

## Board of Directors Meeting

September 10, 2009

## Legislative Report

**Item V.D.**

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<b>Recommended Action:</b>	<b>Information Only</b>
<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Legislative Report</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Goal:</b>	<b>Increase the efficiency of JWB's work</b>

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### State Budget

#### **Revenue Estimating Conference (REC)**

The REC met on August 11, 2009 to revise the State's General Revenue Forecast. The official 3-year state financial plan is expected in September. According to the FCSC's state budget analyst, the changes will have the following impact:

FY 2008-09 – Estimates were increased by \$81.0 million, adding to the State's reserves.

FY 2009-10 – Estimates were reduced by \$147.1 million (.7%). This slight downward revision will be covered by adequate reserves, leaving the FY2009-10 appropriation safe from mid year reductions.

FY 2010-11 – Estimates were reduced by \$44.2 million (.2%). This insignificant downward adjustment will have little impact on the future financial plan, which proposes flat appropriations for the next two fiscal years.

### Legislative Update

Attached is the August 19, 2009 *Florida Children's Services Council News Update*. The following are issues being monitored by the Children's Policy department:

**H.R. 3221/Early Learning Challenge Fund (pg. 2)**

The focus on development of state early learning systems dovetails with JWB's three strategic focus areas and the implementation of a Neighborhood Children's Initiative/Children's Zone® concept model. The Early Learning Challenge Fund would:

- Promote standards reform of State early learning programs serving children 0 – 5;
- Establish a high standard of quality across early learning settings;
- Fund and implement quality initiatives;
- Increase the number of disadvantaged children entering Kindergarten ready to learn; and
- Increase parents' ability to access comprehensive and high quality early learning programs.

The Children's Policy Department and Office of Resource Development plan to collaborate with the Pinellas County School District to pursue funding opportunities for children in Pinellas County.

### **Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Highlights Clearwater/St. Pete (pg. 3)**

The JWB Children's Services Council Communications Department and Children's Neighborhood Services were instrumental in facilitating the focus group and interviews for the Pinellas County area. A copy of the report was sent to the Board via email in mid-August. The findings of the Commission include:

- **The recession highlights wide gaps in our health care system.** Said a Clearwater mother of two who is in treatment for breast cancer: "Medical bills are stacking up. I'm just putting them in a drawer because I don't know what the heck else to do with them."
- **Safety-net providers are overwhelmed.** Said a Clearwater service provider interviewed by the Kaiser team: "We've seen a striking increase in a lot more alarming things. The homeless population is going up. We work with the Religious Community Services – they provide a food pantry. Their food pantry requests have gone up something like 500%. It has just skyrocketed. The lines just [keep getting longer] and they can't keep food in the pantries."
- **Safety-net funding is declining just as the need is greatest.**
- **Recovery will take a long time.** From the report [pg. 14]: Even if current efforts to enact health care reform succeed, the improvements will take time to reach millions of families who are struggling right now.

Since the release of the study, the JWB Communications Department has been approached by NBC News network headquarters in New York. We have continued to work with an NBC

producer and the participants of the local focus group to develop a possible story on health care issues in this area. Read the study at the Kaiser Family Foundation website here: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/7949.cfm>

### **Rep. Porth Spearheads the Creation of Early Learning Caucus**

In mid-August, Rep. Porth (D-Broward) invited fellow legislators to join the Early Learning Caucus. In his email letter he states that “A strategic focus on early childhood development in Florida makes sense not only from a public policy standpoint, but also from fiscal, public safety and economic development perspectives. Consider for example, a recent study which revealed a return to society [investment] of more than \$17 for every dollar invested in early care and education programs, due to a reduction in future crime”. The initial meeting of the caucus is planned during the October 2009 committee meetings and will focus on addressing a range of policy issues, including child health, quality child care, family strengthening, safe communities, screening and interventions for children with special needs, maximizing federal funding for early childhood initiatives and more. Currently, Reps. Heller, Long, and Nehr have joined the Caucus. The Children’s Policy department will contact other members of the Pinellas delegation to encourage their membership as well.

