

# Early Learning Advisory Council

Early Learning Advisory Council  
February 26, 2019

## Minutes

### Call to Order

*Adrian Alfonso, Chair*

- Meeting called to order, 9:03 a.m.
- Housekeeping.
- Roll Call. Members representing the following Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) and appointees: Brevard, Duval, Emerald Coast, Escambia, Flagler/Volusia, Hillsborough, IRMO, Marion, Miami Dade/Monroe, Orange, Palm Beach, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Southwest Florida, St. Lucie, Florida House Representative. Members representing the following ELCs and appointees participating via conference call: Florida's Gateway, Pinellas, Florida Senate Representative.
- Quorum reached.
- Welcome to all new members.
- Review of public comments process.

### Amendment and Approval of Current Agenda

*Adrian Alfonso, Chair*

- Motion to amend the following agenda items:
  - Move the AELC partner update to 9:15 a.m.
  - Move the Funding Formula discussion to 10:15 a.m.
  - Proceed with remaining agenda items as listed.
- Motion, Lindsey O'Toole (Sarasota)
- Second the motion, Beth Brant (Emerald Coast).
- Agenda approved, as amended.

### Approval of Past Minutes

*Adrian Alfonso, Chair*

- Motion made to approve past meeting minutes, Aakash Patel (Hillsborough).
- Second the motion, Leigh Giunta (IRMO).
- Minutes approved.

### Association of Early Learning Coalitions Update

*Lindsay Carson, Chair, AELC*

- AELC was instrumental in passing transformational legislation during 2018 that brought quality and accountability to SR.
- Was also able to thwart some detrimental legislation – i.e. increase to match requirement, mergers.
- Working to build relationships with early learning partners, including Consortium.
- Several AELC committees:
  - Leadership Committee - holding annual conference this week; about 250 participants in attendance from across the state.

- Funding Formula Committee: looking at how ELCs can approach equitable funding formula process and work to inform legislators on impact to individual communities. Partnership with APA and OEL to research issue and help inform the conversation.

### **Funding Formula Study, Discussion & Next Steps**

*Drs. Larry Miller, Kathryn Rooney, & Bob Palaich, APA*

- Hope to be able to provide information that will guide and inform funding formula conversation with legislators and understand elements of formula that each coalition can support.
- Review of APA Experience in Early Childhood Education.
- Review of Project Deliverables:
  - Written summary of secondary research on SR funding rules and regulations.
  - Three separate state case studies.
  - Framework for members to establish equity principles for SR funding formula.
- Process overview:
  - Conducted numerous Interviews with stakeholders to include Saralyn Grass, Rodney Mackinnon, Helen Blank, Shan Goff, Gina Adams, Michele Watson, Brittany Birken, and Representative Grall.

### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): We have a lot of new members, and there's no historical context. Can we go over history of funding formula and how we got to this point?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): To provide more regarding foundation, when legislature passes the budget they allocate SR funding by county. This is currently done using historical formula that has roots in the late 90's and has remained fairly stagnant. Exact origin of formula is unclear, but believe it is based on old HRS allocation to central agencies.*

- Overview of Historical Documents and Efforts
  - State has been working for about 20 years to implement a formula that counts children and allocates dollars to coalitions based on needs, including cost adjustment.
  - Big initiative took place in 2012/13 where formula was developed and implemented for one year; however, wasn't used after that first year.
  - Key takeaways are that the current process for funding ELCs is not formula based; there are lessons to be learned from 2012-13 process; and FactBook data has limitations, i.e. data quality concerns.
- Overview of State Case Studies: Colorado, New York and Texas
- Conceptual Framework for SR Funding Formula
  - Equity Standard: what equity standard should SR funding formula try to achieve?
    - Horizontal equity – “equal treatment of equals.” Same level of funding allocated for each child, regardless of unique child needs.
    - Vertical equity – “unequal treatment of unequals.” Funding for each child allocated according to child's level of need (i.e. infants funded differently than toddlers).
    - Challenge with equity – can't these two standards be combined? Yes, could do a minimum allocation for all children (horizontal), and then apply weighted allocation based on need (vertical). Consideration for what weighted factors for “need” should be.
  - Cost Differentials: how should differences in the cost of child care inputs be accounted for? How do you adjust for cost of living differences across the state?

- Should account for differences in cost of providing child care across jurisdictions? Takes into account cost differences and all children funded on price-adjusted basis. More complicated and expensive to administer; also, may require study of costs across regions.
- Cost differences should not be accounted for? Cost differences are difficult to estimate and can appear unfair; increases complexity and decreases transparency. However, costs of labor and facilities *do* vary across the state and not accounting for differences may result in inadequate funding for some communities.
- Currently, 12 states that use cost of living adjustment for k-12 funding formulas
- Child Counts: how do we define eligible children for counting purposes?
  - All eligible children – would need to use independent data source (i.e. ACS data) that is updated regularly. Counts each child only once. ACS data allows you to target families with a certain level of income and understanding of family distributions.
  - Only eligible children whose parents apply for services – already know who the families are, and have good measure of demand from families who have applied. However, do not have any measure of demand for families that did not apply. Concerns with data quality
- Closing remarks: Members are going to be confronted with a number of questions by legislators regarding what form of equity you support, whether you support cost differentials, and how you think children should be counted. Better to be informed prior to these conversations.

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Alan Bergman (Brevard): How does this take into account fluctuations in number of children applying for services? What if large influx of refugee or migrant populations?*

*Kathryn Rooney (APA): It's very important to use regularly updated information; however, a formula could be designed with a reserve built in to account for these fluctuations.*

*Bob Palaich (APA): Any time you start differentiating based on child counts, needs or cost of living, you need to make sure you have the data to back it up. Also, if a given community doesn't use its allocation, it could roll back and then be redistributed to areas that have had large influxes of children that weren't previously included in the calculation.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): What is your recommendation?*

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): Was providing a recommendation included in your scope of work?*

*Larry Miller (APA): No, that wasn't included as part of the defined scope.*

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): That's disappointing. As a board, we don't have the time or inclination to study figures. I kept waiting for the recommendation to come, which would be extraordinarily valuable to all those around this table. Presentation fell short on that end.*

*Van Mansker (Escambia): I don't think he can give a recommendation if every ELC is different and economics of each ELC are different. What he can tell us, however, is when can we receive a summary of this information so we can continue discussions? We need time to go through this if we're going to do something legislatively. When can we get PPT presentation?*

*Larry Miller (APA): We've been working with ELCs to set timeline; believe it is currently set for March 16. We weren't aware the legislature might be looking at the issue this year until about half way through the process. However, we can get you all a copy of the PPT today.*

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): I believe the AELC's intent when designing the scope of work was to get a consensus or agreement on what factors should be used.

