



## **Nominating Committee Meeting Transcript**

**July 19, 2021**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING  
"VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR WITH A QUORUM OF  
MEMEBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT  
AND SOME MEMBERS ATTENDING VIRTUALLY"

The Children's Trust Nominating Committee Meeting was held on July 19, 2021 commencing at 3:00 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 (Zoom)  
Mark A. Trowbridge  
Gilda Ferradaz  
Mary Donworth  
Kenneth C. Hoffman (Zoom)

STAFF:

Imran Ali (Zoom)  
James Haj  
Jacques Bentolila  
Juana Leon

1 STAFF CONTINUED:

2 Muriel Jeanty

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6 GUESTS:

7 Stratton Pollitzer

8 Mary Snow

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PROCEEDINGS

(Recording of the meeting began at 3:02 p.m.)

DR. BAGNER: All right, good afternoon, everyone. Long time no see. And I apologize again for not being there in person. We're going to call this meeting to order. And before we begin, I believe we have three public comments.

So, Muriel, are they on?

MS. JEANTY: Yes, they are there.

DR. BAGNER: Okay, great. So our first public comment is from Stratton Pollitzer from Ocoee, Florida.

Stratton, are you there?

MR. POLLITZER: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

DR. BAGNER: Yes. Go ahead.

MR. POLLITZER: I don't know why my camera is not on. Thank you for giving me just a moment to address you. My name is Stratton Pollitzer, I am the cofounder and deputy director of Equality Florida, which is the state's largest LGBTQ organization. I'm also almost a 20-year resident of the city of North Miami. And I am -- I wanted to just express, my own and our organization's deep endorsement of Victor Diaz-Herman's nomination to join the board of directors.

1 As you all know, LGBTQ youth make up a very  
2 large part of our young people community here in  
3 Miami. Over 19 percent of Miami-Dade students  
4 identify as LGBTQ in self-reported surveys in our  
5 public school system. And they face enormous risks,  
6 elevated risks across a range of issues from skipping  
7 school, dropping out, parental rejection, violence,  
8 substance abuse, homicide and suicide. And we just  
9 think it is crucial to have someone on the board with  
10 pictures, deep experience and professional expertise  
11 on meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth.

12 I've been working with The Children's Trust,  
13 really, since you formed. I was part of a group of  
14 folks who sat down with The Trust leadership 15 years  
15 ago to talk about how we can better partner to reach  
16 our LGBTQ young people and the alliance for LGBTQ  
17 youth is what sprung from that in early meeting. And  
18 I feel like this is the moment for us to take the  
19 next step in that partnership and its really vital to  
20 have some new expertise on the board. Beyond that, I  
21 also just want to say LGBTQ issues are intersexual  
22 issues, our community is every community.

23 I've worked with Victor personally for many  
24 years. He leads our oldest LGBTQ youth agency in the  
25 entire state of Florida, Pridelines. He's done a

1 beautiful job there, and I know he knows how to work  
2 intersexually with lots of communities. I think he'd  
3 be a wonderful addition and I hope that you all will  
4 be choosing him today. Thank you very much.

5 DR. BAGNER: Great. Thank you very much,  
6 Stratton.

7 Our next public comments from Denise Palazzo,  
8 also --

9 MS. JEANTY: Mary Snow is there.

10 DR. BAGNER: Denise is not there?

11 MS. JEANTY: Mm-hmm.

12 DR. BAGNER: Okay. So, Mary Snow is our third  
13 public comment from Coral Gables Community  
14 Foundation.

15 MS. SNOW: Hi, can you hear me?

16 DR. BAGNER: Yes, we can hear you.

17 MS. SNOW: Hi. Thank you for having me today.

18 As I mentioned, my name is Mary Snow, I'm the CEO of  
19 the Coral Gables Community Foundation. I'm here  
20 today in support of my longtime close personal  
21 friend, Victor Diaz-Herman, for a board membership on  
22 The Children's Trust. I just want to share that  
23 Victor is a wonderful person. I've known him since  
24 we were children. And I have the pleasure of working  
25 with him in a professional capacity as the Community

1 Foundation is a funder of Pride Lines, the  
2 organization that he proudly has served as CEO for 15  
3 years.

4 Victor has a very strong personal character.  
5 He's a decent person. A very fair person. He has  
6 showed such leadership and passion for young people  
7 in our community, not only young people, LGBTQ young  
8 people, but all types of youth in our community.  
9 What he's done with Pride Lines in the 15 years that  
10 he's led the organization from a very small  
11 organization to quite the powerhouse that it is. I'm  
12 so proud of him and very happy to be here today to  
13 attest to his personal character and to support his  
14 nomination to The Children's Trust board.