### **Governor’s Children and Youth Cabinet Approves Well-being Indicators**

The Children’s Cabinet met on July 30, 2009 to hear recommendations from the Policy Group for Florida’s Families and Children on “headline” indicators of child well-being based on The State of Florida’s Child Report adopted by the Cabinet on March 17, 2009. The approved indicators are as follows:

#### **Goal/outcome: Every Florida child is healthy**

- Mothers beginning prenatal care in the first trimester
- Children with health insurance
- Children with a medical home or primary health care provider (a primary care practice that provides them with accessible, continuous and coordinated care, including preventive dental services)

#### **Goal/outcome: Every Florida child is ready to learn and succeed**

- Children read to by their parents and relative caregivers
- Early childhood staff with bachelor's degrees
- Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education
- High quality early learning settings

#### **Goal/outcome: Every Florida child has a stable and nurturing family**

- Children living in families with income below the poverty threshold
- Number of substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect
- Teen births

#### **Goal/outcome: Every Florida child lives in a safe and supportive community**

- Domestic violence
- Homeless children

- Children in supportive neighborhoods

JWB is piloting a budget document that ties these desired outcomes to our investment in children's programming in Pinellas County. We are also aligning these outcomes with our three strategic areas of focus to develop the FY 2009-10 Strategic Direction.

### **Results-based Accountability Leadership Summit**

Please plan to join JWB and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County On September 17, 2009 for the Leadership Summit presentation by Mark Friedman, Director of the Fiscal Policy Studies Institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is the author of *Trying Hard Is Not Good Enough: How to Produce Measureable Improvements for Customers and Communities* which was sent to Board members in late-August.

There are two sessions that require pre-registration: 1) General Session Community Forum from 10 am – 12:15 pm and; 2) the Invitation Only Leadership from 1 pm to 2:30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Penny Delacqueuseaux at (727)547-5633 or by email at [pdelacqueuseaux@jwbpinellas.org](mailto:pdelacqueuseaux@jwbpinellas.org) .

This Results-based Accountability process presents an opportunity for Pinellas-based organizations to establish a common language and focus their efforts on improving the quality of programming in this community. It is also the foundational basis for the Children's Cabinet Indicators outlined above.

### **Governor Crist Appoints George LeMieux to Serve in the United States Senate**

Governor Charlie Crist appointed former Deputy Attorney General George LeMieux to serve the remainder of Senator Mel Martinez's term upon Martinez's official resignation. LeMieux, 40, currently serves as chairman of the law firm of Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A., and previously served as chief of staff to Governor Crist.

LeMieux, is a Florida native raised in Broward County and attended public schools in Coral Springs. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University with a degree in political science. He graduated with honors from Georgetown University with a law degree.

# Florida Children's Services Council **NEWS UPDATE**

Issue: #31

August 19, 2009

## Quick Links

[FCSC Home Page](#)

[Florida Afterschool Network](#)

[FCSC Brochure](#)

[Creating a CSC](#)

## Dates to Watch

### Sept. 1-4, 2009

National Independent Living Conference  
Nashville

### Sept. 10, 2009

FAN Board Meeting  
Children's Board of Hillsborough

### Sept. 16, 2009

[Children and Youth Cabinet Meeting](#)  
Kissimmee

### Sept. 24-27, 2009

Early Childhood Conference  
Orlando

### Oct. 6-7, 2009

FCSC Board of Directors Meeting  
CSC of Palm Beach

### Oct. 12-14, 2009

Florida Coalition for Children

## TOP STORIES

### Students Lead Statewide Effort to Improve the Lives of Florida's Children

More than 300 high school and college students from across the state had a rare opportunity to see President Clinton in person as part of the inaugural Lawton Chiles Leadership Corps held in Orlando Aug. 8-9. During an inspiring keynote address, Clinton issued a challenge to the students. "Intelligence and effort are evenly distributed. Just because 41 other states have higher high school graduation rates than you do, you don't think that there are 41 other states where God made the children smarter, do you?" he asked. "Leadership today is deciding how to solve these problems and then going out and doing it. ... You can make a better tomorrow for Florida."