Larry Miller (APA): Idea was to establish framework for decision making (delivered concept yesterday). Very clear that developing formula is a political process and there needs to be consensus on process as well as any formula that results. Recommendation, ultimately, is for FL to use a rational formula to allocate funding for kids. Looking at any of these factors, there are trade-offs, but better than the status quo.

Rafael Arza (House Rep.): – recommendation of options, and then look at FL's geography and diversity; believe should have non-binding recommendation form APA as experts; only meet quarterly; if there could be recommendation that shows the formula and different factors; use k-12 formula as starting point

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): How does accountability and performance of ELCs play into formula?

Larry Miller (APA): We didn't talk about performance funding today because state is still implementing 1091 and providers are beginning to be paid based on quality. Going forward, could set up account where you have matching fund for coalition quality rating system, where proportion of centers rated xx or higher, or accredited in a community would receive extra weight.

Linda Shaughnessy (Orange): Are we talking about allocation of new or all money?

Victor Mraz (SWFL): We can say all we want that we only want it to apply to new money, but once legislators get it in their hands, all bets are off.

Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): Where is the legislature on tackling this issue?

Lindsay Carson (AELC Chair): We've had conversations with a legislator that want to take this on. Would like to work collectively/collaboratively with them on this.

Rafael Arza (House Rep.): Have any bills been filed or funding request made? When is bill filing deadline?

Lindsay Carson (AELC Chair): Not to our knowledge; ELCs don't typically do special budget request.

Elizabeth Moya (OEL): Currently, only one member who has been looking at this issue for this year. Bill filing deadline is next Tuesday. It's not yet safe to say we won't see a bill; anything can happen within the next 90 days - amendments could be filed, something could show up in the budget. Representative Grall has been speaking with a number of people and has had open conversations about the issue. The issue has also been topic of discussion in past years.

Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): What kind of timeline is there if something does happen? Unsure if we're only having broad conversation or if there is something on the table and we're looking at because of possibility?

Elizabeth Moya (OEL): Realistically, could be as short as a single day; but yes that is correct.

Rafael Arza (House Rep.): Issues like this become very hot issues during the process, and a lot of work has to be done early on, to get buy-in from stakeholders and then propose recommendations to legislature.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): So, is this conversation regarding new money only?

Larry Miller (APA): Our charge was to consider only new money.

Lindsay Carson (AELC Chair): From AELC perspective, one thing we all agree to, is that it doesn't make sense to move existing money around from a system that doesn't have enough resources to begin with. However, want to identify formula so that as more funding becomes available, there's an equitable way to allocate money to areas. We can make recommendations, but ultimately the legislature will make call.

*John Birney (Flagler/Volusia): We need a better way to explain this to our board members and communities. Transparency is important in this environment as well as being fair; but so is quality. Find a way to make transparent and fair, without hurting anyone, and then load up on quality.*

*Larry Miller (APA): Background is in school finance funding from cradle to college, and we're talking about breadcrumbs in ECE when compared to funding levels for k-12 and higher education. If we could have formula, then could move beyond to talk about how to get resources truly needed.*

*Linda Shaughnessy (Orange): Where do we go from here? We spend a lot of money and we have come up with this. But what's the process of moving forward? What was the intent?*

*Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): What's next? Unclear on what the takeaway is, or if there's action item from the group.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): We all need this information to discuss with our individual ELCs and boards to understand what will work for each of us locally. If we're fairly confident there's not going to be any action this session, think we should do more research, get recommendations and table the issue for now.*

*Larry Miller (APA): Just to be clear, this project had a very small scope and recommendations were not included. To do what is being asked is a much larger study.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): So, if APA is not in position to give recommendations to the board, are funds available to continue this work?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): AELC paid for half; OEL was able to do a contract revert and devote some funds as well. But this is the end of budget year and don't have appropriation for it.*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep.): To do this in a conscientious manner, and to answer John Birney's question regarding fairness, in order to pass something of this magnitude there would need to be some sort of agreement and buy in from the majority. Issue is never going to go anywhere because someone will cry unfair to children and it will end up in lawsuit. Issue will transform program operations and will require incredible amount of thought. I don't think we will ever get to 100% fairness, but will get to level of agreement that we're working toward fairness; example of k-12 FEFP.*

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): [Question to APA] - Who typically engages you for these type of studies? States or coalitions?*

*Elizabeth Moya (OEL): Think where AELC was coming from was to get ideas, talk to EDs and chairs on what we can change and do so that when the legislature does ask about it, then the ALEC, EDs and Chairs could all have one common statement. This process was intended to start that discussion.*

*Larry Miller (APA): Have been working with a collective impact group in Texas but can work directly with states. In SWFL, we were engaged by local philanthropist.*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep.): Is there anywhere in America that has done state constitutional amendment to put funding formula in place for early childhood?*

*Bob Palaich (APA): Don't know of one. Not aware of any lawsuits on ECE at the moment, because often constitutional responsibility is for k-12 and not early education. Previous learning and international comparisons show that countries that are doing a good job are investing in early education.*

*Larry Miller (APA): There is case law out of New Jersey that could borrow from, pick up on (Abbott Cases).*

**Ten Minute Break**

## Meeting Called Back to Order at 10:50 a.m.

### Strategic Planning Wrap-Up

*Adrian Alfonso, Chair and Aakash Patel, ELC of Hillsborough*

- Met in Tampa back in July 2018 on revamping mission and vision statements; call held in August with committee.
- Would like to go over vision and mission statements board recently voted and approve one of each.
- Results of initial board poll: received a total of 19 votes.
- Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep.) – For those that forgot to complete survey; was survey final vote??
- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough) – No, we’re going to over each along with initial votes from survey and Final vote will be today.
- Review of Mission Statements:
  - Option 1 Mission Statement: 36.84% on survey vote
  - Option 2 Mission Statement: 42.11% on survey vote

