



**President's Report
Activities and Progress
Strategic Plan**

September 15, 2017

...because kids can't wait!

Vision

Connected and engaged communities supporting children for lifelong success.

Mission

Through collaboration, the Forum builds and supports systems to promote positive experiences and outcomes for young children.

Guiding Principles: Good public policy is informed by research. The use of sound research to increase awareness and advocacy on children's issues and the field of child care and early learning is fundamental. Our guiding principles, therefore, are informed by research and best practices:

- Parents are the primary educators of their children; yet some parents face barriers that seriously limit their ability to be effective parents. Proven programs and adequate resources must be available to assist parents in achieving the best possible outcomes for their children.
- The foundation for physical, social and emotional capabilities is largely set during children's first few years of life and is essential to their future cognitive and academic success as well as their ability to function well in society.
- Children have the right to warm, responsive, and nurturing care from their parents and caregivers.
- Children are entitled to high quality early learning experiences including before and after school enrichment provided not only by their parents but by compassionate, knowledgeable, and trained practitioners as well.
- Families of children with disabilities and special health care needs have unique challenges and should have access to services and adequate resources designed to meet their needs and assistance to navigate systems that can help support them.
- Formal education and ongoing professional development for practitioners are critical to the optimum development of children given the correlation between practitioner knowledge, skills, and practices and improved child outcomes for later success.
- Compensation parity for early childhood and afterschool practitioners must be promoted to positively impact recruitment, retention, quality and commitment to the field.
- Collaboration with other local, state, and national organizations/agencies is the most effective strategy for supporting children, families, and practitioners to achieve shared goals.
- Professionalism, accountability, honesty, respect, integrity and excellence are minimum expectations for Forum staff and members of the board of directors.

Adopted as edited by the board of directors, October 2010

Reviewed and affirmed by the board of directors, September 2012

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS 2017-2018

Goal 1
The Forum will provide innovative, responsive assistance, support and professional development for early education and afterschool practitioners at the local, state and national levels.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
The Career Center in Miami-Dade County will serve as the hub to provide responsive guidance, support, resources, technical and scholarship assistance to partners engaged in Quality Counts to move to the new model with the Career Center. Additionally, the staff will directly provide classroom supports through Quality Counts in one regions to improve the quality of services available for children.	The Quality Counts Career Center (QCCC) in Miami-Dade County continues to serve as the hub for guidance and support in the county’s QRIS system by providing technical assistance to Quality Improvement Specialist (QIS) agencies in professional development efforts for participating programs and practitioners, the processing of scholarships in the Professional Development Registry (PDR), continuous quality improvement services to classroom teachers and collaborating with system partners in efforts to continue to support professional development for the early care and education workforce and quality of care offered to children and families.
The Refugee Project through the HHS, Administration for Children and Families will be launched to recruit and train 20 refugee women in becoming quality family child care home providers in Miami-Dade County and Broward County.	The RCCDP project has shifted to Miami with ACF approval. We have already recruited four new clients since this shift occurred. Staff are providing assistance to these clients to help them become licensed. Also, the Staff continue to provide technical assistance to existing clients to ensure sustained high quality programming of FCCHs.
The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood® Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have 26 scholars prepared to start their Master’s program at UNF this Fall ● We are formulating messaging to notify scholars, applicants, training programs

