

## President's Report

December 8, 2017

### Florida's Compensation Workgroup

The Forum has been actively engaged in the conversations on early childhood workforce compensation and one of 8 states involved in this effort. Several activities have occurred to begin bringing attention to the issue and raising the conversation to a higher level to include:

- Active engagement of a workgroup convened for the purpose of raising awareness and discussing potential plans
- Development of a strategic plan for implementation to raise awareness, embed strategies, and gauge public perception of the issue.
- A survey was released to receive input from boards and the broader community to assess their knowledge, beliefs, and perceptions around early childhood workforce compensation. The results of the survey will inform our further action plans.
- Workshops and webinars have been provided to address issues of messaging and to learn from other states. One of the most recent was a webinar from the Frameworks Institute on messaging and framing the messages from the perspective of the audience.
- Additionally, the Forum is participating with a consultant provided by Nonprofits First around the issue of storytelling and developing our communications strategic plan. These efforts together will better hone our abilities to communicate effectively on the issues of compensation as well as the other important services provided.

### Legislative Activity

- I registered as a lobbyist to ensure there was no question about my ability to speak with legislators on behalf of our issues. I have met with several legislators, primarily on the Pre-K-12 Subcommittee on Appropriations in the House and Senate.
- Fely Curva who has worked with us in the past, is no longer doing budget work. I asked Claudia Davant with Adams Street Advocates to help us. Claudia and Rebecca do an amazing job and have been wonderful and responsive. We still have work to do but I feel confident about the help that we have. The Governor and the Office of Early Learning have our issues in their budgets, for which we're grateful!
- We are still working with the Early Learning Consortium where our issues are represented and agreed upon by Consortium members.

### Children's Week

- Children's Week is early this year due to session. We are excited that Dr. Blechman will be honored with the Chiles Advocacy Award – most deserving! Board members are invited to attend the Advocacy Dinner as our guest.