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep.): Wrote the first one, and think OEL tweaked it and provided two other options. Think mission statement needs to be comprehensive so people understand exactly what our mission is and I believe very strongly that part of our mission needs to be maintaining affordability; child care right now in private pay market is unaffordable for most people.*

*Van Masker (Escambia): Should they say, “...provide recommendations to legislative and executive and/or OEL?”*

*Robert Colen (Marion): OEL is included in executive branch.*

*Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): OEL falls under executive office of Governor. Will take a motion when ready if we have consensus on mission statement.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Are we going to vote on it again or are we going to adopt whatever the initial results were?*

*Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): We can vote as board to adopt one*

- Motion made to adopt Mission Statement Option 1, Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep.).
- Second the motion, Katrina Lunsford (Polk).
  - Can we just move to vote? (xx)
  - Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Say we just vote on it.
- Ask for Roll call vote: 6 nays; 13 yeas
  - Nays: Rafael Arza, Jarrod Trefelner, Lindsey Toole, Robert Colen, Beth Brant, Marcus Rowe
  - Yeas: Victor Mraz, Anna Weaver, Katrina Lunsford, Howard Burnston, Linda Shaughnessy, Adrian Alfonso, Leigh Giunta, John Birney, Van Mansker, Alan Bergman, Aakash Patel, Ellyn Bogdanoff

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Is there a reason why the people that are saying no to number none? What is it that you would like to see changed? Could we discuss?*

Jarrold Trefelner (St. Lucie): Fan of number 2; think it gives us short and concise direction and gives us flexibility in other directions that we may or may not want to go. The more you try to define a mission statement, you end up stuck in a box. Like keeping it as broad as possible.

Marcus Rowe (Duval): I agree with Jarrold; we can define processes later but I think mission statement should be very succinct and tell us exactly what our marching orders are and what direction we're going in, and then we can talk about the process or the how's afterward but I don't want to be locked it or have it so rigid that we can't direct how we work within that framework.

Rafael Arza (House Rep.): I would just echo that it's too wordy; number 2 more succinct and to the point.

Beth Brant (Emerald Coast): Think mission statement should be something we can just rattle off at a moment's notice when talking to somebody without having to look at our notes or read all of this, that we've lost somebody before we get halfway through.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): So I would say let's vote for the one that got the most votes initially, which is the second one, the shorter version and we'll see what happens and take it from there. If that's the one that got the most votes, then we should put that one up first.

Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep.): There's an existing motion on the floor and we had a vote, so you've got to finish that one off and if it passes it passes. And I hear you all but we also have the vision statement, and the vision statement to me is short and succinct and tells everyone what our vision is. Our mission statement, in my opinion, should be a little more detailed. You should be rattling off what your vision is. A lot of people have three and four statements for their mission. So, I would respectfully disagree but from a process standpoint, we already have a motion on table and I think we need to complete that before we make a second one. If someone wants to do substitute motion, that's fine, but need to follow proper rules.

- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): So the motion
- Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): Would like to make motion to table the initial motion so we can have further discussion on the distinction between the two options.
- Jarrold Trefelner (St. Lucie): Second the motion.
- All in favor with 2 opposed to the motion.
- Second motion clears.

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): To be clear, we're not putting aside that motion; we're tabling it for the time to have further discussion, then we need to come back and bring closure to that original motion one way or the other before going on to another one. The distinction between the two that are up for discussion are the additional distinguishing factors, right? So, is there something controversial or something that we should be discussing or understanding why those distinctions are included in this mission statement? For me, it's a question to the author for why these factors were chosen and why this language was included. If this is our mission, why are these the factors we should be using to guide our mission?

Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep.): When I looked up mission versus vision initially, found definition that said mission statement defines a company's business, its objectives, and its approach to reach those objectives. So, felt like based on my experience in early learning world, that this describes what we should be doing. We are in this to make sure that the kids at greatest risk of failure have an early start which is our core mission, and then how do we get there? We get there by use of best practices, quality measures, accountability and at the end of the day, the third component was how do we reach those

objectives? We also have to make sure it's affordable. How we get there is through best practices, quality measures and accountability, but if we're not careful, we could make it unaffordable because quality is expensive. So, that's what my justification was, it's what the system is, and I had many conversations with those I consider the best experts in the field; it wasn't done alone so I don't take credit for completely authoring this. I talked to a lot of people I have tremendous respect for who live and breathe early learning.

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Just to give a little background, at the ELAC meeting in July of 2018, we came up with items and the committees broke out and these are the topics that were started; have had several calls since. Were actually 4 previously and then combined into 3. They've been vetted several times but know we have a lot of new faces in the room so this may be first time you're seeing them. But would like to pass one today, so we can continue with our vision statement and move forward.

Rafael Arza (House Rep.): Would just echo what Beth brought up in that it should be simple. It doesn't take away from anything that was included in the first one, but for the sake of simplicity and being able to get a simple message out. That's the only reason. There's nothing in number one that I would be against, it's just too wordy.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): If I could read the differences in the two and maybe that will help bring clarity to the room. [Read aloud definitions for both mission statement and vision].

Katrina Lunsford (Polk): As a result, there's more detail in the mission statement.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): So where do we stand? Let's move forward and take a vote.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): So, I think we're between the first one and the second one, I say we vote on it and see how it comes out.

Leigh Giunta (IRMO): But didn't we take a vote on the first motion, to be technical? We already voted. It may have been premature, but we did technically take a vote.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): But then it wasn't recorded properly so we need to do it again.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): The numbers that Rodney got is not in line with the number of people here.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): I gave up and began to count just the no's.

Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): For what it's worth, I requested a roll call but we didn't do that.

Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Can we just call the names off and have everybody say yay or nay? That seems to be the simplest.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That's just what I was about to propose. So, did you all want to vote for one, or do roll call vote and indicate option one or two?

- Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): From a procedural standpoint, if we reopen the vote on first one, that's the motion that's was tabled. In other words, the motion that is up for consideration is the vote on longer of the two mission statements. I'll make motion to reopen the vote on the first long mission statement and then close that vote one way or the other, and if it passes it passes; if not, then procedurally we can move on the other.
- Rafael Arza (House Rep): I second the motion to reconsider.

- Motion to reopen first vote on longer mission statement: All in favor.
- Rafael Arza (House Rep): I'd like to make a motion to amend the current motion that members choose either one or two. Number one is the longer, and number two is the shorter.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): I'll second the motion.
- Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): (Roll Call).
  - Option One: Chairs Bergman, Mansker, Birney, Patel, Giunta, Burnston, Lunsford, Weaver, Mraz, Bogdanoff
  - Option Two: Chairs Rowe, Brant, Colen, Alfonso, Shaughnessy, Phillips, Toole, Trefelner, Arza

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Can I ask a question? I'm always into the majority, but do we really want to have a mission statement that is so divided?*

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): Can I change my vote to where I will accept either?*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep): No, that's out of line.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): There's a motion on the table. Let's get your vote and tally it up.*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Are there any chairs on the phone that did not vote?*

*Leigh Giunta (IRMO) Do we have any interims that voted? Does their vote count?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): We've been going back and forth with the Governor's office. I'm not sure where we've landed. Maggi, can you chime in on whether or not interims can vote?*

*Maggi Parker (OEL): I believe we've come down the side that they can attend and participate but cannot vote because they are not appointed by the governor. Since statute defines ELAC members as board chairs that have been appointed by the governor, we've recommended that they not vote.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): But that is a recommendation?*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep): That's a legal recommendation from your attorney.*

*Maggi Parker (OEL): Absolutely, part of the issue is that it's unclear. We hope to have people appointed to resolve that.*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Barring further confirmation from the appointments office, that's where we are at this point.*

*Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): We can make a decision to accept their interim votes, correct?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): We can vote on that certainly.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): What's the count now?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): There are currently 10 votes for option 1, and 9 votes for option 2. If take out interim chairs, vote is deadlocked.*

*Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): If I may, from a procedural perspective...*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep): So, the motion is deadlocked and it dies. So, I'd like to make a motion to adopt number one.*

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Wait a minute. We have to decide whether or not we're going to accept the interim vote.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): The recommendation of the attorney is that we can't accept his vote, as much as I think we should*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep): Out of respect for that, that's why I'm making the motion to adopt number one. Is there a second on the motion?*

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): I'm sorry, I thought it was still unclear. Didn't someone make a motion to decide whether or not the board would accept interim votes?*

*Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): No, motion was never made.*

- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Ok, there is a motion to adopt number one. Is there a second?
- Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Second.
- Howard Burnston (Palm Beach): I apologize, but I was trying to get motion in before that motion to short circuit this and, because we are split pretty clearly down the middle, to not go forward with this vote but instead to charge going back and revisiting this and bringing it to another meeting. Mission statement is something we should come to agreement on.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): We've been working at this for a long time; I'd like to see if we can get the first one passed to at least get something on the books. We can always motion to work on it after the fact and change if needed.
- Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): (Roll call).
  - Yeas: Chairs Bergman, Mansker, Patel, Giunta, Alfonso, Burnston, Lunsford, Weaver, Toole, Mraz, Trefelner, Bogdanoff, Arza, Anderson.
  - Nays: Chairs Rowe, Brant, Colen, Shaughnessy, Phillips.
- Motion on adoption of Mission Statement Option 1 passes: 14 yeas and 5 nays.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): On to the vision statement.
- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): The vision statement is a little clearer; you can see the results from the survey. Just want to state again that we have been working on this since July of last year. (Read Vision Statement with most votes from survey).
- Victor Mraz (SWFL): Motion to adopt clear winner of survey.
- Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Second.

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

Linda Shaughnessy (Orange): Why are we limiting ourselves to only SR and VPK; why can't we say all programs?

Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Great question, and that actually came up on one of our calls. Believe it has to do with the statute for ELAC, which limits ourselves. There's a motion on the floor?

- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): All in favor?
- All yeas, none opposed. Vision statement adopted unanimously.

- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Before we wrap up strategic planning, Senator Bogdanoff had talked about some statutory changes and possible discussion topics for March meeting.
- Elyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Have discussed this at prior meetings, in terms of what we were looking to do, and that was to give advisory council the teeth that it used to have. Had conversation with Representative Grall to see who might be willing to sponsor this. Think she is doing a comprehensive early learning package. We did have an extensive conversation on governance issue, which she said would be a part of the mix. So, even though we could possibly get a standalone bill, because of what their plan is with early learning, it will not be standalone. I had a very, very brief conversation with Commissioner Corcoran, but he was not focused on all of these issues at the time and was still trying to iron out the budget. Told him I would circle back since he will be instrumental since this area under his purview. Promised Representative Grall I would circle back once session started; however, whatever comprehensive bill that may come out of legislature, and she said they will very strongly consider, quite frankly, one of two things could happen:
  - Could give teeth and opportunity to advise governor with real recommendations that could be implemented; or
  - Not having the council exist anymore.

Right now, no one has to listen to us. We can all have independent conversations with the governor and can lobby on our own, but for most of the chairs... how we exist right now, and one of the reasons we did this is because we were having trouble getting participation because no one understands what our value is. Our value used to be actually having the direct ear of the governor. I think we could go one of two ways. One, is to go back and implement the changes you see before you after discussions with many of the members of ELAC we've talked about this issue, or the other is to eliminate the council all together.