The Leadership Corps event was organized by The Lawton Chiles Foundation and co-chaired by Sen. Mel Martinez, Sen. Bill Nelson, and former Sen. Bob Graham. As participants in the first leadership class, the high school and college students will spend the next year working in their communities to improve the way Florida educates and cares for its children. One project that the students will work on is to gather the signatures of one million Floridians on the "[Pledge for Florida's Children.](#)" Among the participants were members of youth advisory groups from The Children's Board of Hillsborough County and The Children's Trust of Miami Dade, as well as students from the Broward CSC Future Prep Program.

Clinton's Aug. 9 keynote address marked the grand finale to a weekend-long brainstorming and training session hosted at the University of Central Florida campus. Students talked about creative ways to use the media to get their message out, and participated in training sessions with experts including UCF's Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government; John Kelly, strategic advisor for the Corporation for National and Community Service; and David Lawrence Jr., former Miami Herald publisher and founding chair of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade.

"I am so proud of the energy and dedication these students are bringing to help kids in the state of Florida improve education and health," said Bud Chiles, president of The Lawton Chiles Foundation. "Government doesn't make things work, people do. These are the people who are going to go out and make this state a better place for our children."

Ø See a [blog post](#) from a participant in Broward County

Ø See the [video highlight](#) from the weekend event

Annual Conference  
Orlando

**Nov. 18-20, 2009**

"Meeting the Needs of Young  
Children and Families"  
Conference  
Tampa

**Dec. 1, 2009**

[Children and Youth Cabinet  
Meeting](#)  
Gainesville

**April 11-13, 2010**

[Children's Week](#)  
Tallahassee

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Ø Get more information at [www.lawtonchiles.org/LCLC.html](http://www.lawtonchiles.org/LCLC.html) or [www.WorstToFirst.org](http://www.WorstToFirst.org).

### **ECEC Launches Site-Visit Campaign During Congress August Recess**

With Congress adjourned for the August recess and members back in their districts, the Early Care and Education Consortium August Site-Visit Campaign is officially underway. The goal of the campaign is to help members of Congress learn more about high-quality child care programs around the country by having them visit local programs. To see photos and stories from visits that have already taken place, or to find more information about how to host a legislator at a program center, [click here](#).

~ *Source: Early Care and Education Consortium E-News*

### **Massive Campaign for Obama Health Plan Hits Air**

A new coalition launched a \$12-million television ad campaign last week to support President Obama's health reform plan. The new group, funded largely by the pharmaceutical industry, is called Americans for Stable Quality Care. It includes some odd bedfellows: the American Medical Association, FamiliesUSA, the Federation of American Hospitals, PhRMA and SEIU, the service employees' union. [Read the article](#).

## **FEDERAL WATCH**

### **Chief Architect of Early Learning Challenge Fund Discusses Proposal**

Recently, Dr. Ruth Friedman, Senior Education Policy Advisor with the House Committee on Education and Labor, and a chief architect of the Early Learning Challenge Fund, participated in a radio interview to talk about the proposal. She talked about what it means for child care providers and others. The Challenge Fund would make a significant investment in early learning -- \$1 billion per year for eight years. The proposal places an all-new focus on the development of state early learning systems, and makes a commitment to increasing the number of low-income children in high-quality programs. [Listen to the radio interview](#).

~ *Source: Early Care and Education Consortium E-News*

### **Congressional Committee Prepares District-Level Analysis of Health Care Reform Bill**

The U.S. Committee on Energy and Commerce has prepared a district-level analysis of the impact of H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. The analysis includes information on the impact of the legislation on small businesses, seniors in Medicare, health care providers, and the uninsured. It also includes an estimate of the impacts of the surtax that is used to pay for the legislation. [Get the analysis for Florida districts](#).

