

**Children's Forum
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting
June 23, 2017**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LEGISLATIVE

As you probably know, the Governor called a special session to deal with the education and economic development issues. There was no change to the Forum's budget issues. We received \$3M in T.E.A.C.H. funding and the ability to carry over unspent dollars from this year, which is expected to be approximately \$2.5M. The battle for Help Me Grow funding was hard fought and we received \$1.7M which is less than this year's appropriation. Considering the political climate this year, we are fortunate that those dollars were not deleted from the budget. Sen. Anitere Flores fought hard to keep the funding in the budget. We are working with the Office of Early Learning to request that T.E.A.C.H. funding be reconsidered by the Legislative Budget Commission, inasmuch as the funding has already been drawn down, in the bank, and has no match dollars attached. Furthermore, the dollars are essential to the Performance Funding Project for the Office of Early Learning, along with the Early Learning Florida funding via the Lastinger Center at UF (which did not receive funding). If funding is not received through the LBC process, we will be forced to reduce personnel until funding is restored (which is difficult, at best) effective October 1, 2017.

The good news is that \$25M additional dollars were appropriated to serve school readiness eligible children in child care. Performance Funding Project received \$15.5M. Another notable change is that the number of coalitions are to be reduced from 30 to 25 by next fiscal year. This will likely cause some angst for smaller coalitions.

NONPROFITS FIRST RECERTIFICATION

We have been undergoing our five-year recertification process, which has necessitated the action items represented in the survey. While we did address term limits for board members in our by-laws in past revisions, we failed to remove the provision that officers could serve only two terms, which means we are in violation of our by-laws. Therefore, to correct this issue, we are asking for board members to vote to waive the 30-day prior notice to change by-laws (which is provided in the by-laws) and to vote for a change in the language. This change is reflected in the survey link.

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING MONITORING

We received our annual monitoring for OEL funded programs at the Children's Forum. Overall, the monitoring went well. There were a couple of items that were noted. The final report will be forwarded to board members when it is received.

PERSONNEL

I sent an email regarding Saralyn Grass' resignation to accept the position of Executive Director for the Association of Early Learning Coalitions. Saralyn was our statewide coordinator for the Help Me Grow program. This is a good move for Saralyn and we are supportive. We are advertising in-house for her replacement. If there are no qualified applicants internally who are interested, we will advertise externally.

BOARD MEMBER WEB PAGES

We have created a web page on our website with all of the relevant materials for orienting new members into the board as well as to serve as a locus for important corporate documents. Another page will also be available to provide all of the materials for each of the board meetings. This will facilitate easier access for members who are attending via teleconference or want to access materials before and after the meetings occur. These web pages are private and not open to the public. The link for the board member site is: <http://www.flchild.com/privatebod/> Once you click on the link, you can choose to go into the Board of Directors Member Manual or the Board of Directors Meetings.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

The survey to vote on the action items is shown below. We are asking that board members participate by clicking on the link and voting accordingly. These responses will be reflected in the minutes for the virtual meeting. The survey will be closed on Friday, June 23, 2017. Thank you for participating!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BoardActionItems>

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **Friday, September 15, 2017** in Tampa. Please mark your calendars if you have not already!

Phyllis Kalifeh, EdD
President & CEO