#### **\*Questions/Comments\***

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): What's the timing of us knowing which way this is going to go?*

*Elyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): The bills haven't really come out yet in terms of what Representative Grall is going to be doing. Obviously, bills have to be filed by Tuesday, unless they're committee bills, which can come up at any time, and of course bills can be amended at any time. There are a couple of bills out there that could be amended, but I will circle back with Representative Grall next week when session starts to check on status and can report on status to OEL on discussion.*

*Leigh Giunta (IRMO): Think it's important for everyone sitting in this room today, but obviously there is a lot of great work that's been done by this organization, and I think it's important that everyone's voice in this room is heard by Representative Grall on how we feel/stand. Not sure if there is a letter that can be drafted on ELAC's behalf and have all of us sign it and send it to her, but I think it's important that we're heard.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): I'm fine sending a letter and having everyone sign it, but would that have to be done before Tuesday?*

*Elyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Tuesday is deadline to file bills, but we still have time to express what we want as a group. Don't know how everyone feels; got the impression that we made these changes to statute because we needed to have more of a say in early learning. We do a lot of great work, but we're not advising the decision maker (governor).*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Discussed that at length last time in July and think everyone was on board with having to make that change.*

*Jarrold Trefelner (St. Lucie): Does Representative Grall know how we feel?*

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): Yes; made that very clear.*

*Jarrold Trefelner (St. Lucie): I know Representative Grall pretty well and pretty sure she knows how we feel on this and is going to push pretty hard whether we send her a letter or not.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Senator, will it help to draft letter of support as additional support from entire council? Can you draft letter? Letter we can all send to everyone we know as well.*

*Ellyn Bogdanoff (Senate Rep): I don't think it hurts, because you also have people like Jennifer Sullivan making decisions on early learning. I would address the letter not just to Erin Grall but address to speaker and copy Jennifer Sullivan, Erin Grall and education policy and quality committee members. Yes [I can draft the letter].*

- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Final item we have to discuss for the strategic planning wrap up was regarding committees. For those that are new, we normally assign committee chairs and committee assignments around this time, so we want to get that done today. What our strategic plan group called for was condensing to 3 committees: Best Practices & Communication, Policy, Legislation & Finance, and Strategic Plan.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Feel is that everyone still wants committees, but in my experience, we form these committees and then no work happens with committees in between meetings. Also, from OEL perspective, staff resources aren't there to assist with helping chairs; so, they're asking for ELC or individual member support.
- Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Correct; if we have person(s) on two hour call and doing fair amount of prep work for call, times that by three committees and then there's no result; that's 2% of workforce tied up. If there's important work and it's getting done and local coalitions can help out, that would be greatly appreciated.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Another comment, since there's chance ELAC may not exist in a few months, should we table this until we know what might happen statutorily? Next meeting is a month away; not sure how much work is going to happen between now and next meeting anyway, and have packed agenda.
- Jarrold Trefelner (St. Lucie): We need a motion to table this?
- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): The only suggestion I would have is that we don't need choose chairs or vice chairs, but just get a feel for who wants to be on what and then can announce it at the next meeting.
- Marcus Rowe (Duval): Is the purpose of committee to inform ELAC in between meetings?
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Each chair of the committee decides with the committee what they want to look into, and there's usually one or two things they look at during the year. Idea is for committees to get together between each meeting and discuss matters that will come before the larger ELAC council. Usually have breakout times where committees have discussion and then report out. There are times committees do great work and other times where work doesn't get done. Knowing our next meeting is a month away and knowing possibility ELAC might not even be here, we can see who's interested in chairing each committee.

- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Can we get a show of hands for who wants to be on each committee?
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Why don't we get a chair for each committee, and then ask everyone to email Jessica later for committee they would like to be on, and everyone should be on at least one committee. Is there a motion to table to next meeting and we'll select chairs for each committee?
- Marcus Rowe (Duval): Motion to table.
- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Second.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): All in favor? Opposed? Motion passes (all yeas; one nay). Would like to hear why you oppose.
- Leigh Giunta (IRMO): There's nothing final that says this organization isn't going to exist. Not into looking at the negative side but more of the positive and focusing on all the good work that's already been done and continuing in that same fashion.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Being realistic and knowing what's happened before, I don't think anything is going to get done in March, since agenda is tight. My recommendation would be get committee chair for each one, get committees together, and if chair wishes to have meeting prior to March meeting, they can work with OEL staff.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair):
  - 1 – Policy, Legislation, and Finance Committee Chair: Leigh Giunta (IRMO)
  - 2 – Best Practices and Communication: Marcus Rowe (Duval)
  - 3 – ELAC Strategic Planning and Rules: Aakash Patel (Hillsborough)
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Does everyone know what committee they want to be on? (Went around and members indicated their committee preferences).
  - 1 – Arza, Trefelner, Mraz, Toole, Burnston, Alfonso, Bergman
  - 2 – Weaver, Birney, Brant
  - 3 – Lunsford, Shaughnessy, Colen, Mansker, Anderson
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): To the extent that chairs what to have meeting prior to March ELAC, more than welcome to coordinate that.
- Rafael Arza (House Rep): Based on Mr. Mackinnon's comments, I don't know how much staff you really need, other than maybe one person, not to take away from the other tasks you have at the office. It's coordinate the meeting and keep the notes.
- Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): It would help if the coalition that the chair is from could provide support.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): But they'd also have to coordinate with staff at OEL.
- Victor Mraz (SWFL): It's not a viable solution to have local coalitions help staff committees. They are already overloaded with everything they have going on. Propose if we're forming committees, especially the executive committee, that we remove some of the ELAC meetings to provide that additional staff. Have about 12 from office here today, that a little bit over, if you ask me. I don't know what all goes into these meetings, but to be able to do that four times a year. If we could strip one or two of those meeting out, that would provide the man hours and labor inside of your budget to be able to facilitate the committee and actually provide actionable items for the one or two times we do meet a year.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Part of proposed changes that Senator Bogdanoff is trying to get through would establish an executive committee; if that happens, my recommendation would be to have executive committee meet 2 times, and then the larger council could meet 2 times in coordination with other meetings, conferences, etc. Going back to staff, I think based on statute OEL is supposed

to provide support staff for the council. If OEL staff can coordinate with chairs, and will take it from there.