## **CSC NEWS**

## National Report Focuses on Pinellas County, Three Other Communities

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured recently released a study titled, "Rising Health Pressures in an Economic Recession," which offers a comprehensive overview of four American communities, including Clearwater/St. Petersburg. The JWB Children's Services Council was instrumental in facilitating the focus group and interviews for the Pinellas County area. As the nation debates comprehensive health care and health insurance reform, this report focuses on communities at a grassroots level, and the struggles of those who have "suffered economic reversals and lost health coverage, forcing many to juggle bills and postpone visits to the doctor while they scramble to find a new job." Other communities surveyed in the report include Beloit, Wisconsin; Long Island, N.Y.; and Sonoma, California. [Read the study.](#) [View the webcast.](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

### FAN Launches Quality Self-Assessment Tool for Afterschool Programs

The Florida Afterschool Network's (FAN) *Quality Self-Assessment and Improvement Guide* is now available online and can be downloaded from the FAN web site at [www.myfan.org](http://www.myfan.org). Developed at the request of afterschool providers, the guide enables afterschool programs that are implementing the FAN *Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs* to complete a program self-assessment. The self-assessment tool provides the roadmap to support and facilitate efforts toward program improvement. The *Quality Self-Assessment and Improvement Guide* has been field-tested to ensure appropriateness and useability. The testing results have been overwhelmingly positive. The FAN Board of Directors would like to thank the many providers throughout the state who helped to develop the guide and who field tested it in their programs. Special thanks also go to members of the Quality Standards Task Force

- Meg Wallace - CSC of Broward County
- Bobbi Davis - Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- David McGerald - President, Association of Early Learning Coalitions
- Sharon Carie - President, Florida After School Alliance
- Jennifer Faber - The Children's Forum
- Debra Zenk - Director of Afterschool Programs, Hillsborough County School System
- Stacy Howard - Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Jennifer Ohlsen - Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Debra Bazemore - Florida Department of Children and Families
- Lani Lingo - Florida Department of Education
- Keri Corey - Jacksonville Children's Commission
- Rhonda Flowers - Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa
- Robert Curcio - Palm Beach Community College

### Lights on Afterschool Date Set, Mini Grants Now Available

The date has been set for this year's Lights on Afterschool (LOA) event. Afterschool programs and supporters in Florida and across the nation will celebrate the event on

Thurs., Oct. 22, 2009. LOA serves to recognize the critical importance of quality afterschool in the lives of children, their families and communities. In Florida, the Florida Afterschool Network (FAN) has allocated \$10,000 in mini-grants that will be awarded to local programs seeking financial assistance to plan a local event celebrating the national LOA day. Grant applications are available on the FAN web site. Go to [www.myfan.org](http://www.myfan.org) for details, or [download the application here](#).

### **Guardian ad Litem Foundation Launches Membership Program**

The Florida Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Foundation has initiated a membership program that will help provide funding for thousands more abused and neglected children who would otherwise go without a Guardian ad Litem. Individual, nonprofit and corporate memberships are available. Memberships will also help the foundation to continue to support the efforts of local GAL organizations across the state. To learn more about the new membership program and its benefits, go to [www.flgal.org/membership.php](http://www.flgal.org/membership.php).

## **NET DATA**

### **NCSL Examines State Budget Actions Toward Early Childhood Education Programs in FY09**

The National Conference of State Legislatures issued a new report, "[Early Care and Education State Budget Actions FY 2009](#)," that summarizes budget actions states took last year for early childhood programs. The report finds that, overall, states increased spending for early care and education programs in FY 2009 by \$651 million. As the data was gathered in the spring of 2008, it does not, however, reflect budget realities faced by states since the economic downturn.

### **Kaiser Health Reform Comparison Tool Reflects Latest Congressional Action**

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated its interactive side-by-side health reform comparison tool to incorporate the major amendments to the House Tri-Committee legislation adopted by the three committees of jurisdiction during their mark-ups of the bill. The update also adds a summary of the Republican Study Committee bill, the Empowering Patients First Act, recently introduced by Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.). The online tool allows users to compare any of 12 different major health reform plans, including the House Tri-Committee legislation and the Senate HELP Committee legislation. [Go to the comparison tool](#).

