Le Jardin Community Center Strategic Plan 2017-2023

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# Le Jardin Community Center





Le Jardin Community Center
Homestead, Florida

Le Jardin Community Center Strategic Plan 2017-2023

#### Overview

Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. ("Le Jardin") is a private, nonprofit child care center with several locations in south Miami-Dade County. Le Jardin opened in 1986 and since then has grown to five centers and one administration building, employing over 100 employees, providing services year-round under Head Start, Early Head Start and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs. Currently, the centers annually serve over 600 children from birth to 5 years of age and their families. The families come from diverse backgrounds, but all have incomes falling below the Federal Poverty guidelines.

Le Jardin's oversight is conducted by a volunteer Board of Directors that consists of nine to thirteen members representing the families, as well as the local community. The Board and staff at Le Jardin are fully committed to the strategic planning process as evidenced by the resources allocated for its completion. Additionally, Le Jardin's Leadership Team meets regularly to monitor progress and prepare reports to the Board, Funding Agencies and other stakeholders.

#### Le Jardin's Mission Statement

Enriched by the diversity of our community, Le Jardin Community Center, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for children and families. We provide high quality education, recreational and cultural activities and comprehensive services in a safe, caring and nurturing environment. As a private not-for-profit corporation, Le Jardin seeks opportunities, partnerships and resources to meet the changing community needs.

#### Le Jardin's Value Statement

As an organization, Le Jardin promotes the following values as our guide in all relationships:

- Honesty through integrity, trust and accountability
- Respect and sensitivity to diversity
- Open-mindedness
- Creativity
- Open and clear communications
- Professionalism
- Caring and understanding

## Le Jardin Community Center Strategic Plan 2017-2023

This strategic plan will incorporate a process that provides vision for growth and sustainability and will further solidify the center's leadership among child care centers. This plan includes the strategic plan goals, workplan, and attachments supporting the process. The Board of Directors and staff have fully endorsed the plan and are committed to its implementation. The 2017-2023 Strategic Plan includes key areas that address the concentric circles of support for our children, their families, our schools, and our community. Specifically, the plan has the following four strategic goals:

- 1. By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of life for its children by... enhancing our curriculum, beginning with infancy, will reflect a continuum of high quality teaching and learning that sends our children off to public school as lifelong learners.
- 2. By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of life for its families by... increasing highly comprehensive individualized services.
- 3. By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of its School Centers by... projecting a strong positive place for welcoming and promoting learning and development of children, families, staff, and teachers.
- 4. By 2023, Le Jardin will increase community engagement with its School Centers by...creating a Culture of Community Support.

The objectives in the strategic plan roll up under each goal area. Goals are defined as broad statements of what Le Jardin hopes to achieve in the next five years. Objectives are defined as specific, concrete, measurable statements of what will be done to achieve a goal. Activities and Strategies refer to the main activities needed to achieve the objectives and in turn the desired goals.

Additionally, each of the four goals has at least one major *Strategic Initiative* designed to increase the impact of the goal, related objectives and its related activities. These include designing, developing and establishing a **School-wide Head Start Program**, establishing and sustaining a **Family Resource Center**, **Schoolwide School Readiness Committee, Manager's Academy**, as well as a **Comprehensive Technology Plan** and a **Marketing and Communication Plan**.

