



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**State of the State / Elections** – We understand that nothing will happen with regard to a special legislative session to address Florida's shortfall in revenues until after the elections. We're staying tuned to what is happening at the Federal and State levels.

**Florida Afterschool Network** – We are official in being the administrative home for the Florida Afterschool Network effective October 1, 2020. Brian Hickey, FAN's executive director, will essentially become a Forum employee and our infrastructure will support FAN. Larry Pintacuda is our liaison to FAN (and I sit on the executive committee as well). Larry serves to oversee the finances of FAN so that will be an excellent role between the two entities. Their major funder, the Mott Foundation, has approved the Forum as the administrative home.

### Children's Week

- a. Potential sponsors
- b. Potential partners (who have not been engaged previously)
- c. Activities

**COVID Internally** – We have had about five positive test results with our staff since the pandemic began. Fortunately, the cases were contained and some were working remotely at the time. We are maintaining our protocols and flexibility with staff considering that school is starting. We are evaluating our employees' needs on a case by case basis given the school situation. We are still staggering schedules for those in cubicles but most everyone else is working from the office.

**Summer Webinar Series** – The Forum offered three webinars over the summer recognizing the challenges for the early childhood world with COVID. The series included:

- a. Legal Considerations for Child Care and Early Learning Programs in the Era of COVID-19 – Karen Buesing, JD
- b. Early Childhood Center Operations in the Era of COVID-19 – Pam Phelps, PhD
- c. A Day in the Life of Essential Early Childhood Educators in the Era of COVID-19 – Three teachers from Miami and Broward County

**Help Me Grow** – The annual Impact Report is included as well as our continued ask of \$4.5M to help the program expand statewide. We are trying to plant the seeds with the Florida Office of Early Learning that *Help Me Grow* can be funded through both CARES and CCDBG funding and does not have to be funded through general revenue. We know how limited GR funding is and will continue to be. We

continue to get requests from unserved communities asking how they can be a part of the *Help Me Grow* system.

**Family Friendly Employer Award** – We are pleased to be the recipient of this award and the positive recognition it brings to the Forum. There will be a virtual gala on **Wednesday, September 23, 2020** from 7:00 – 8:00 PM where we will be one of the recipients of the awards they will present that evening. Folks may attend free and the link for the link for doing so is: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/inaugural-awards-gala-silent-auction-tickets-119622414863?aff=emalmlink1> So please feel free to join us!