

## PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

### CHILDREN'S FORUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 28, 2019

**Legislative Session** – We are waiting for the Governor to sign the budget; however, we have an ongoing appropriation of \$10M for T.E.A.C.H. and a slight reduction in our Help Me Grow funding of approximately \$600K for a total of \$1.8M. While we are not happy about the direction of Help Me Grow, we are pleased to receive the \$10M for T.E.A.C.H. Our Child Care WAGE\$ bill did not make it through the funding process so we will be working this angle again next session. The good news is that the Office of Early Learning has already contacted me and are putting WAGE\$ into their Legislative Budget Request for next year. Thank you to Claudia for all of her help and work with the Legislature in getting our issues on the radar. The session will be an earlier one and will begin in January with committee meetings in the fall.

**Higher Education Barriers Workgroup** – The Forum was one of two states chosen to work on Higher Education Barriers for the ECE workforce selected by the T.E.A.C.H. National Technical Assistance Center. Six of the Florida team members attended the T.E.A.C.H. Symposium in North Carolina in April. While the project was a short one, we have put together a strategic plan and are continuing to work on several goals. We were pleased that Bob Buesing was able to join us and represent the business perspective.

**Contracts and Funding** – We are “sub-contracting” under the University of North Florida for some work that the Office of Early Learning wanted us to perform as follows:

- Professional Development Work: \$157,500
- Child Assessment: \$45,000

UNF's portion is 10% in both contracts. This collaboration will allow the Forum to be more responsive to needs working in tandem with UNF to fulfill the work responsibilities. In addition, the Forum is continuing to provide training throughout the state for the Office of Early Learning for VPK – K Transition Summits. This contract is directly with OEL for this work – we earn \$5K per summit and are slated to provide six more Summits through the end of 2019 for a total of \$30K. We're hoping to be able to do additional work with the funding that the state is receiving through the federal Preschool Development Grant for the upcoming year.

**Status of the Move / Forum Space** – We have been in negotiations with Kajaine Capital Properties for the space located at 1211 Governors Square Boulevard. Bob's expertise has been invaluable as we have pored over lease / contract language to negotiate with our new landlord. Kajaine Properties will buy our existing building. We will vacate our space when the new space is ready for occupancy as there are renovations to the space we plan to occupy. We hope to be in the new space in October. One of the buildings we currently occupy has been rented and we are vacating this space as of 7/15. We are moving existing staff to the main building who who cannot work from home. There will be nine of us who will be working from our home offices and “remoting” in to the Forum. While not ideal, everyone understands that this is temporary until our new space is ready.