School-wide	School-wide	School-wide			TO BE COM	IPLETED BY THE LE	ADERSHIP TEAM	
Strategic Goal	Strategic Objective	Strategic Initiative (informational only)	Activity/Strategy	Rationale (How does this activity address the Goal/Objective?)	Evidence/Plan to Measure Lead/Lag Measures	Timeline for Monitoring and Reporting	Responsible Staff/ Potential Partner(s)	Monitoring and Reporting Findings and Follow-up
1. By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of life for its children by enhancing our curriculum, beginning with infancy, will reflect a continuum of high quality teaching and learning that sends our children off to public school as lifelong learners.	1.1 Provide Evidence- based Curriculum Enhancements designed to improve outcomes for all children attending Le Jardin.	I. Design, Develop and Establish School-wide Head Start Program	1. Design, Develop and Deliver a Diverse Curriculum and Technology Plan: Including a Comprehensive Needs Assessment for Instructional Technology.  2. Instructional Technology Manager to provide on-site support — updates and create webbased training  3. Diverse Curriculum: Create Curriculum Kits for teachers to include songs,	Instructional Technology — including the maintenance of technology can enhance children's learning, as well as teachers' records of individual children's progress  On-site support will ensure technology is used to its fullest potential; web- based trainings will be an effective supplement to existing training  Enhancing the curriculum will provide opportunities for children to have more positive outcomes. Science	Lead Measure: Establishment of Technology Steering Committee - hiring of individual.  Lag measure: Positive satisfaction from teachers, positive child outcomes  Lead Measure: Design, Development and Utilization of Curriculum Kits  Lag Measure: Review Monthly, Quarterly and Annually for Child Outcomes (Galileo) & Teacher Satisfaction	Summer 2018 – December 2018  Creation of Kits Summer 2019  Full Implementation in Classrooms 2019-2020	Cathleen Armstead, Program Manager & Heather Duenas, Human Resources Director (Master Calendar; Technology)  Program Manager and Education Team	

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			vocabulary, words/cards.	has proven to be a particularly effective vehicle for enhancing cognitive and language development.	an			
			Fieldtrips within the	Field trips expand	Lead Measures:	Master	Human	
			Community: Create	children's cognitive	Creation of	Calendar:	Resources	
			and Maintain a	development and	master curricular	Trips 2018-2020	Director,	
			Master Curriculum	broaden cultural	calendar –	Beginning	Education	
			Calendar that	competencies –	scheduling of	Winter 2018	Coordinators	
			includes field trips and supplementary activities ( <i>Frost;</i> <i>Children's Museum</i>	leading to positive outcomes. A master calendar will ensure	field trips and in- house field trips Lag Measures: Monthly,	1_/		
			and FIU – Everglades	integration of	Quarterly and	Do	Education	
			Outpost)	activities	Annual Reviews of Child Outcomes		Coordinators	
			An additional	10000	(Galileo)	/ /		
			requirement would	C-00	Lead Measures:	Scheduling	Education	
			be to establish a		Creation of SR	2018-2019	Coordinators,	
			School Readiness		Committee to		SR Committee	
			Committee (SR) to		include agendas,		Members	
			provide guidance and	SIL	sign-in sheets			
			oversight on design,	17.60	and minutes			
			development, and		Lag Measures:		Education	
			maintenance of		Ideas generated		Coordinators,	
			Master Calendar and		by the SR		SR Committee	
			related activities		Committee are		Members	
					utilized	1		

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			<ul> <li>5. Establish a pool of interns: Research the requirements for supervising interns (Teachers and Social Workers).</li> <li>6. Ensure at least one education staff and one family worker attain these credentials</li> <li>7. Provide a yearlong training on Dual Language Learning (DLL) (monthly series 3:30 – 5:00) for teachers and assistants. (Resources include ECLCK)</li> </ul>	Having an intern pool both provides us with a built-in recruitment pool and provides additional assistance for teachers while allowing students to gain valuable experience  There are newly developed resources for DLL – it is important that we capitalize on these new resources to ensure our children have the best available learning opportunities	Lead Measures: Development of Training Series Agendas, Sign-In Sheets of Training  Lag Measures: Measurement of teacher skill development in DLL instruction (CLASS)	Summer 2020 (Develop)  Training 2020-2021  Measure Fall 2021 and Spring 2022	Program Manager, Human Resources Director and Education Coordinators  Education Coordinator and Consultant (Univ. of Miami and/or FIU)	
			8. Establish Reflection Groups with community guest members		Lead Measures: Reflection Groups with agendas, sign-in	2022-2023	Program Manager	