15 DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you, Mary.

16 And do we have our other public comment, Denise  
17 Palazzo, or did she not make it on?

18 MS. JEANTY: Dan, she did not make it yet.

19 DR. BAGNER: Okay. Okay, with that, I will move  
20 forward with some of the business on our agenda. I  
21 know we have a quick meeting today. But first,  
22 business of approving the minutes from our previous  
23 meeting. If I can have a motion?

24 MS. DONWORTH: So moved.

25 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I'll second it, Daniel. Mary

1 made the initial motion.

2 DR. BAGNER: Yes, thank you, Mary and Mark.

3 All those in favor?

4 ALL: Aye.

5 DR. BAGNER: All those opposed?

6 Motion passes unanimously. So with that, let's  
7 move forward with our main agenda item, which is to  
8 select a candidate of those that we interviewed this  
9 morning. So, do we have a, Juana, do we have like an  
10 Excel file that we can start keeping track?

11 So I asked everyone to identify their top two  
12 candidates. I guess I could start, given that I'm on  
13 top of the list here. So my top two candidates are  
14 Victor Diaz-Herman and Sam Joseph. And we'll just go  
15 down the list and we'll see where we end.

16 Gilda?

17 MS. FERRADAZ: My two were Samuel Joseph and  
18 Orlando Gonzalez.

19 MS. DONWORTH: My two were Victor Diaz-Herman  
20 and Samuel Joseph.

21 DR. BAGNER: And Mark?

22 MR. TROWBRIDGE: My top two were Victor Diaz-  
23 Herman and Heather Binns.

24 DR. BAGNER: Okay, I think the other committee  
25 members are absent, is that correct? I know Ken is



1 on, Ken, would you like to weigh in?

2 MR. HOFFMAN: It's a close one. My two were  
3 Victor Diaz-Herman and Orlando Gonzalez.

4 DR. BAGNER: Okay, great. I would say this was  
5 a tough one. All of the candidates were extremely  
6 strong. And I know I had a tough time. But with  
7 those votes, there's a clear winner among us, Victor  
8 Diaz-Herman, who had four votes. And second, Sam  
9 Joseph. And third, Orlando Gonzalez.

10 So with that, I would recommend that we move  
11 forward --

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Dan?

13 DR. BAGNER: Go ahead. Yes?

14 MR. HOFFMAN: I'd just remind, I'm happy to be  
15 influencing the vote, I'll just remind you I'm a  
16 nonvoting member of the committee --

17 DR. BAGNER: Correct.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: -- according to the bylaws, so.

19 DR. BAGNER: If we don't count your votes, that  
20 would actually leave us to Victor Diaz-Herman and Sam  
21 Joseph as tying.

22 MS. DONWORTH: Can I ask a question? Because I  
23 gave mine in order of my preference. So my number  
24 one preference was Victor Diaz-Herman. My number two  
25 was Sam Joseph. Because I don't know that they're

1 necessarily equal votes. Do you get what I'm saying?

2 DR. BAGNER: Right.

3 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Sort of like weighted votes. I  
4 would agree with the way Mary did it. I gave my  
5 first as Victor and my second as Heather.

6 DR. BAGNER: And I also would say my first was  
7 Victor and my second was Sam. So I think with that -  
8 -

9 MR. HOFFMAN: And my first, even though it  
10 doesn't count, was Victor. And my second was for  
11 Orlando.

12 DR. BAGNER: And Gilda, what about you?

13 MS. FERRADAZ: I had Orlando and Joseph.

14 DR. BAGNER: If you ranked them, which would you  
15 --

16 MS. FERRADAZ: In that order.

17 DR. BAGNER: In that order?

18 MS. FERRADAZ: Yes.

19 DR. BAGNER: Yes. So I think with that, I don't  
20 know if we have to vote again, because I think it  
21 would be clear that Victor would again be the leader  
22 of the votes with Mark, Mary and I all voting him as  
23 our number one choice.

24 Any comments or objections to any of that?

25 MS. DONWORTH: I have no objections. I think

1 that makes sense.

2 MR. TROWBRIDGE: No objection. Mr. Chairman,  
3 would you like a motion to approve that  
4 recommendation so you can take it to the board?

5 DR. BAGNER: Absolutely.

6 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I'll make the motion that we  
7 recommend Victor Diaz-Herman to fill the vacant seat  
8 on our board of directors.

9 MS. DONWORTH: I second it, Mary.

10 DR. BAGNER: So the motion on the floor is  
11 recommend Victor Diaz-Herman to fill the at-large  
12 position for our board.

