



President's Summary

June 18, 2021

1. **Nonprofits First Accreditation** – Kerri has led efforts to re-accredit the Forum's status with Nonprofits First. The process has been intense but as always, it has been positive as we work to ensure that the Forum's governance, finances, and accountability measures are in place and aligned with best practices.
2. **Building Update** – The building owner has obviously been having financial difficulties (Bob can explain) and we appreciate that Bob has represented us in the latest flurry of court actions. The building is being maintained. The only thing that hasn't been done is the replacement of the windows as per our lease. We can exercise the option to have it done and deduct the costs from our rent.
3. **Child Care and Early Learning at the Federal Level** -- The pandemic highlighted the critical importance of child care as a necessity in serving essential personnel as well as being available for economic recovery. The investments at the Federal level are very significant. We have not yet seen the plan for how Florida plans to utilize the funding for the Stabilization Funds or the increases to the Child Care Development Block Grant. This wave of funding represents approximately \$1.5B to the state and must be spent by 2024.
4. **HB 419** – The bill that was introduced by Rep. Grall last year to make significant changes to VPK accountability and improve early learning passed this year. We will have a Division of Early Learning effective July 1, 2021 under the Florida Department of Education as opposed to the Office of Early Learning. The other changes are highlighted in the Impact of 419 document.
5. **Other Opportunities** – The Forum is working with two Children's Services Councils to provide a Professional Development Registry to serve as a repository of information and data for the early learning workforce. It is an important component to determine if the interventions that the CSCs are investing resources are making a positive difference. We are in the initial phases in our conversations. We are also executing a contract with a national firm to participate in a research study providing coaching services on two different type of curricula in Orange County (approximately \$90K) and working with the Office of Early Learning on virtual summits for various initiatives under the Preschool Development Grant.