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		1			sheets and minutes			
	1.2 Achieve 100% Well Baby Checks and Individualized Care Plans		<ol> <li>Partner with community members to provide on-going training on the importance of well-baby checks to parents</li> <li>Provide additional training to small groups of teachers (20) on safety and hygiene (Medication, Hand washing)</li> <li>Create a System for Tracking Daily Health Checks</li> </ol>	Ensuring children are health is a foundation of cognitive development	Number of Well-Baby Checks completed on time (ChildPlus)  Lead Measures: Training sign-in sheets, materials and agendas (response surveys) Lag Measures: Monitoring results for healthy behaviors Lead Measures: Creation of a Tracking System Lag Measures: Number of Well-Baby Checks and Screenings completed on time (ChildPlus)	2018-2019	Health Services and Health Community Partners (CHI, Nicklaus, Baptist)  Health Services - Miami Dade College Medical Campus  Health Services & Program Manager	

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	1.3 100% screening and timely follow-up		Albizu University to conduct refresher training for teachers at Le Jardin preservice (Speech – PLS5)  MH and Disabilities Coordinator to conduct refresher training for teachers at Le Jardin preservice (DECA, ASQ and ASQ-SE – Accuscreen)	We have an at-risk population for health disadvantages including developmental delays, speech delays and challenging behaviors. Early and often screening and follow-up are prerequisites for children's learning	Lead Measures: Agendas, Sign-in Sheets and Training Materials  Lag Measures: Dates when children receive screening and follow-up care (ChildPlus)	Pre-service 2018  2018-2019	Health Services; Carlos Albizu University  Mental Health/ Disabilities Coordinator	
			Research and apply for grants through Children's Trust and other foundations to enable Le Jardin to provide more services to children with special needs	Stu	Lead Measures: Regular review of Grant Schedules  Lead Measures: Number of grant applications  Lag Measures: Measurement of number of services to children with special needs	Research 2018- 2019  Write grants 2019-2020  Implement awarded grants 2020-2023  Measure impact of awarded grants 2021-2023	Program Manager and MH/Disabilities Coordinator	

School-wide Strategic Goal	School-wide	de School-wide							
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	1.4 Increase attendance at each Le Jardin site by at least _% by 2023.		Develop and/or enhance communication strategies for improving attendance  Train teachers to work with parents on improved attendance  Re-examine Parental Agreement  Send letter to parents reminding them of signed agreements  Construct new procedures to allow for more timely withdrawals	Attendance is key in student success. Many times, parents do not realize how important attendance is even in pre-k. Children who do not regularly attend have disrupted routines and do not have the benefit of daily educational opportunities	Lead Measures: Posters, Newsletters  Lead Measures: Agendas, Sign-In Sheets, Role Play materials  Lead Measures: Number of Signed Parental Agreements  Lead Measures: Revised Letter to Parents  Lead Measures: New Procedures  Lag Measures: Fewer sporadic or consecutive absences (ChildPlus)	January 2018  February 2018  March – June 2018  Summer 2018  March – June 2018  2018-2019	Program Manager and Family Services		

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By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of life for its families by Increasing highly comprehensive individualized services.	2.1 Increase access to Community Services to our Le Jardin Families	II. Establish and Sustain a Family Resource Center	Conduct Comprehensive Parental Needs Assessment (individually; aggregate)  Identify and Engage Community Service Providers and Possible Partners (based on parental needs and interests)	The Parental Needs Assessment will be modified to more accurately determine family needs – providing a basis for meeting individualized needs  Connecting parents to resources requires more than passive referrals – Le Jardin intends to bring the services to parents for improved family	Lead Measures: Revised Family Assessment  Lead Measures: Number of community partnerships established	April – June 2018	Program Manager  Program Manager and Family Services	
			Develop and Sustain mutually beneficial relationships with Community Partners and Service Providers  As possible, invite Service Providers and other Partners to the Le Jardin Program (in	outcomes  Community Partners include: Housing Authoring, Legal Aid, CareerSource, colleges, GED and ESOL	Lead Measures: Number of Service Providers and Community Partners providing services on-site. Lag Measures: Number of parents with improved	2018-2020	Program Manager and Family Services  Program Manager and Family Services	