- Aakash Patel (Hillsborough): Members that are not here, if there are EDs in the room, please let them know and send note to absent chairs to see which committee they would like to join.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): My recommendation is to send email to chairs that aren't here and let them know that they need to select committee.
- Marcus Rowe (Duval): They don't have to be equal, but they should be sort of balanced.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): EDs also participate in breakouts, so they get pretty even.
- Marcus Rowe (Duval): Are committee topics informed by what's coming out of OEL or do we want to tackle items that result from discussion during meetings? Think it would be better if it's coming from the group.
- Adrian Alfonso (Chair): I always encourage members to provide agenda items for discussion. Committee chairs, to extent you want to meet, work with OEL staff to schedule meeting(s) prior to March. Do we have initial OEL staff that chairs should reach out to?
- Jessica Fowler (OEL): They can reach out to me initially, and I will work with Rodney and Stephanie to assign who at OEL will be staff contact for each committee

#### **Ten Minute Break**

#### **Meeting Called Back to Order at 11:59 a.m.**

#### **Agency Update**

*Rodney Mackinnon, Executive Director, OEL*

#### **Budget Update**

- Trust Fund Balance & Utilization Plan
- Two Year Supplemental CCDF Allocation Balance & Utilization Plan
- Performance Funding Program/HB 1091 Sustainability for Years 3 – 5
  - Realize there are new chairs, would like to establish basics of a school readiness financing.
  - SR 80% federally funded; main funding stream is CCDF.
  - Challenges with federal funding include: FFY that runs different to state FY; timing of awards is irregular, often find out funding amount after FY has begun, which makes planning and budgeting difficult; disbursements are irregular.
  - State funding: around August/September, OEL works with Governor's office to submit agency LBR; Governor comes out with budget recommendations; House and Senate get together during last two weeks of session to agree on actual budget.
  - Additional wrinkle this year with transition in governors. Our initial LBS was revised.
  - Using fund balance: had previously built up large trust fund surplus balance. Had planned to draw down approximately \$20-\$30 million a year, and would have reached equilibrium about now. However, several non-recurring projects that had been regularly funded that were not funded in '17-18 (supplemental TEACH, HIPPPY, Lastinger, etc...).
  - Additionally, received sizable increase in federal funds of \$135 million per FFY.
    - Received directive from ACF-OCC to pay registration fees if providers charge them. Estimate this will cost approximately \$15 million/year.
    - Estimate that HB 1091 payment differentials for program assessment and child assessment will be about \$45 million/year.

- Slot funding: SR funding in general goes into large line item that includes admin, quality and direct services. Doesn't yet include performance funding differentials or registration fees. ELCs get allocation and boards balance between provider rates and services.
- Layout of plan to incorporate additional federal funds
- Additional federal funds pay for approx. 110,000 FTEs a year. Currently have additional projects that are spending down the money. Currently covered by additional federal funds.
- When budgeted, took pretty conservative approach since we won't know until November if we will receive additional funds. So, have glide path if we find out we will not be receiving additional funding, there won't immediately be \$75 million hole in the budget, but instead will be able to ease out of it.

**\*Questions/Comments\***

*Rafael Arza (OEL): Why is there no performance funding \$12 million projected for 19-20?*

*Rodney MacKinnon (OEL): Performance funding is now essentially statewide, HB 1091 - so it is covered in 2 line items: Performance HB 1091 line item at \$45 million and admin to ELCs down at Implementation HB 1091 as well. There is additional implementation funding, but it's recurring.*

*JB Birney (Flagler/Volusia): Saw presentation of fraud in Miami-Dade; this line item has doubled – is that money they give ELCs to put towards fraud collection or money we get back?*

*Rodney MacKinnon (OEL): Really is a bookkeeping exercise. When ELCs recoup funds, OEL needs authority to give back to be able to spend. So, we went up to \$950,000 because believe in '17-18 got up to \$480,000 in restitution and wanted to make sure could give back all money collected.*

- Current Budget Year Surplus/Deficit
  - Can't provide information until payments are reconciled. Know that will take some time and expect there will be some reversion of funds this year. In a typical year, revert somewhere between \$5 and \$10 million. Expect because received mid-year legislative appropriation, and difficulties with EFS mod and portals, don't believe will be able to spend all of additional \$60 million, which will go back into surplus. If you look at glide path, that's why it may seem lower than it should be in the second year, but we're anticipating reversions.

**\*Questions/Comments\***

*Van Mansker (Escambia): What happens if SR is not reconciled by end of the year due to Mod issues?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That would be problem; we would have to continue to reconcile and would have to do after the fact amendments to reporting. Think can keep window open late into August, but not sure of exact date. Just to be clear, that is just the knowing of actual numbers. It's not going to be perfect in any year, but as perfect as they are in a normal year. That does not include any sort of actual repayments; those can go into next fiscal year.*

**Legislative Update**

*Elizabeth Moya, Legislative Affairs Director*

- Bill filing deadline this Tuesday. Language related to early learning can show up at any time in form of amendment.
- Senate Bill 1144 by Senator Montford, related to Foster Care differentials; would give foster families an additional \$300 with subsidies to pay for additional cost of child care. General Revenue.

- House Bill 1138 by Senator Simmons, repeat of last year’s bill; related to virtual VPK program, at home and online, computer based VPK program.
- Senate Bill 970/871, asks ELCs, school districts, K-12 institutions and surrounding child care to coordinate specific orientation for new kindergartners.
- House Bill 1027 by Representative Aloupis, related to an informal pathway for child care providers.
- Number of bill drafts related to early learning that have not been filed; interest in VPK, kindergarten readiness and SR; stay tuned.

### \*Questions/Comments\*

*Rafael Arza (House Rep): Anything going on in Education Appropriations for VPK? What did governor or commissioner of education recommend on VPK?*

*Elizabeth Moya (OEL): In terms of funding, Governor is recommending maintaining VPK BSA and increase for workload. Can work alongside members to encourage an increase to the VPK BSA.*

#### VPK Readiness Rates Update

*Rodney MacKinnon, Executive Director, OEL*

- Slide lays out timeline of process.
- Hope to finalize rates in March 2019.
- Rates are not held against providers this year; if provider exceeds rate, can come off probation.
- Representative Grall will probably tackle the readiness rate issue, so look to see some change.

