



## PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY REPORT

September 13, 2019

- I. **New Leadership at OEL** – As shared earlier, Rodney MacKinnon is no longer at the Office of Early Learning. Shan Goff has been hired as the new Director. She was actually Rodney's predecessor so she is a returning director. I have had the opportunity to meet with Shan prior to her assuming her new role. There have been several staff changes since she assumed her new role. Her focus has typically been in the education realm as she comes from a DOE background. The OEL submitted their Legislative Budget Request to the Florida Board of Education and T.E.A.C.H. was included at the renewal of \$10M but only \$1.8M for Help Me Grow which is the current appropriation (woefully short in serving the state).
- II. **Office Status** – We are currently in a state of transition moving from two buildings down to one and waiting for our new space to be renovated. We have been told that they anticipate the renovations to be completed by the end of October. If all works out, we should be moving at some point during the month of November. In the interim, my home office has served as a meeting space for project work as well as libraries and another staffer for our larger management team. We have learned to be flexible and adaptable.
- III. **WAGE\$** -- I shared earlier that we are working with four counties on offering Child Care WAGE\$ salary supplements to include Hillsborough County. We have included an "ask" in our legislative priorities to fund the infrastructure (our costs in administering the project) as no one wants to assume those costs at the local level. WAGE\$ is a licensed program (like T.E.A.C.H.) and there are certain standards, protocols, database requirements, and evaluations that accompany the license agreement to maintain program fidelity. This is actually, what provides the evidence for the program's effectiveness and there are costs associated with it. It makes it very challenging when one county is willing to absorb their pro-rata share of the costs and another is not. We are therefore, hoping to get OEL to fund the infrastructure but will have to go through the legislative process to do so, it appears. Otherwise, this is a battle at the local level that drains resources, time, effort, and uncertainty which is what we have just experienced with Hillsborough County.
- IV. **Special Projects** – In addition to our existing projects and programs, we are working on a contract with the University of North Florida via the Office of Early Learning to convene stakeholders and revise the Professional Development System standards and competencies due by October 31 (\$158K); host six more PreKindergarten to Kindergarten Transition Summits (\$30K); and complete a study on Child Assessments (\$50K). These funds have been made available through the federal Preschool Development Grant, which we hope will be renewed.

- V. **Alliance for Early Success** – I was invited to participate in a national meeting on workforce compensation issues and could invite two other individuals from Florida. I extended invitations to Shan Goff and Vance Aloupis who will both be attending as well. I am hoping this strengthens our “ask” for WAGE\$ funding for the legislative session.
- VI. **Children’s Policy Network Meeting** – We are organizing a meeting of stakeholders for the purpose of convening leaders to discuss the development of a comprehensive Children’s Policy Agenda for Florida’s children. Right now, we are very “siloeed” in our approach to policy and funding issues. This is an attempt to get all stakeholders to think about comprehensive strategies moving forward. The meeting will be held on 10/2/19 prior to the Zero to Three Conference in Fort Lauderdale.