ll second.
DR. BAGNER: All those in favor.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Mr. Hope would like --

MR. PRESCOTT: Wait, wait --

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I think Mr. Hope would like to say something.

DR. BAGNER: Sorry, hold on.

MR. HOPE: No, no, I just wanted to say that Mark is the -- is it deputy or assistant chair, which is it?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Vice-chair.

MR. HOPE: Vice-chair, I’m sorry.

MS. LEICTHER: Yeah, that’s what I was going to ask.

MR. HOPE: Yeah, Mark is the vice-chair and obviously has demonstrated that he’s qualified for the post based on his contributions throughout. So as the chair, I would not hesitate in recommending Mark for the position, so.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Very kind of you.

Could I say a word before you vote?

DR. BAGNER: Absolutely.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: No, I just wanted to say, I think we have a great need in this role and it’s probably a little more challenging to fill than the vice-chair role. That’s a wonderful position on our
board. I also think it’s an opportunity to cast a
net for a little more diversity on our executive
committee. It might be, you know, more opportunity
there for a vice-chair versus someone with a finance
background. And I do have an interest, one day, in
being our chair, and I think the opportunity to work
as treasurer, work more closely with the staff and
also work day to day as the finance chair would help
me prepare for that. So just being candid with you.

MS. LEICHTHER: Thank you, Mark, for stepping up.

MR. HOPE: Thank you, Mark.

MS. LEICHTHER: And that was going to be my next
question. So then, Jim, you have three jobs for
vice-chair now. Now that that opens that up, so.

MR. HAJ: We were going to wait until the
official board action to accept Mark in the treasurer
position and then that evening I would submit to the
board --

MS. LEICHTHER: But then that’s what -- that’s
what would happen?

MR. HAJ: -- that would mean that this board
would have to convene --

MS. LEICHTHER: Again?

MR. HAJ: -- again.

MS. LEICHTHER: Okay.
MR. TROWBRIDGE: Sorry about that.

DR. BAGNER: But we don’t have to convene before posting that position, correct, Jim? What Jim said, once we recommend Mark to the board, then Jim can go ahead and post for the vice-chair position and then we’ll have to meet again to select someone.

MS. LEICHER: Got it.

DR. BAGNER: So back to the motion on the floor, which is for Mark Trowbridge to serve as our treasurer and finance chair. All those in favor?

MR. PRESCOTT: Who moved it?

MS. DONWORTH: Moved, Donworth.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: It was moved by Donworth and I think Dr. Neimand --

MR. PRESCOTT: I’ll second.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: -- second it.

MS. LEON: Do we have any recusals?

MR. PRESCOTT: No recusals.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Are we allowed to vote on ourselves?

DR. BAGNER: All those in favor?

ALL: Aye.

DR. BAGNER: Opposed?

Any recusals?

MR. TROWBRIDGE: I’ll abstain from the vote.
DR. BAGNER: Okay, wonderful.

Well, any other new business?

With that, thank you all for your time. Thank you, those of you who went in-person to make sure that we had enough people there in-person. And I will see you all at our, either program meeting or board meeting.

MR. PRESCOTT: I know we’re adjourned, but I just wanted to say thank you. I’m saying thank you because there’s so many organizations that talk about diversity and inclusion, but they don’t want to address the real issues. And to know that we can sit in this meeting and have conversation about diversity and inclusion, that we could look at the numbers and make correct -- well, make decisions based upon the totality of the circumstances. I just wanted to say, you make it comfortable for Steve and I to raise these issues, so thank you.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Of course.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Judge. And I hope we could continue to have these discussions in the future, comfortably, like we did. I think it’s really, really important. And I’m really grateful to the board that we’re talking about equity and we’re really bringing it into everything that we do. And
it’s so critically important.

MR. PRESCOTT: Absolutely.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, everyone. Thank you all, have a good week.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Thank you.

DR. BAGNER: Bye-bye.

MR. HAJ: Thank you, Dan, for sharing.

(Whereupon, at 5:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed record of the contents of the file, which was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief.

Signed this 1st day of April 2021.

Christy Caldera

Christy Caldera, Transcriptionist