#### EFS Modernization Update

*Amy Mathis/ Melanie May*

- Deployed VPK attendance module back in December; reimbursement module associated with that deployed in January; as of yesterday – at 97% of attendance for VPK classrooms submitted by providers (based on enrollments in system) and 93% of attendance was calculated in the system.
- Kudos to ELCs for being able to jump in there and get processed in such a short timeline.
- Regarding SR, release scheduled for Thursday evening this week. Still finalizing testing in this area; all options include deploying this week; have some big features in addition to SR attendance and reimbursement; also have 19-20 provider profile and contracts for 19-20 year. Options on the table:
  - 1st option – deploy everything if testing goes well.
  - 2nd option – deploy and allow providers to start submitting attendance, but would instruct ELCs to leave in submitted state and not process until 100% certain that testing efforts are complete for reimbursement.
  - 3rd option – if it looks like still need more time on attendance piece, deploy on Thursday, but hide attendance so providers are not able to submit until all ELCs that have been helping through UAT say that everything looks ok.
- Regardless, when we do release attendance, OEL feels in talking with ELC staff on the front line, from OEL’s standpoint, don’t want to communicate with providers to let them know SR attendance is ready because want ELCs locally to be able to come up with their own plan of how they want to communicate with providers – i.e., tackle in stages, and focus efforts on batches of providers.
- Know with data migration issues we’ve had in the past; know that will never be 100% ready that everyone across the board is going to feel that every single data fix is done and ready to move forward. To the point someone made earlier, the quicker we can get attendance out there and start to address remaining issues, quicker we will get to light at the end of the tunnel.

**\*Questions/Comments\***

*Linda Shaughnessy (Orange): Going back to slide 25 on gliding path or current surplus/deficit, what's the worst case scenario on what would have to be picked up by local coalitions and when?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): The impact on the ELCs is more in terms of the allocation; it's not going to impact them in terms of staff time and frustration; that's the real impact. In terms of the allocation, the money's there.*

*Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): Haven't really heard an end game on when will be fully rolled out. Obviously there's a lot of frustration in individual ELCs and the lack of ability to tie accounting back; the elephant in the room is that I would ask for commitment from OEL that will allow one month budget rollover that allowed two years ago. Only thing I can think of that we would need or really need you to commit to. Normally I wouldn't push on the issue, because I understand implications and downside. But this year OEL needs to shoulder responsibility for what has happened with EFS Mod; we're sitting in Feb and talking about end of Feb partial release of testing for SR. Would like to hear you commit today to one month rollover, definitely top of mind at meetings.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): Think extends lot farther than that.*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That's something we can do; will commit to that. Only caveat would give is that I believe that is based on interpretation of the last administration of federal awards; I don't see how that changes, but there could possibly be that; absent that, yes, makes sense.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Concern with individual audit findings; asked for letter from OEL which I think we received. There is a letter that covers ELCs being dinged on anything that is resulting from EFS, if don't have, OEL can circulate. Letter speaks to only monitoring certain items and any audit findings, ELCs shouldn't be held responsible for in any way, since out of our control.*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Correct, if tied to EFS system.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): That's kind of like steroids in baseball. So, are you going to be an asterisk next to our name in the hall of fame, because the audit finding was not due to our control?*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): From an audit perspective, if they are out auditing and they find something, regardless of what caused it, it's a finding and they have to report it.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): Exactly, so in 10 years from now, if somebody looks at the audit report or whatever or they're doing an evaluation of the system, hypothetically, EFS Mod isn't going to get brought up, and all the problems we're going through. Like I said, it'll be like steroids in baseball, there's going to be an asterisk.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): I would get a copy of that letter, review it and see if you're happy with it or if you'd like to ask for additional coverage.*

*Katrina Lunsford (Polk): Can we get a copy of the letter?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Believe chairs were all copied on it, but we can resend it out.*

*Van Mansker (Escambia): What is the plan B if we can't do contracts in Mod in April?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That can't happen. I suppose if somehow in the next 6 weeks we find that contract process, would cross bridge when came to it. Really the way it's set up, shouldn't be a problem with that.*

*Van Mansker (Escambia): So, no plan B?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Plan B would be to do a file export; we could print out paper copies and do that way as stop gap. I can talk to IT team about further possibilities.*

*Amy Mathis (OEL): Contracts are currently in development.*

*Lindsey Toole (Sarasota): Can you comment on, so we have been using estimated numbers for SR payments, and eventually from my understanding we will be going backwards on that from the standpoint on getting real calculation for students served. What is expectation of ELCs on getting back overpayments from providers?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Would do an adjustment of future disbursements. OEL would defer the local ELCs relationship and sense of provider. If needed OEL to be heavy and tell providers they need to repay by date certain, then can do that. ELCs would have best sense of each provider and ability to repay.*

*Adrian Alfonso (Chair): If one of provider's is out of business when do reconciliation, OEL expect ELC to get from unrestricted funds?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): No – that currently occurs now in isolated incidents, and we don't assess disallowed costs against ELC.*

*Lindsey Toole (Sarasota): It's not the burden of the provider, but was placed on them by OEL; have smaller providers in small ELCs that will be potentially detrimental to their practice.*

*Katrina Lunsford (Polk): Are there any potential guidelines for potential collection period, i.e. will be left up to local board, is there some type of recommendation on timeline as for as collection?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Would think you wouldn't want to withhold amount of money per month that is going to bankrupt a provider. Really think if we were to set hard/fast deadline it wouldn't achieve either local or state goals. Again if you need OEL to communicate to provider, we are open to that; but repayment plan best determined on case by case.*

*Katrina Lunsford (Polk): From industry standpoint, is OEL prepared to bring chairs back in and share best practices, strategies?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): OEL can poll the EDs and send it out to chairs when time comes and we could briefly be available to discuss as a group at the next meeting.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): Where in budget is there some line item or way to request additional funds or some underlying plan to re-appropriate dollars throughout the state to account for and allow admin costs to go over, especially on VPK side. On SR side, the OCAs exist to help control these overruns, but on VPK side don't exist. Becomes more of a challenge for staff to control. Personally don't foresee any sort of legislative relief of 4% for this year. Goes back to provider where we say we underpaid, overpaid you, or not even going to have contracts for you in April/May, how are we going to fund, prepare and properly settle lawsuits and class action suits that are being discussed currently from providers that are saying this is a breach of contract?*

*Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Hard to forecast legal issues. Have informed legislators of the issue and are working on that; as far as lawsuits go, that's something that is hard to anticipate.*

*Victor Mraz (SWFL): Have instructed staff and ELC and have requested information, that if affected providers form a class action lawsuit collectively or individually, what is our liability and what is that that*

going to do to our budget and to our ability to serve children. Coalition still has huge waitlist, because even with extra money, can't serve waitlist. So, our board has put forth, that not only do we need to focus on quality, but on waitlist – spending money where shouldn't be spent

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): I concur and apologize. The state would be named as the defendant in the lawsuit like that, which would shift up to Tallahassee.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): But there's nothing preventing a local ELC from getting added to a lawsuit like that.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): No, but in practice, they go after deep pockets.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Assume they would name ELC, OEL and the state, and then at that point if ELC has to spend money on hiring attorneys, is there any relief from OEL if that were to happen where OEL cover cost of attorney fees that would result from this?

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): We would try to; if we had budget to we would certainly try to cover that. Again, think that both from causation perspective and from paying the damages, which are 2 of 3 legs of tort lawsuit, would be directed to Florida as opposed to ELC.

Lindsey Toole (Sarasota): Mentioned in regards to cap on admin expenses and getting relief?

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): That is a statutory requirement; have informed the legislature of the challenges. Currently, there is not a bill to address, but they are aware of the issue.

Van Mansker (Escambia): Leads us into another area with program monitoring and assessments – with increased workloads, 5% admin might not be enough anymore. New requirements are pretty tough, EFS versus legacy workload impact, may need more people, which takes us further away from meeting 5%.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): In terms of PA, that should be coming out of quality and indirect. Additionally there is a specific appropriation to assist ELCs in funding that; believe it is 6.4 million for this year

Jarrod Trefelner (St. Lucie): Wanted to relay thanks to Rodney; know it's a tough situation, know there were some missteps, but thank you for listening and giving one month carryover at the end of the year.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Appreciate the thanks. The criticism is deserved and don't mind you holding me accountable; working hard to make this right and apologize again for all of the angst.

Rafael Arza (House Rep): Would like to echo, have been around the political process and have been in a lot of meetings and it's not very common when you find ED with humility that Mr. Mackinnon has demonstrated. Usually find the opposite of arrogance, denial and cover up. Really appreciate him doing what he's done.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): It's certainly been a humbling experience.

## **Open Discussion**

Orange County Minimum Wage Discussion

Linda Shaughnessy, ELC of Orange County

- Because of nature of what this board does, need to be proactive to items that are looming.
- Would like to put on the agenda for the meeting after next; know some things may not impact us now, but we may begin to see impact within the next couple of years. If we don't talk about it now, they will impact us and ultimately kids we serve.

- As economy grows in Florida and worker shortages put pressure on wages, one of the unintended consequences of that is the loss of publicly funded supports at a pace that's faster than the acceleration of the earnings.
- In Orange county Target will move to \$15 for workers by 2020, Disney's target for same wage by 2021.
- Currently, FL sets threshold to access to child care subsidies at 150% of FPL.
- Orange County ELC did preliminary to review impact on increase to \$15 on child care subsidies. Showed nearly 80% of families with 3 or fewer children currently receiving subsidies would be ineligible. Significant impact on children that still need care.
- Increase in wages coming, but has impact on subsidies. Requesting review of child care subsidy eligibility to determine if adjustment to threshold is in the best interest of families; would like to put on table for summer.
- Secondly, cost of child care keeps rising and rising. Sometimes just as expensive to put child in full time care as it is for college. Reimbursement voucher rates need to be reviewed. Current value of child care vouchers is so low, that few providers accept without families having to cover the difference.
- Currently in Orange County, value of voucher at 68% of 2015 market. To bring the voucher value up to 2017 market, would need additional \$15 million annually to serve same number of children.
- Underinvestment presents itself in very low wages for workers, cut corners with regard to program quality, and puts stress on low-wage families to cover the differential.
- Legislature has ability to appropriate additional funding to bring the value of that voucher to market.
- Request is to put on table for summer meeting a review of the value of child care vouchers to see if infusion of funding in best interest of Florida's families.

Adrian Alfonso (Chair): Those are great points; up the alley of the policy and finance committee to a certain extent. Issue you could take up as committee between now and July meeting; could take up at July meeting for additional discussion.

Rodney Mackinnon (OEL): Apologize. In the middle of session we get a lot of requests. Have a lot of data fixes and data team working on those as fast as possible. Hopefully when things calm down, can get that data for you.

Alan Bergman (Brevard): To add to what Linda was saying, I'm struck by the fact that one of my board members said at a public meeting he's fighting people for the difference in wages paid by Burger King or McDonald's to come work in child care. If you want to get quality people in education, you can't pay them \$8.50 an hour; they just come and go. It's a real issue. Should look at it and come up with some ideas of what's a reasonable fair wage for our staff.

JB Birney (Flagler/Volusia): Regarding SB 1138, don't know if we've talked about this previously. Knee jerk reaction seems that it doesn't fit, explanation pretty good of reaching the unreachable. Think this would be a good best practice for committee to talk about. After hearing about the program and how it's run, may be the only option for VK for these hard to reach communities; good idea for presentation.

### **Public Comment**

Tammy Tener, Executive Director of the Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA)

- Florida will be hosting the National Association for FCC Conference in Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, June 19-22.
- Please support you ELC staff and local FCCH providers to attend conference.

- State of FL ranks 3rd in nation for accredited homes, total of 180 homes.
- Registration packet coming out in March.
- Keynotes include: Laura Washington, National CDA office; Shannon Christian, ACF-OCC; Julie Way.
- Observer training preconference training and accreditation training where staff can be trained to help providers go through accreditation process.
- Will be offering/coordinating tour of family child care homes to see different indoor and outdoor homes in Orange and Osceola counties.

**Wrap up and Adjourn**

- Please be sure to sign your travel authorization form and hand to OEL staff.
- Next meeting: March 25, 2019 – Tallahassee.
- Meeting Adjourned 1:10 p.m.

DRAFT