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				Pl Onening a Family	outcomes, as per ???			
			Establish and Sustain a Family Resource Center by:  a) Identifying space for resource center b) Purchasing computers, equipment and new apps c) Purchasing additional resources d) Establishing Resource Centers e) Developing marketing campaign	Opening a Family Resource Center that is welcoming (soft chairs, nice furniture and resources to include job seeking resources) is designed to enhance and improve family engagement, as well as outcomes for children.	Lead Measures: Identification of Space  Lead Measures: Purchase of technology and other resources Lead Measures: establishment of centers Lead Measures: establishment of marketing campaign Lag Measures: Number of parents utilizing the centers: number of parents who improve their employment	Fall 2019  Winter 2020  Summer 2020  Measurement Summer 2020 – Summer 2022 Analyze and Aggregate Data Summer 2022	Fiscal COO/CFO  Program Manager  Executive Team and Family Workers  Executive Team & Family Workers Family Workers Family Workers	

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	2.2 Ongoing Parental Learning Community that informs and influences curriculum and classroom practices.	III. Establish and Sustain Schoolwide School Readiness Committee	Establish and Sustain a School Readiness Committee (See Goal1.1)	Increasing parental involvement in their child's education enhances both positive parental outcomes and children's learning outcomes. This goal is also discussed in Section 1.1	Lead Measures: Establishment of School Readiness Committee (similar to HSAC) with agendas, sign-in sheets and minutes  Lag Measures: Increased parental involvement as noted by parental suggested activities  Lag Measures: increased parent activity in the Galileo parent portal (Child assessment database)	2018-2019 2019-2020	Education and Family Services  Education and Family Services  Education and Family Services	
			Provide workshops,	Children learn best	Lead Measures:	2018-2019	Education and	
			training & meetings	when their family	Establishment of		Family Services	
			related to children's	provides a safe and	trainings – with			
			typical and atypical	nurturing haven	sign-in sheets,			
			development,	that reinforces	agendas and			
			provide ongoing	their learning.	materials	1		

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			training on the curriculum and appropriate home to school activities.	Actively engaging parents in their child's learning encourages parents to become more effective advocates for their children, strengthening familial bonds and enhancing learning outcomes	Lag Measures: Enhanced involvement in child's education as noted on family outcomes assessment  Lag Measures: Enhanced activity on the Galileo Parent Portal	2019-2020	Local institutions of higher education (School of Education)	
			Incorporate an Effective Parenting Curriculum into family involvement practices	Parenting curriculums address effective parenting strategies along with ways to advocate for safer communities	Lead Measures: Incorporation of curriculum  Lag Measures: Enhanced Parental Outcomes (ChildPlus – Family Assessments)	2018-2019 2019-2020	Family Services and Education – Program Manager and University of Miami	
			Establish an Effective Parenting Curriculum funded through Children's Trust. Such a curriculum will have a comprehensive	Parenting Curriculums address effective parenting strategies along with ways to	Lead Measures: Submitted Proposal  Lead Measures: Awarded Grant	2/20/2018	HR Director oversees writing of grant including obtaining letters of support	

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			outreach, engagement and learning system a) Research funding opportunities learn requirements b) Secure partners c) Seek approval from governing bodies d) Write grant e) Implement 2019	advocate for safer communities	Lead Measures: Implemented grant proposal  Lag Measures: Enhanced parental outcomes as measured through family assessments in ChildPlus.	2018-2023	Program manager with Family Services and Education implement the grant  Family Services measures outcomes	
			Enhance and Expand Prenatal Academy to be self-supporting and sustainable  Establish a formal intake system  Create and Promote an annual and monthly calendar of effective parenting workshops  Secure additional training	The prenatal academy, formalized into a bi-monthly series of classes (accompanied by incentives) will begin with a formal intake & focus on the benefits and rationale of a healthy pregnancy	Lead Measures: Establishing a Formal Intake System  Lead Measures: Calendar of Trainings  Lead Measures: Secured Partners Lag Measures: Enhanced prenatal outcomes	Missing-TBD	Program Manager and Health Services  Program Manager and Health Services  Program Manager and Health Services - Community Partners	

