



**Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 2018
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: This meeting was held through teleconference

Board Members Present by Phone: Bob Buesing, Chris Card, Claudia Davant, Allison Davis, Chuck Hood, Gege Kreischer, Larry Pintacuda, Linda Stoller

Board Members Absent: Wil Blechman

Staff Present: Phyllis Kalifeh, Kerri Cloud, Denise Bishop

Welcome: Chair Bob Buesing called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. when a quorum was attained.

Gege Kreicher was introduced to the board as a newly appointed member. She shared a brief history of her experience within the early learning field. Gege has had direct business experience as a child care center owner as well as policy and research experience. Gege stated that she had an opportunity to work with families experiencing poverty which was extremely helpful in seeing how the system works to address the needs of at risk families from various angles. She shared that she is thankful for the strong mentorship she received from Phyllis Kalifeh and Ted Granger, United Way of Florida who collectively and individually helped her understand the way the state agencies and legislative branches approach early learning in Florida. Gege recently retired from her position on the NAEYC board and looks forward to contributing her knowledge and experience to the Children's' Forum Board. She ended by saying that from a program quality and policy perspective, she believes the Children's Forum has a significant influence on what happens in the state.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Larry Pintacuda moved to approve the minutes from March 23, 2018; Chris Card seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mission Minute (*Opportunities for Board members to be emissaries of the Forum's mission*): Phyllis thanked Dr. Wil Blechman for his work on behalf of the Children's Forum and Help Me Grow Florida. Bob Buesing shared that he has been working with the Florida Cradle to College Education event and also attended Leadership Florida Conference.

Chair's Report: Bob shared how much he is enjoying his role as a grandparent. He added that he has observed that issues in childhood are not limited to families experiencing poverty: he has seen the potential for “frenetic issues” in families of privileged as well. Bob stated that he is serving as a mentor for the Metropolitan Ministries, is working with the Khan Foundation to try to “Move the Needle”, and is promoting the Child Care WAGE\$ program in Hillsborough County.

Finance Committee: Kerri Cloud, CFO; Allison Davis, Treasurer

- **Audit Report:** Presented by Jeanine Bush, Carr, Riggs, & Ingram. The report encompassed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The program specific audit was for The Children's Trust (see report). The outcome was that it was a “clean opinion” with a 2:1 asset to liability ratio and no findings of noncompliance. The program-specific audit was also a clean report with no cost related findings. The audit process went smoothly and representatives from Carr, Riggs, & Ingram appreciated the opportunity to work with the Children's Forum. Larry and Chris both congratulated Kerri and her team for a job well done. Larry moved to accept the Audit report; Chris Card seconded the motion. The audit report was approved.
- **Financial Statements:** Financial Statements (required board action): Allison Davis presented the financial report which covered the fiscal period from July 2017- April 2018 (10 months). By June 30, 2017, T.E.A.C.H. had successfully spent all of the scholarship and administrative dollars. Allison said that there was little to report. Chris Card brought up the fact that there was a \$1,300 net loss reported in the financial statement, and he inquired as to how it would be covered. Kerri stated that it would come out of unrestricted budget funds.
- **CEO Travel & Expense Report:** (required board action). Motion to approve the travel and expense report. Linda Stollar motioned to approve and Chris Card seconded. The current CEO Travel & Expense Report was approved by the members and signed by the Chair (attached).

President's Report: Phyllis Kalifeh

- **Legislative Report:** Claudia provided a legislative update. She reminded everyone that this is a big election year and that the legislative session would begin in March rather than early in 2019. She stated that there were several Cabinet, Senate and House openings as well as the Governor's position, and that revenue estimates were up again. She shared that we need to continue to educate people about the importance and value of early learning. Claudia shared that she recently has dinner with Byron Donalds, and that he strongly supports Help Me Grow Florida. She wondered if this was the time to ask for increased funding or did it make more sense to continue to float with the current appropriate. Since many non-participating counties want HMG in their communities, she encourages us to continue to advocate for more funding. It is estimated that it would take about \$4.5M to make HMG available statewide. The Board will need to decide its funding priorities.

- Bob asked when financial decisions need to be made. Claudia said that we have a little time, but September is when we may need a hard press if we plan to increase our “ask”.
 - Bob asked if Phyllis would stay active in an advocacy role and reach out to the board as needed for local influence. Claudia offered her help and expertise too.
 - Legislative Awards Given: Phyllis thanked Claudia and Rebecca for helping with the Advocacy Awards given to Rep. Byron Donalds and Senator Passidomo.
- **Child care Development Block Grant Update**: There has been a substantial increase; in fact, it is the largest in US history. The Forum is working to develop recommendations for funding allocation for Rodney at OEL, but he will need to use much of the increase to scale up for HB1091 including the CLASS assessments and quality improvement for school readiness throughout the state. Because of these obligations, he is being cautious in the plan he develops and supports. Rate increases and reducing waitlists may require a significant portion of the allocation.
 - The Forum is interested in pushing for WAGES infrastructure support for statewide implementation. Representative Grall is a positive lead on the WAGES effort. She understands system issues and is a strong voice for early learning. To implement a statewide administrative infrastructure, it is estimated it would cost about \$0.5M with the local coalitions funding only the stipends through quality dollars.
 - **Strategic Plan Progress**:
 - CSC Contract Palm Beach-Local ELCs will take over the assessment responsibilities and the Forum is closing the Assessment office in Palm Beach County. This required the Children’s Forum to lay off five staff members. The Palm Beach registry remains an active Children’s Forum program.
 - RFP Miami-Dade (The Children’s Trust): The roll out of HB1091 led to a new structure for the Quality Counts contract in Miami-Dade. It is now be called *the Early Learning Career Center (ELCC)* and the Children’s Forum is responsible for awarding EL scholarships throughout the county. Six staff members in the Miami-Dade office were laid off as a result of the new contract requirements.
 - **FLAEYC Shared Services Contractor Report**: The shared services contract has been productive for FLAEYC and the Children’s Forum. The Forum staff has been very busy preparing for the FLAEYC annual conference in September, and has worked collaboratively with the FLAEYC Executive director and the FLAEYC Board. Phyllis shared that Gege also serves as the chair of the FLAEYC Conference committee. To date (July 2018), the sponsorship agreements have totaled \$18,000 more than the prior year. There has been an incredible amount of outreach for the conference utilizing social media, email blasts and website announcements. Registration continues to climb slowly. Bob has agreed to participate on the panel selected for the preconference Leadership Summit coordinated by the Children’s Forum.

New Business: Approval of 403(b) plan amendment (required board action): A Roth provision was added to the plan. It was reviewed, and Bob Buesing motioned to approve the amendment. Chuck Hood seconded the motion. All approved.

- Personnel Policies review (Postponed until next board meeting; this item will require board action at October meeting)

- Conflict of Interest Forms: Forms will be distributed and signed copies will be retrieved electronically

Closed Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pintacuda
Secretary



Signature of Secretary

Denise Bishop
Recording

<<will be reviewed and approved at Oct. meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)



Signature of President

<<will be reviewed and approved at Oct. meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)