



**Board of Directors Meeting
March 23, 2018
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Chuck Hood, Larry Pintacuda, Bob Buesing, Allison Davis
Board Members Present by Phone: Claudia Davant,

Board Members Absent: Modesto Abety, Linda Stoller, Chris Card, Wil Blechman

Staff Present: Phyllis Kalifeh, Kerri Cloud, Denise Bishop

Welcome:

Chair Bob Buesing called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. when a quorum was attained.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Bob asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 8, 2017 meeting. Hearing no changes, Bob called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. The minutes were approved (M/S; Card/Hood); motion carried.

Mission Minute (*Opportunities for Board members to be emissaries of the Forum's mission*):

Bob updated the board on his local bid for a Senate seat and shared that he is going to be speaking on behalf of early childhood issues at the Downtown Kiwanis.

Chair's Report

Bob acknowledged that the legislative session has closed for 2018 and that a budget has been sent to Governor Scott. He went on to share that the polling outcomes he has *conducted* and reviewed for 2016 and again in 2018 show early childhood issues ranking in the middle of the list for areas of concern with the sample population. He suggested there is a need to focus on the current background knowledge of the constituents. He said he would like to add early care to the education question on the polls to ensure there is a recognition of, and a voice for, topics relating to early childhood. Larry asked Bob if he could explain the process that occurs with committee assignment in the legislature. Phyllis shared that early childhood issues that the Forum focuses, are addressed in the PreK Appropriations committee and several names were shared as strong

contacts. Claudia said there have been some changes in assignment, but that it is important that we build strong relationships with those joining the committee. She said to keep sending emails and making phone calls. T.E.A.C.H. was supported strongly through advocacy efforts this session. Phyllis asked if we could advocate for Bob to be on a committee, and Claudia said that if he is interested and expresses that interest, once elected, he may be a good candidate for the Prek Appropriations committee because of his prior experience.

Nominating Committee:

Larry brought up a conversation he had with Modesto Abety about Moe's position on the board. Moe shared with Larry that he had other obligations that he was invested in that tied directly to other activism and advocacy efforts and was abdicating his position on the Board.

Following a review of her credentials and vitae, Margaret "Gege" Kreischer was nominated for a board position. Larry made the motion and Chuck seconded it (M/S: Pintacuda/Hood). Bob shared that he was very supportive of her membership to the Board, noting her experience, passion, and knowledge about our mission. All members were in favor.

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

- **Financial Statements:**

Allison Davis reviewed and approved the Children's Forum expense report and the President's Travel and Expense report.

Kerri Cloud reviewed the January Financials sharing that 58% of the Forum budget had been expended. Kerri indicated that T.E.A.C.H. spending was slightly ahead of schedule, but that the intention was to slow down spending until July 1, 2018 when the funding for the next fiscal year was available. There are many scholarship applications that are processed and ready to be awarded as soon as FY1819 begins. The board was interested in accessing data about T.E.A.C.H. scholars that is both demographic (which is provided in the T.E.A.C.H. annual report) and geographic (which is currently presented by training institution). The request for additional data will be shared with Lori Stegmeyer, Director of Workforce Initiatives.

The T.E.A.C.H. monitoring visit was discussed. Kerri brought up the issue of outstanding "Stale" Checks within the T.E.A.C.H. program which was a finding. Stale checks are checks that have been uncashed for 180 days. Phyllis described the process involved in reconciling the funds for T.E.A.C.H. Chuck suggested that a better system needs to be established to increase effectiveness. Kerri shared that they are exploring options.

- **CEO Travel & Expense Report:**

Move to approve the financial statements and the CEO Travel and Expense report and the motion was seconded (M/S: Davis/ Pintacuda). The current CEO Travel & Expense Report was approved by the members and signed by the Chair (attached).

President's Report: Phyllis Kalifeh

- **Summary:**

Phyllis Kalifeh shared that the Non-Profits First accreditation was renewed for another five-year cycle, and she thanked the administrative team for their hard work.

In addition, IACET reaccreditation was also approved for the next five year cycle. Being an Approved Provider of IACET allows the Children's Forum to develop and administer high quality training and professional development that meet the standard of IACET. As an IACET Approved Provider (AP), the Children's Forum can award continuing education units for training.

T.E.A.C.H. was funded at the \$10M level for FY1819, and Help Me Grow saw an increase in funding as well (\$2.2M). Phyllis said that there are several people to thank for their support of T.E.A.C.H. and HMG including Senator Passidomo and Representative Donalds. Phyllis discussed the CCDBG funding from the federal budget stating that the funding level would be twice as much as in the prior fiscal year.

Chuck initiated a conversation about the T.E.A.C.H. program's potential liability for active scholarships if funding levels were to decrease in subsequent years. Phyllis shared that the T.E.A.C.H. contract language specifies that scholarships are awarded based on current year funding levels and are contingent on funding available. The program policy is to expend all funds within the fiscal year in which they are appropriated.