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
<p>Program providing scholarships to improve compensation, education, and retention in the field of early care and education will continue to be a valuable resource to the field. The results will be reported to policymakers and funders.</p>	<p>and advocates about the cut in T.E.A.C.H. funding and what that will mean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have more than a thousand applications received since July 1 that are now on the waitlist <p>Current T.E.A.C.H. data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 3,616 current active scholars · 367 current pending application · 1,561 applications were received in the last 3 months · 5,150 web hits on the T.E.A.C.H. web page in July 2017
<p>The Forum will operate and manage the Palm Beach Registry Services for the Children’s Services Council and the Miami-Dade Registry for the Children’s Trust.</p>	<p>Palm Beach Registry: New Practitioner Applications:109</p> <p>Miami-Dade Registry: Centers Closed: 52</p>
<p>The Child Care Evaluation Services program will provide services under contract with the Department of Children and Families (1) to evaluate applications of recognized accreditation associations for inclusion in the state’s Gold Seal Quality Care program and maintain the Gold Seal database, and (2) to evaluate applications of early childhood training providers for eligibility as Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) training program providers.</p>	<p>Gold Seal Quality Care Program</p> <p>Gold Seal Designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Facility: 1,602 · Large Family Child Care Homes(LFCCH): 86 · Large Family Day Care Home(LFDCH): 88 · Religious Exempt: 23 · School Exempt: 162 <p>Total: 1,961 Programs with a Gold Seal Designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 15 Accrediting Associations approved for Gold Seal <p>Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC)</p>

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 FCCPC training sites • 1 program is currently inactive at this time
<p>The Forum will maintain the ability to issue Continuing Education Units as an authorized provider of the International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 5-year reaccreditation application to IACET has been submitted. Our current accreditation expires on Oct. 31. When approved, our new accreditation period will run from 2017-2022. The renewal process requires in-depth document review and an onsite validation visit. • Progress on the automation of our CEU process continues. • Provided CEU Processing Services for various educational agencies, individual trainers/consultants, conference organizers, and research projects. These services benefited participants from the United Way Center for Excellence, Miami Children’s Initiative, and projects from the University of Miami and certified Conscious Discipline® instructors. • More than 1,280 participants earned CEU in learning events including trainings and conferences from June 2016 to July 2017. • Currently working with new clients including Citrus Health Network and the Florida Office of Early Learning to provide CEU eligible training and professional development opportunities throughout the upcoming year. • In talks with potential clients, Orange County Early Learning Coalition and the Duval Early Learning Directors Network, to build future CEU processing partnerships.

Goal 2
The Forum will generate and disseminate valid, reliable and current best practices, data and research informing decision-making and measuring outcomes.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
<p>Relevant research studies and policy briefs will be disseminated to various audiences to include practitioners and policy makers to inform the field and improve practices. Information can be disseminated in e-blasts to reach about 12,000 individuals in the early care and education field, on our Facebook page where we have more than 2,000 “likes” and on Twitter where we have more than 5,400 followers.</p>	<p>Note: We are now using MailChimp to disseminate information E-blasts sent through MailChimp: August 18 (Webinar: A Closer Look at the Classroom Organization Domain in the Pre-K CLASS) June 5 (Affordable Membership Options for Early Childhood Providers)</p>
<p>Grant proposals will include a strong evaluation component to test efficacy of proposed strategies and measure outcomes for practitioners and ultimately the children they serve.</p>	<p>The Forum was awarded an AmeriCorps planning grant designed to plan for submitting an AmeriCorps Implementation Grant which is to include an evaluation component. Part of the planning grant will include designing the evaluation plan.</p>

Goal 3

The Forum will provide collaborative leadership to promote effective public policy advocacy for early care and education and school-age services.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
Participate and serve on various state and national level leadership initiatives to promote effective public policy and best practice.	Two Children’s Forum staff serve on the Office of Early Learning’s Transition to Kindergarten workgroup. Also, two staff serve on the statewide Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems unique identifiers workgroup.
Engage in advocacy efforts that promote the philosophy of the organization following applicable guidelines under state and federal regulations.	The Forum continues to participate in the Early Learning Consortium to develop policy goals that are jointly agreed upon by partner organizations. This has strengthened our effectiveness. The Forum also participates in the First 1000 Days efforts.
Present and display at local, state and national conferences on relevant topics demonstrating the expertise of Forum staff and value of programs administered.	<p>The Forum had a booth and display at the One Goal Summer Conference July 19. Other booths included T.E.A.C.H., WAGE\$, Help Me Grow, and CEU.</p> <p>The Help Me Grow State Coordinating Office staff will be hosting a booth and display at the FCAAP/Future of Pediatric Practice Conference September 1-3 to interact with pediatricians and provide conference participants with informational materials.</p> <p>The Help Me Grow State Coordinating Office staff will be hosting a booth and display with TEACH at the Children’s First Conference September 8-9 to interact with conference participants and provide them with informational materials.</p>
Support the board of director’s priority to effectively engage business leaders in early childhood policy in Florida.	There have been no specific actions at this time.

