



**Board of Directors Meeting
June 28, 2019
9:00-11:00 PM**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present: Bob Buesing, Gege Kreischer, Allison Davis, Linda Stoller,
Staff Present: Phyllis Kalifeh, Kerri Cloud, Denise Bishop

Board Action: On August 14, 2019, the Children's Forum Board took an electronic vote and it was unanimously agreed to pursue executing a line of credit with Synovus Bank for \$750,000

Welcome:

Chair Bob Buesing welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 9:28 AM. Since a quorum was not present, items were addressed for informational purposes with motions delayed until the next meeting.

Reading and Approval of Minutes:

Need Action: *The meeting minutes from March 15, 2019 **need to be approved.**

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

Gege shared with the board that the FLAEYC Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP) document is in draft form and that the edits to the prior version have been substantial. She will disseminate it to the board when she has approval to share it. Gege also discussed details of the Leadership Day scheduled for Thursday September 5 at the FLAEYC conference. Lisa Murphy is the expert who is coming to facilitate the leadership Day by addressing the business aspects of early care and education. Gege described two new chapters that have been added to FLAEYC: Director's Chapter and Play Chapter.

Bob initiated a discussion about access to health insurance for early educators. He referenced the Business Alliance for Early Learning (Florida Chapter) and shared that he has heard from private providers that they want health insurance and access to health care. He stated that there is a need for a group policy for child care, but the insurance commissioner has yet to approve it. Pinellas County is beginning to address this issue at the county level. Phyllis added that T.E.A.C.H. North Carolina has implemented a three-way pay model to make health care more affordable for early educators. Phyllis is interested in looking at the feasibility of such a model in Florida. Bob

added that in Hillsborough County, if a family's income is 138% of the poverty level, health insurance is available at no cost in a Medicare-type model. Finally, Bob shared that George Halbertson is coming to speak in Tampa as part of the Talk, Read, Sing campaign. Phyllis emphasized the importance of working with families in the very early stages of parenthood.

Chair's Report: Bob Buesing

Bob said he had already shared most of his report, but added that he had become the Chair of the Conn Foundation. The Conn Foundation allocates \$1M per year to Hillsborough County. Phyllis spoke up to say that Bob is a very humble and that he deserves a great deal of credit for the work he does on behalf of children and families. Bob replied with one of his favorite quotes "You get more accomplished when you don't care who gets credit."

There was some group discussion about Governor DeSantis's concern with the VPK program and readiness rates throughout the state. Gege shared that there is a section about appropriate assessment methods in the DAP document NAEYC drafted. Bob shared that Dr. Jason Anthony at USF is interested in conducting research on the STAR assessment (kindergarten readiness assessment) and is seeking funding through the Preschool Development Grant. Bob said he is interested in initiating a conversation with Chancellor Hall at the Florida Department of Education because the Conn Foundation is likely going to pursue these potential opportunities.

Finance Committee: Kerri Cloud, CFO

- **Financial Statements:**

Need Action: *Kerri shared that the Forum is maintaining strong financials and making great progress. Chris Card reviewed the financial statements and had no concerns or questions. Kerri shared that we are still awaiting a final WAGES contract from Hillsborough county.

- **CEO Travel & Expense Report:**

Need Action: ***CEO Travel and Expense report needs to be approved and signed by the Chair**

President's Report: Phyllis Kalifeh (see summary attached)

- **Legislative update:**

T.E.A.C.H. was funded at \$10Million again for FY2019-2020.
Help Me Grow (HMG) lost a bit of funding and stands at \$400,000 FY2019-2020.
Phyllis intends to have a meeting with the Office of Early Learning to determine if there is any chance that the program can be supplemented. If not, affiliates will have to bear the impact.
Phyllis wondered if federal trust fund dollars could be used to support HMG. Linda stated that we need legislative support for the program and that she would love to see it available statewide.
Both Phyllis and Lind expressed the need for local delegations to know about HMG.

- **Higher Education Barriers (HEB) initiative:**

The HEB initiative is going to continue for another year through funding from CCSA, National Center in North Carolina. The HEB team is re-energized and is working on issues that include developing a new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship model for the infant-toddler specialization that provides a higher financial incentive for completion, addressing the needs of dual language learners by providing credit-bearing coursework that is bilingual and bi-literate, increasing the potential pipeline of early educators with credentials by supporting the high school career and technical education (CTE) programs, and addressing barriers related to math competency for the adult learner and as instructional strategies to teach young children.

Phyllis also shared a valuable online resource called Modern States (www.modernstates.org) that provides free online tutorial services in college level academic coursework (i.e., college math) and prepares users to take a CLEP exam to earn college credit. There was a discussion about how this could be beneficial for early educators struggling with certain content. Phyllis shared with the Board the Policy paper she wrote on diversity in the ECE workforce in Florida. Phyllis emphasized that our ECE workforce closely matches the children and families served (unlike the K-12 system).

- **State Contracts**

Public procurement process for non-profit agencies for state contracts are much more laborious for state agency staff and much more time consuming. Conversely, Institutes of Higher Education are able to avoid a procurement process as state agencies have authority to contract directly with colleges and universities

To compete more actively in the contracts that are available through the state, the Children's Forum has partnered with the University of North Florida on two new contracts that begin in July and end November 30. One contract is revising the Core Competencies and Career Pathway for early educators (\$157,500 to the Forum to complete the scope of work) and the other is conducting a feasibility study relating to Child Assessments (\$45,000 to the Forum to complete the scope of work).

The Forum is also completing 6 new Kindergarten Transition summits throughout the state. These are funded through a fixed rate contract at \$5000 per Summit. The Forum previously conducted 8 similar summits during the prior two fiscal years.

- **Status of the Transition to the new Office Building:**

The Tallahassee based staff will reside in 2807 Remington Green Circle until the construction is complete in the new building. Staff are working in tight quarters and some upper level managers are working remotely until the renovations are complete. We are hoping that everyone can endure without experiencing too much discomfort and will continue to have patience with one another through the process.

Once the renovations are complete and everyone is moved into the new building, Phyllis said she would like to have a 30th anniversary celebration in the new space. She said it would be ideal to have a board meeting (December) in Tallahassee and couple it with the celebration.

Bob shared that the CEO of the United Way in Hillsborough is leaving and it is unclear what direction (fundraising or policy) the agency will take in the future.

New Business:

Next meeting: Friday September 13, 2019 in Tampa.

Closed Executive Session (N/A)

Motion to Adjourn: Phyllis will send out items for approval by email.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pintacuda
Secretary

Denise Bishop
Recording



Signature of Secretary

<<will be reviewed and approved at Sept. meeting>>
<<no quorum present>>

Minutes Approved (date)



Signature of President

<<will be reviewed and approved at Sept. meeting>>
<<no quorum present>>

Minutes Approved (date)