Bob asked some clarifying questions about Help Me Grow (HMG) as a model, and Phyllis and the Board engaged in a discussion about the complexity of the system of support for new parents and guardians. Phyllis shared specific examples of strategies used by HMG like the use of iPads in physician's offices to conduct developmental screenings and link back to resources in the local communities for children and families in need. Many of the children referred for further assessment (70%) were not enrolled in early care and education programs, and as such, their needs may have been undetected and unserved during these critical developmental periods if HMG had not been available. The other important facet of HMG is that the support to the children and families continues beyond a referral to an interventionist. Phyllis stated that Dr. Peter Gorski and Dr. Jeff Brosco from Miami-Dade have been true advocates of the programs and have helped to bring awareness to the benefits of HMG. Currently, 27 counties have HMG programs in place using the 211 infrastructure, and an aspirational goal is have HMG programs implemented and available in all 67 counties throughout the state. Outreach for HMG is done at the local level and each affiliate has someone responsible for getting the message out into the community which it serves.

Bob initiated a subsequent discussion about the value of mobile apps that address early care and education issues. These apps are becoming more readily available for families and practitioners and his thought was that there seems to be work to be done around the identification of needs and the coordination of services. He shared with the Board and challenge he had trying to navigate some of the sites, and he sees HMG as needing a stronger voice and a clearer message about the unique role it serves in child development and community coordinated care. Phyllis stated that

while HMG originated in Connecticut, Florida is now seen as a HMG leader throughout the country. Larry asked what the difference was between HMG and the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Networks. Phyllis explained that HMG is invested in coordinating intervention and support services for children and families, and CCR&R networks facilitate the process of finding appropriate child care for families. Chuck Hood asked how HMG was accessing physicians' offices. Chuck suggested that there may be other resources (i.e., Jewish Community Center) that could be valuable to local HMG programs as they work to make entry into medical providers and community health facilities. He said he has a connection in Dade County who delivers books to physicians' offices, and another colleague (Dr. Carol Morasko) in Hillsborough who collaborates with the infant formula industry, which provides another direct line to medical practitioners at the local level.

Phyllis introduced a brief discussion about the passage of HB1091, which addresses accountability for quality in school readiness programs throughout the state. She thanked the efforts of Representative Grall and Senator Passidomo for their support during sessions. Chuck shared that Broward County is actively addressing the quality and accountability issue, and as a whole, they are looking at child outcomes using a unique identifier for all children enrolled in school readiness funded programs in the county. Chuck asked if this was also being implemented statewide, and Phyllis shared that there is a workgroup meeting now to build a statewide system of accountability that collects data about child outcomes. Chuck stated that we need a "central door" through which families can enter the early care and education system. He suggested that if DCF can reach the families to provide support, then the early care and education field should strive to do the same.

Phyllis shared that the CCDBG funding at the federal level had essentially been doubled for the next 2 years. She emphasized that this is a very big deal for Florida and will mean more slots for children and an opportunity to improve the quality of Florida's school readiness program. The Legislative Review Board (LRB) will meet in September, 2018 to approve legislative action tied to the CCDBG funds. This led to a discussion about who has the decision-making authority to determine how the funds will be spent. Any spending plan will have to comply with federal regulations, and there will be a funding formula established for local coalitions. Phyllis is going to discuss with Rodney MacKinnon at OEL, the possibility of building a Child Care WAGES program that allows for a single agency to provide central management of the administrative tasks associated with WAGES, and allowing ELCs to be responsible for providing the financial supplements to early care and education practitioners using funding earmarked for quality.

Phyllis shared the WAGES Supplemental scale that was included in the Annual report for the Child Care WAGES program administered by the Children's Forum, and a lengthy discussion followed about how the Board could support this idea. Larry suggested that the Board send a letter to OEL asking for information about the CCDF funding plan. Bob then asked if OEL might be willing to provide a presentation to the Children's Forum Board about what the plan will be for the use of the CCDBG funding, and to suggest that the Forum would be willing to serve as consultants for the development of the plan if that would be helpful. Phyllis shared that she is on the CCDBG / CCDF plan review committee. Phyllis said she would speak to OEL about these ideas. Bob said there may be a Block Grant Opportunity for the Forum to make recommendations on the use of the increased CCDBG funding. Phyllis said she would consult with Helen Blank, draft a proposal, and then send it out to the Board for review.

Phyllis updated the Board on the Compensation Workgroup that will be traveling to North Carolina this month to continue to work on the important topic of system solutions to compensation in early care.

Phyllis ended her report by discussing the Children's Forum shared services agreement with the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC). The Children's Forum signed a \$50,000 administrative contract with FLAEYC building a partnership in which the Forum will use our existing infrastructure to help stabilize the statewide organization, build membership, and coordinate the annual conference to increase the impact FLAEYC has at a statewide level. There is a need to expand the revenue source for FLAEYC if it is to be sustainable. There was extended discussion about the role the Children's Forum should have with FLAEYC in the future after this single year contract. Phyllis shared some specifics of the conference planned for September 2018, and elaborated on the Leadership Summit (Thursday Sept 6). Bob suggested we pursue how the Board could facilitate two non-profits continuing to work together in a defined partnership.

- **Legislative Report:**

Covered the content in President's report.

- **Strategic Plan Progress:**

Reviewed. No new business to add to the strategic plan.

New Business

None.

Closed Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pintacuda
Secretary



Signature of Secretary

Denise Bishop
Recording

<<will be reviewed and approved at July meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)



Signature of President

<<will be reviewed and approved at July meeting>>

Minutes Approved (date)