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	2.3 Enhance and Improve Case Management		Provide training on case management focusing on strengths-based assessments and positive probing questions  Establish a mentor/coach process (modeled after education) to support new staff in their case management efforts	Providing training is the first step in enhancing case management. (New staff that need training)	Lead Measures: Establish training schedule focusing on strengths-based assessments  Lead Measures: Provide training  Lead Measures: Implement training with agendas, sign-in sheets & training materials  Lag Measures: Enhanced Case Management as measured by improved Parental Outcomes	2018-2020 2018-2020 2018-2020	Program Manager & Family Services  Program Manager & Family Services Program Manager & Family Services  Program Manager & Family Services	
	2.4 Increase Parental Involvement		Conduct Parental Focus Groups and Collect Recommendations	Parent Focus Groups can provide insight into how Le Jardin can strengthen Parental Involvement.	(ChildPlus)  Lead Measures: Parent Focus Groups with Agendas, Sign-in Sheets and Minutes	2019-2020	Family Services Coordinator	

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			Create Calendar of Family Events that consolidates and integrates Family Calendar	Parent Focus Groups can also serve as a catalyst for increased Parent Engagement	Lead Measures: Responses from Parent Focus Groups  Lead Measures:	2019-2020	Family Services Coordinator Family Services		
			Provide Incentives Implement based on	Liigagement	Obtain Donations for Incentives		Coordinator		
			Parent Focus Group Recommendations		Lag Measures: Increased Parental Involvement — measured by regular and Annual Attendance Signin Sheets and Satisfaction Surveys	2020-2021	Family Services Coordinator		
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Strategic Goal Strateg	School-wide	School-wide	TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM						
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3. By 2023, Le Jardin will improve the quality of its School Centers by projecting a strong positive place for welcoming and promoting learning and development of children, families, staff, and teachers.	3.1 Reduce Staff Turnover among: a) Teachers b) Teacher Aides c) Other Support Staff d) TBD	IV.Establish and Sustain a Manager Academy	Establish a Manager Academy  Mentoring & Coaching for Teachers	Well-trained managers are more likely to stay, as well as lead staff effectively so they will also stay. Research shows that most employees change jobs because of their supervisor, not pay, therefore by making better managers we can increase retention among staff.  Required as per the Head Start Program Performance Standards. This will provide individual assistance to teaching staff that need specialized attention in particular areas. It also includes a	Lead Measures: Sign in sheets, evaluation scores getting better. Report showing number of staff turnover.  Lag Measures: Improved evaluations of teachers and assistants. Improved scores on Galileo and CLASS domains.  Lag Measures: Report showing number of staff turnover.  Lead/Lag Measures:	coaching and	Heather Duenas, Human Resources Director  Cathleen Armstead, Program Manager, Maria Motta, Education Coordinator, Zuly Navarrete, Education Coordinator Heather Duenas, HR Director Heather Duenas, HR Director and Cathleen Armstead, Program Manager Heather Duenas, HR Director and Component Leads		

Strategic Goal Strateg	School-wide	l-wide School-wide	TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM					
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			Professional development enhancement through digitizing evaluations and professional development – SurveyMonkey  Improved onboarding and new hire orientation program which includes personality assessment and appreciation (individualized recognition based on their language of appreciation)  Mentor/Coaching for All Staff  Examine differences in roles between ERSEA (enrollment)	focus on the strengths of staff to coach each other in areas where they perform best. This will create loyalty as staff coach each other and feel as though the management team is truly interested in their individual success.  By digitizing evaluations and professional development, we can better track the information to determine where the most need is. This will prevent staff turnover as the staff are receiving the training they specifically need in their areas of	Digital evaluations can be used to track data over years and across jobs. Low scores in one area across a job title shows that we need to focus training and technical assistance dollars in that area. And will allow us to show evidence that training and technical assistance is working. Report showing number of staff turnover.  Lag Measures: Personality Assessment	program for teachers to model.	Eduardo Berrones, Executive Director, Audelia Martinez, CFO/COO, Cathleen Armstead, Program Manager, Heather Duenas, HR Director, Omar Campuzano Family Worker Coordinator/ ERSEA, Kimberlee Whipple, EHS Family Services Coordinator	