13 Do we have a discussion, any comments before we  
14 vote?

15 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I know we have a couple of  
16 board members that weren't able to join us today. I  
17 don't know if we heard from them, or any feedback  
18 from them. I assume they'll be in the board meeting,  
19 potentially.

20 MS. DONWORTH: I mean, I just want to say this.  
21 I was really impressed with him. I thought he was  
22 extremely thoughtful. I thought the fact that he has  
23 the finance background as well, you know, it's like a  
24 two for one. I thought his answer were very, very  
25 good, very strong.

1 MR. TROWBRIDGE: I would agree. And we've been  
2 through this now, many of us together, probably three  
3 times in the last calendar year. And very few  
4 referenced our strategic plan, asked questions about  
5 it. And I can't think of a time where we've had  
6 public comments in support of the candidates, so it  
7 shows that people are paying attention to who is  
8 applying and they want to make sure that we also vet  
9 those processes very transparent, with transparency,  
10 as I know we do, so.

11 DR. BAGNER: Yeah, thank you. I would echo  
12 those comments that were just raised and add to that.  
13 I think a voice of a strong advocate for LGBTQIA  
14 youth is extremely important on our board. I know  
15 that we do talk about important issues. I know Mark  
16 is an advocate and brings those issues up, but I  
17 think having such a strong advocate like Victor,  
18 adding to our board, is a critically important thing  
19 at this point. So I think in addition to all the  
20 positive things that were stated, I think that is a  
21 huge, for me, is a huge factor in ranking him in my  
22 number one choice. Any other comments?

23 MR. HOFFMAN: I agree.

24 MR. TROWBRIDGE: No, I would just say, again,  
25 our poll remains very deep because I think, as you

1 see, the closest of the vote, there are one or two  
2 other candidates who, if we were to have a sudden  
3 other opening, would be quick to go to and keep the  
4 process open and going forward, so it's great to see  
5 how many folks want to serve on this board. I think  
6 they see the value, also the opportunity to really  
7 make a difference. So I want to thank The Trust  
8 leadership and staff for that because they help carry  
9 that water every day.

10 MS. FERRADAZ: Yeah, I'll just add. I really  
11 liked Samuel Joseph. Loved his demeanor, loved his  
12 responses. And yes, if we have other openings that  
13 come up, certainly to keep him in the mix.

14 DR. BAGNER: Thank you all. Any other comments?

15 Okay, with that, all those in favor of  
16 recommending Victor Diaz-Herman as our at-large  
17 member?

18 ALL: Aye.

19 DR. BAGNER: Any opposed? Any recusals?

20 Motion passes unanimously. Great. Thank you  
21 all for the very efficient meeting and sticking with  
22 us this morning for all the interviews. With that,  
23 we'll give the extra time to Muriel to shift over the  
24 room.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: I want to just thank everybody for

1 taking, this was a long day for this committee and  
2 will be because of the upcoming board meeting. I  
3 think that this is really important, but it is a  
4 testament to your service that we're still here in  
5 this afternoon and making the decision in this  
6 compressed timeframe. So, thanks, everybody.

7 DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Ken.

8 With that, we'll close the meeting. Perhaps,  
9 Imran, or someone, if you can help me draft really  
10 quickly some talking points for the board meeting,  
11 that would be great.

12 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, we'll get them to you  
13 shortly.

14 DR. BAGNER: Wonderful. Thank you. Yeah, if we  
15 could have the same as we did last time of, like, the  
16 number of applications we received, the number of  
17 interviews, and then a brief bio of Victor, would be  
18 great.

19 And, Jim, I don't know if you were going to  
20 reach out to Victor? And if you wanted me to, I'd be  
21 happy to call him as well.

22 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, I think as soon as the  
23 board meeting is over, if you would like to reach out  
24 to him and I'll follow up. Let me know when you  
25 speak to him and I can speak to him. And Ken as

1 well.

2 DR. BAGNER: Great, thank you, Jim. Yeah, if we  
3 can, along with the meeting points for the board  
4 meeting, if you can send me his phone number and I'll  
5 call him once the board meeting is over.

6 Great. Thank you, everyone. I will see you all  
7 shortly in the next meeting.

8 MR. TROWBRIDGE: Yeah, let's not do this again  
9 for a little bit.

10 DR. BAGNER: That sounds good to me. Thank you  
11 all for hanging in there.

12 MR. HOFFMAN: Take care, thanks.

13 DR. BAGNER: Bye-bye.

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16 (Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the meeting was

17 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed copy 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.

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Christy Caldera, Transcriber  
August 5, 2021