Goal 4

The Forum will maintain a sustainable marketing plan in order to support local, state and national agencies in educating the public about the value of high quality early care and education and school age services.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
Continue to assess the needs of the field and secure funding to support the mission of the organization.	The Forum was recently awarded an AmeriCorps planning grant to develop an ECE field diversification and coaching model intended to be submitted under the AmeriCorps Implementation Grant.
Take advantage of opportunities to write and promote news, stories, and op-eds in various media throughout the state.	No report for this quarter.
The membership program will serve as a conduit for promoting advocacy, effective policies and practices for early care and education.	The Forum’s membership program continues to grow. As additional membership incentives, membership promotion campaigns were launched in July (One Goal membership promotion Forum beach bag filled with summer items and Forum materials). Campaigns were promoted through e-mail blasts and social media. A membership campaign is planned for September (school supplies and \$50 gift card). As of August 29, the Forum enrolled 83 members during July and August 2017.
A Forum presence on social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube) will be maintained to increase partnerships, build awareness of programs/services and receive online donations.	For the month of July, the Forum Help Me Grow Florida State Coordinating Office (HMGF, SCO) posted on social media a total of 56 times across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These posts generated 16,415 views; 76 shares and retweets; and 486 likes. On Facebook the SCO posted 20 times. On Twitter the SCO posted 19 times. On Instagram the SCO posted 17 times. These posts led to 30 new page likes on the HMGF Facebook page. As of August 30: The Forum continues to have a presence on our social media pages. Our Facebook

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
	<p>page has 2,035 “likes.” There are 5,450 followers on the Forum’s Twitter page. We also have Facebook pages for T.E.A.C.H. (1,687 likes), WAGE\$ (235 likes), and the Quality Counts Career Center (147 likes). On the Forum’s Pinterest page, we have 210 followers. On our Instagram page, we have 100 followers.</p> <p>In the future, we would like to explore Facebook advertising as an inexpensive alternative to further increase awareness of Forum programs</p>
<p>A quarterly e-newsletter will be written and disseminated capturing relevant topics and promoting collaboration among providers of services for young children. Marketing materials will continue to be developed and updated.</p>	<p>The current Forum e-newsletter is being revamped to include an overarching theme and shorter, concise articles and sections. The newsletter will still be distributed in MailChimp, however, and the anticipated launch for the next issue is October 1. The next newsletter will include Florida’s results from reports on child-well being and the state of prekindergarten and what the Forum is doing to help ensure high-quality early care and education experiences for young children. It will also include a President’s Perspective message, a Forum Corner section featuring Forum news and initiatives, and a Did You Know section featuring an infographic from some of the report results.</p>
<p>Professional development systems will be promoted and expanded throughout the state to provide career pathways for early childhood and afterschool practitioners.</p>	<p>Forum staff are engaged in planning activities for the statewide registry housed at DCF. Our registry expertise will hopefully make operations and reporting out of the new system more useful to the field. Forum staff have also been involved in the creation of a new Advanced Staff Credential which will articulate to the AS degree and be recognized as a step on the Florida Career Pathway.</p>

Goal 5

The Forum will promote compensation initiatives for early care and education professionals commensurate with the critical importance of their work.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
The WAGE\$ program providing wage and salary stipends will be promoted through the successful implementation in existing areas and publication of results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Active participants: 940 ● Participating child care programs: 325 ● 506 salary supplements were issued during this reporting period ● Six-month supplement average: \$610, the average six-month supplement is equivalent to at least \$.59 cent an hour
The WAGE\$ program will be promoted in conferences, newsletters, and response to inquiries statewide.	Exhibit table and presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One Goal Summer Conference, July 18-21, 2017 ● Children First Conference, September 8-9, 2017

