



Florida Association for the  
Education of Young Children



An Affiliate  
of **naeyc**

## **NAEYC Public Policy Forum Update and Recommendation**

### **FLAEYC Board Meeting, January 9, 2019**

The NAEYC Public Policy Forum (PPF), Feb. 24-26, is held in Washington each winter and provides NAEYC Members with Advocacy Training and Public Policy information specific to federal legislative priorities and activities. The Florida State Team will have the opportunity to:

- Be part of a powerful team working to advance federal and state early childhood policy;
- Hear from and network with national and state policy leaders and fellow advocates;
- Share perspectives and insights by engaging with Power to the Profession;
- Get the resources and experiences needed to sharpen your advocacy skills;
- Learn about new tools, strategies, and tactics to try in state and community; and
- Build critical relationships on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and their staff.

After outreach communications, we now have 15 FLAEYC Members who have committed to serving on the Florida State Team, including providing funding for their personal expenses (registration, lodging, travel and meals). These members represent a range of advocacy experience and the broad diversity of FLAEYC members. Registration closes January 25 and we may accept new team members up to that date. The Florida State Team listing includes:

Mary Harper  
Heidi Greenslade  
Marie Mason  
Paul Scharff  
Megan Oates

Judith Behrens  
Norma Schwartz  
Stephanie DeScalzo  
Wilma Robles- Menedez  
Kareecha Newby

Flora Oynick  
Janna Swanson  
Julie Perry  
Tamela Craig  
Svitlana Vassilieva

While in D.C., we can dialog and develop plans for our next steps, including future trainings, webinars and advocacy sessions at the 2019 Conference. Although we did not receive the NAEYC funding for our Advocacy Grant, the developed plan has the possibility to be implemented so we can keep the momentum going. This group of FLAEYC Members have the potential to develop as Advocacy Leaders, including the formation of the Public Policy and Advocacy Chapter.

**Recommendation:** Chris Duggan, FLAEYC Executive Director, serve as Florida State Team Leader and facilitate all team activities, including attending the Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., Feb. 24-26.

FLAEYC will provide funding for Chris's Travel, Lodging and PPF Registration. Chris will pay for her meals and local travel.

*Chris Duggan*, FLAEYC Executive Director

***FLAEYC's Public Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair, Rebecca McKeller, has sent this message to the Board. Please see message on next page:***



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Dear Board Members,

As Public Policy Chairperson I understand the importance of advocating for the children of Florida at both the State and National levels. Our group has developed a comprehensive agenda toward accomplishing increased visibility across the state. While we were unsuccessful in obtaining the NAEYC grant toward these efforts, we still developed a solid group of activists that are eager to continue with the work outlined by the group.

As we develop this Public Policy group into a committee, it is necessary to have consistent leadership in these efforts. In taking the position as chairperson I shared with the board that I required support in this leadership role as I am currently working full time and pursuing an advanced degree. Chris Duggan has collaborated greatly with this Public Policy group and, given her role as Executive Director, is a clear choice to continue to lead the group in D.C. Her cost-sharing proposal seems reasonable and I support FLAEYC utilizing funds to help defray the cost of her travel.

Florida is the third most populous State in the Country. FLAEYC should be a forerunner in Early Childhood Advocacy across the state. Developing a core advocacy group is the first step in ensuring we become Early Childhood leaders at both the State and National levels.

Sincerely,

Rebecca McKeller

FLAEYC Public Policy and Advocacy Chair Person