### **National Foundation Launches HealthReform.org**

In an effort to provide timely, nonpartisan information and tools to inform policymakers about the need to reform the health care system, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has launched [HealthReform.org](http://HealthReform.org). The health reform web site also offers a HealthReform.org widget that can be added to social networking pages or individual web sites. The widget feeds the day's top health reform news clips and *The Users' Guide to the Health Reform Galaxy* blog entries.

## EVENTS

### **Free Webinar Addresses Keeping Kids Safe from Sexual Abuse**

Child Care Aware Parent Network is holding a free webinar titled, "My Body Belongs to Me!" Keeping Your Child Safe From Sexual Abuse - An Expert's Advice, on Aug. 25 at 8:30 p.m. (EST). The webinar was created to help alleviate parents' fears and concerns about how to discuss sexual abuse with their children. Jill Starishevsky, an Assistant District Attorney in New York City who has prosecuted hundreds of sex offenders, will present the webinar and share advice about why it is important to start the conversation with your child and how to prevent potential abuse. [Click here to register now.](#)

### **Early Childhood Association Conference Coming to Orlando**

The Early Childhood Association of Florida will hold its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Sept. 24-27, 2009, in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Anyone interested in early care and education should attend this conference, which features more than 100 sessions. Early registration is available until Aug. 12. To register, or for more information, go to: [www.ecaoffl.org](http://www.ecaoffl.org).

### **Florida Coalition for Children to Hold Annual Conference in October**

The Florida Coalition for Children is holding its 2009 conference with a focus on "Protecting & Preserving Florida's Most Valuable Resource - Our Children and Families." The event will take place October 12-14, 2009, in Orlando at Rosen Shingle Creek. Register by Sept. 15 and save. For more information, visit the [Florida Coalition for Children web site](#).

### **Conference Focuses on "Meeting the Needs of Young Children and Families"**


The Early Childhood Council (ECC) and the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) will be co-hosting a conference, "Meeting the Needs of Young Children and Families," November 18-20, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay. Early registration is \$125 for ECC or FAIMH members (deadline is September 15), which includes the pre-conference event on Nov. 18 and the full conference program Nov. 19-20 with a reception Thursday night. For more information, call (813) 837-7753 or visit [www.ecctampabay.org](http://www.ecctampabay.org).

### **NAEYC to Hold Annual Conference & Expo in Washington**

The National Association for the Education of Young Children will hold its annual conference Nov. 18-21, 2009, in Washington, DC. This year's conference features more than 900 sessions on diverse topics and themes reflecting both traditional strategies and cutting-edge practice. Look for presentations on topics ranging from how to plan an effective elected official's visit to your center, to the role of quality rating systems in professional development, as well as what's on the early childhood federal horizon. Housing and registration are [now open](#).

### **National Afterschool Association Convention Set for April 2010, Seeking Workshop RFPs**

Join thousands of afterschool professionals for outstanding learning and networking



experiences at the National Afterschool Association Convention in Washington, DC, April 19-21, 2010. The event will feature hundreds of workshops from across the afterschool field. Early registration is available through Aug. 31, 2009. For details, or to submit your workshop proposals through an online RFP process, visit [www.naaconvention.org/workshop.html](http://www.naaconvention.org/workshop.html). Proposals will be accepted until Sept. 25, 2009.

### **Do you have an update for *FCSC News Update*?**

Send your information at least three days prior to the issue date. *FCSC News Update* is published every other week on Wednesdays. Updates should be 200 words or less. Longer updates can include a link to more detailed information. FCSC reserves the right to omit, edit and/or adjust the content of your contribution for space considerations.

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*FCSC News Update is a bi-weekly compilation of news and information relevant to the work of Florida's Children's Services Councils (CSCs). The Florida Children's Services Council is a statewide, non-profit organization working on behalf of the CSCs to promote policies that build effective primary prevention and early intervention systems of supports for Florida's children and families.*

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