Goal 6

The Forum will provide collaborative leadership and develop tools (strategies) to improve systems of care, education, and healthy development for all children and youth.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
The Professional Development Registry will be further developed and honed to serve as a valuable resource for decision-making and further deployment in the state.	Since the state’s creation of a state-wide Registry within DCF, we have been participating on DCF’s statewide Registry Advisory Committee in order to assist them to adopt National standards so that the State system will be able to support our Registry efforts in Miami and Palm Beach.
An Online Events System (OES) will continue to be refined and marketed to coalitions and other nonprofits.	Online Registration systems have most recently been included as benefits for belonging to various organizations “for free”, so we are moving towards that same model by building the OES into a benefit for organizations becoming members of the Forum.
The website will serve as the locus of information and resources for the early care and education field to include news, advocacy awareness and relevant tools to assist early care and education practitioners.	The website functionality and content continues to be updated with relevant information from the various departments and programs.
The Program Assessment Center will provide classroom assessment services to early learning coalitions and other interested parties using the Environment Rating Scales, CLASS, and training and technical assistance.	This quarter we have completed 110 Class assessments and 9 ERS assessments. Additionally we presented 1 Webinar on the Class assessment tool and were selected to present two sessions at the 1st Annual Palm Beach County ELC conference.
The Forum will create a model for leadership development for early learning to provide a venue for training both those in field and out of field to strengthen leaders to achieve positive policy changes for ECE.	No report for this quarter.
The Forum will provide leadership and administration of the Help Me Grow Florida project to increase the access and availability of services for children in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HMG State Coordinating Office presented at the One Goal Summer Conference July 19-21. Informing the audience of HMGF, screening as a best practice and how to bring HMG to their organization. ● HMG State Coordinating Office will be presenting at the Children’s First

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
communities where services are provided.	<p>Conference September 8-9. Informing the audience of HMGF, screening as a best practice, and how to bring HMG to their organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HMG State Coordinating Office met with the community partner, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, in July, to discuss a partnership between HMG and the state representatives on the Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative and to possibly integrate two indicators asking about the child's nutrition and weight into the HMGF intake process. HMGF SCO will continue to work with ELCMDM to implement these indicators and create a process to provide resource and referrals for families when they have a concern about their child's weight/nutrition. The HMG State Coordinating Office, as of July, is now a member of the Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative Committee. ● HMG State Coordinating Office participated in a state level update meeting with the Florida ECCS Impact Grantee, Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions on August 3. The HMG Statewide Director and Data Manager will be participating in the Florida ECCS State Advisory Group Meeting on September 13. ● HMG State Coordinating Office met with the Evaluation Advisory Group (EAG) in July to discuss the upcoming topics for the year and the continuation of members. Florida will continue to participate in the EAG, represented by the HMG Assistant Director. ● The federal funder of the ECCS Grant, NICHQ, hosted Data TA hours on how to collect data on and implement the ECCS monthly drivers. HMGFL Data Manager participated in this conference call in July to gather information on how to collect the ECCS indicators in the STAR System. ● HMG State Coordinating Office will be participating in the State Young Child Wellness Council as a member, in September 2017 which will focus on screening and early intervention as well as professional development, strengthening families, and multi-agency collaboration.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The HMG State Coordinating Office will be providing onsite assistance to HMG Miami to implement their first community screening event, Books Balls and Blocks, on September 30. <p>Summary of HMG Data for July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 219 new children were served ● 1368 children are open in STAR as continuing to receive services through HMG. <p>For the monthly of July, Help Me Grow served a total of 269 children in our affiliate areas. The majority of families who contacted Help Me Grow were calling about children ages 0-5. Sixty percent of our callers in July indicated that their child was educated primary at home and was not in a childcare environment.</p> <p>Help Me Grow Affiliates conducted a total of 219 screenings and made 139 referrals. The top referral categories were Developmental Screening, Communication/Speech & Language, and Behavioral Services.</p> <p>Help Me Grow Affiliates conducted a total of 148 outreach activities in July – 49 events targeted towards Families, Caregivers, or the Community; 43 events, meetings, or trainings targeted towards Health Providers/Pediatricians; and 56 event, meetings, or trainings targeted towards Service Providers/Agency Partners.</p> <p>Sustainability Activities for HMG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For the month of July the Help Me Grow Florida State Coordinating Office (HMGF, SCO) requested the stipend associated with the Learn the Signs Early