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			Act	that feel prepared will feel empowered are less likely to leave. Staff will also feel valued as the agency invests time and money in training them.  A formalized onboarding and orientation program will create loyalty to the agency. Research has shown that an employee's impression of the company in the first 30 days greatly impacts their view of the agency ad likelihood of staying or leaving. Staff that are informed of the company's mission,	Evaluations, report showing the number of staff turnover. Compare this information with previous years to determine if the program is effective.  Improved evaluation outcomes for all staff. Report showing number of staff turnover.  Job Descriptions, report from outside monitoring consultant reflecting suggestion to separate positions, report showing	Do			

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			Act	expectations, and other training that will get them started on the right foot are more likely to stay because they don't feel as though they have to "hit the ground running" in order to survive; they will feel prepared for their position.  This will provide individual support for all staff members to improve evaluation scores and overall performance. By focusing on the details that would be discussed during coaching and mentoring sessions, the employee would feel more loyalty to the agency and	number of staff turnover.	Do			

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			Act	be held accountable. Individuals are more likely to improve performance and more likely to stay when they feel connected to another team member and held accountable for improvement by that team member.  Currently these are combined into one position, however the skills needed for each role is very different. ERSEA is data-entry focused and more quota based, but the Family Worker role is more people- focused through case management. By	an	Do			

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			Act	hiring the appropriate personality style (True Colors Personality Assessment) for the position we can reduce turnover in the Family Services Department. Currently the data-entry and performance quote is more "urgent" therefore we hire staff to fulfill that role, however training a "numbers" person to be "people" focused can sometimes be an uphill battle. Staff frequently leave this position because it is not what they hoped it would be. By separating the duties of ERSEA	an	Do			

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4. By 2023, Le Jardin will increase community engagement with its School Centers bycreating a Culture of Community Support.	Increase Le Jardin's Online Access for its children, families and other stakeholders that expand engagement within the community.  Enhance our families' as well as the public's perception regarding the services and programs provided beyond daycare	V. Design and Develop a School- wide Comprehensive Technology Plan  VI. Develop and Implement an effective Marketing and Communication Plan that includes the use of Facebook, Twitter, and Poster Campaign	Select Leadership will attend E-rate Conference, collaborate with NuTech.  Conduct a Comprehensive Technology Needs Assessment  Design and Develop a Marketing and Communication Plan that includes the effective use of social media, Family Newsletters and additional technology, such as a Le Jardin Mobile App.	and Family Workers, we can hire the appropriate staff for the position and reduce turnover.  To provide opportunities that increase children's and teachers' access to useful and helpful technology resources  Create a plan to bring increased awareness to the local community about the products and services available through Le Jardin.	Lead Measures: Attendance at NuTech Conference and debrief with entire Leadership Team and Technology Consultant  Lag Measures: Comprehensive Technology Assessment Report	20182019 PY	Le Jardin Administration Eduardo Berrones, Executive Director, Audelia Martinez, CFO/COO and Heather Duenas HR Director  Le Jardin Administration and Lakeshore (Tony)		

School-wide Strategic Goal	School-wide Strategic Objective	Strategic Initiative	TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEADERSHIP TEAM						
			Activity/Strategy	Rationale (How does this activity address the Goal/Objective?)	Evidence/Plan to Measure Lead/Lag Measures	Timeline for Monitoring and Reporting	Responsible	Monitoring and Reporting Findings and Follow-up	
	Increase Le Jardin's visibility within the community by enhancing our families' as well as the public's perception regarding the services and programs provided beyond daycare.		Be more proactive and engaged within the local community, including expanding our networking within the community	To provide additional opportunities to establish sustainable partnerships, as well as enhanced leveraging of available funding streams  To provide additional opportunities for possible funding streams  To expand Le Jardin's visibility and recognition in the community.	Lead Measures: Completed Marketing and Communication Needs Assessment  Lead Measures: Number of grant applications submitted for funding (2 Grants)  Lag Measures: Completed Marketing and Communication Plan  Lag Measures: Number of grants awarded	2017-18  End of FY 2018	Administration with The Children's Trust-UMOS- Baptist Homestead Hospital		