



President's Summary Report

T.E.A.C.H. Annual Report – Everyone should have received the report separately by mail. We have also send the report to key legislative leaders and policymakers. Claudia and Amanda at Adams Street Advocates received additional ones to share with key folks as we work on T.E.A.C.H. legislative issues.

Legislative Session – Claudia can elaborate but committees have been determined and everything is scheduled. We understand that Representative Grall is taking the lead again with the Early Learning Bill which will be re-introduced. We will be working to get T.E.A.C.H. funding at \$10M as opposed to the \$3M of recurring funding in the budget. These are all federal dollars so we're hopeful.

Children's Services Councils – As shared with the board earlier, we have two more counties that approved the establishment of a CSC – Leon County and Escambia County. We are excited to see these pass.

Minimum Wage Impact – As everyone knows, the minimum wage increase passed in Florida with a graduated increase scale beginning in 2021. We know this will impact the early childhood field and are working with others to determine impacts and policy recommendations for how we might be able to minimize the fallout for families and providers.

Higher Education Barriers Project – We completed the 18-month project through T.E.A.C.H. National Office. Our efforts centered around five major goals. Progress was made towards most of them during the period of the initiative but it is well-recognized that these efforts need to continue to remove barriers that early childhood educators face in pursuing higher education. A Communique outlining the progress and outcomes was prepared and sent to major partners. It is available on our website: <http://www.flchild.com/forum-publications/reports/>.

Children's Week – Plans are underway to host a virtual Children's Week (for the most part) with some activities that might occur in person, e.g. Advocacy Dinner (for a small group), etc. We are seeking sponsorships now for the event which are intended to provide a two-year commitment recognizing that 2021 will be a unique and unusual year. Events will begin with Advocacy Trainings in January and February focused on different areas, e.g. general advocacy, early learning, afterschool and youth, etc. The full schedule will be forthcoming and posted on the Children's Week website.

FAN – We have successfully integrated FAN into the fabric of the Forum. Everything seems to be working well and we're refining our processes and procedures to assist the Network. We are enjoying Brian's contributions to our leadership team.