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
	<p>Ambassador program. This stipend will allow for the SCO to continue to support the HMGF Affiliates with their public awareness efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HMGF SCO also begun its second year of the two year Learn the Signs Act Early, Systems Grant (LTSAE-SG). This funding will allow for the HMGF affiliates to participate in the Books, Balls, and Blocks screening initiative. This initiative was piloted in year 1 of the LTSAE-SG with three HMGF affiliates. In year two we have been able to expand to an additional 6 affiliates. • The HMGF SCO also has begun researching other possible funding sources for Help Me Grow through Florida Grant Watch.
<p>The Forum will administer a planning grant from Volunteer Florida to determine the feasibility of launching an AmeriCorps service program aimed at recruiting underrepresented populations into the ECE teaching field.</p>	<p>The planning grant began August 1, 2017. The Forum has completed required contract documents, completed required background screenings, and is in the process of finalizing subcontracts for the work.</p>

Goal 7
The Forum will be administered in a cost effective and efficient manner ensuring adequate resources are available to carry out the mission of the organization.

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
<p>Respond to four Invitations To Negotiate or Request for Proposals that are consistent with the strategic plan goals. Assure that the potential revenue from each proposal is of a</p>	<p>Several RFPs were reviewed but none found to be viable for the Forum during this quarter.</p>

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
significant amount to warrant the time and effort to respond or of significant strategic value.	
Increase revenue from membership and the number of members by 5%.	As of August 30, 83 members became members or renewed their membership with the Children’s Forum during July 1- August 30, 2017 for a grand total of \$3,445.
Provide monthly financial reports to the Board ensuring board members are informed on the financial status of the Forum.	This has occurred monthly to keep the board informed of the financial status of the agency.
Seek opportunities to bring positive recognition to the Forum for the quality and excellence of the work the organization provides.	<p>The Forum highlighted Forum Board Members Wil Blechman for receiving a Father of the Year award and Bob Buesing who was featured in the national ReadyNation newsletter on our social media sites and will also feature them in the next Forum e-newsletter.</p> <p>The Forum had a Shining Star and Team Spirit awards ceremony where employees or groups of employees who displayed professional and personal growth as well as exemplary work that surpassed their job description were recognized among their peers!</p>
Audit and monitoring reports are positive reflecting the quality of the work of staff.	
A process for quality assurance is in place to ensure the ongoing quality improvement of services to our respective audiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 5-year reaccreditation application to Nonprofits First for agency certification in Sound Nonprofit Management was submitted earlier this year and our site visit was held on June 12. Following the 9/15/17 Board meeting, the remainder of the required documentation will be submitted and a renewal decision will be issued. When approved, our new accreditation period will run from 2017-2022, with satisfactory completion of an annual financial report.
Strengthen the internal culture of the Forum through revised staff orientation practices, morale and recognition systems and	<p><i>[PD Conference Sept 20-22]</i></p> <p><i>[Outstanding Employee of the Year award implemented]</i></p>

Objectives	1st Quarter Progress July – September, 2017
professional development opportunities.	The Forum continues to develop the monthly internal e-newsletter, <i>Forum Focus</i> , which highlights personal achievements, professional development, birthdays and anniversaries of Forum staff.