



PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

March 15, 2019

- A. **Building** – We are proceeding with the sale of the building at \$675K. We do not have a closing date scheduled yet. We will lease back the building until we can be relocated to the new space.
- B. **New Office Location** – We have not yet entered into a lease agreement on the proposed space located at 1211 Governor's Square Boulevard. We have met with the owner's architect and specified the space that we will need. We are anticipating that we will be able to locate all staff on the 2nd floor with training and conference room space on the first floor. The rate of \$16 per square foot is a good rate for the location and is a full service lease (includes all utilities and janitorial services).
- C. **CDEA Founder Ellen McKinley** – As shared in an email, Ellen passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2019. Ellen was a vocal advocate on behalf of Christian early learning programs. She was also very supportive of T.E.A.C.H. and quality care. She advocated for our issues. Her funeral was on 3/11/19 in Jacksonville and I was honored to speak about her life.
- D. **Pritzker Planning Grant Submission** – The Forum is the lead agency on the Pritzker PreNatal – Three grant that was submitted to the Foundation. We had broad cross-sector collaboration, which was impressive. We will find out on 4/15/19 if we are selected. The Planning Grant is \$100,000 with the purpose to develop a policy agenda for PreNatal – Three. It was a strong application submitted under the aegis of First 1,000 Days Florida Coalition.
- E. **Ted Granger's Retirement** – Ted Granger is the President of the United Ways of Florida. He is retiring effective 6/30/19. He has done an amazing job and his retirement is bittersweet. We have worked closely together for more than 20 years and he has supported the Forum's policy priorities. We would like to honor him in some way on behalf of the Forum.
- F. **Assessment and Coaching Services Unit** – We have created a new business line under a purchase order through the Florida Office of Early Learning. We are contracting with local early learning coalitions to conduct CLASS assessments and coaching services. We have a good opportunity to earn unrestricted funding through this source.

- G. **GROW Survey** – We are conducting a survey of teachers and directors throughout the state to determine training needs. We have more than 800 respondents. The goal is to determine training needs and design training opportunities as another potential business line.

- H. **Hillsborough WAGES** -- The WAGES program has gotten off to a great start and the community is excited about it. We are hoping that other coalitions will come on board to replicate the program in their own communities.

- I. **Legislative Update** –
 - a. The Early Learning Consortium is advocating for an increase in the VPK Base Student Allocation increase. I have written the policy papers for the increase.
 - b. T.E.A.C.H. is requesting level funding for \$10 million
 - c. Help Me Grow – We are requesting \$4.5M for statewide implementation (current funding is \$2.2M) The budget bill is: **HB 4287**
 - d. Child Care WAGES Infrastructure – We are requesting \$525K to establish the infrastructure so that other counties can adopt the strategy without the costs of administration and program support. **HB 4503**
 - e. VPK Assessments – HB 1193 (Grall) and SB 1594 (Harrell) addresses appropriate measures of assessment for VPK children. We support this bill.
 - f. VPK – K Transition – HB 0871 (Ausley) addresses the need for schools to plan for appropriate transition into the schools. We support this bill.
 - g. Claudia has been a wonderful support and advocate on behalf of our issues.