I. Welcome & Introductions  
   Alexander Soto

II. Approval of Minutes  
   Alexander Soto

III. Overview of 2021 Session and Committee Assignments  
   Evelio Torres

IV. Florida Senate and Florida House COVID-19 Protocols  
   Evelio Torres

V. Legislative Priorities  
   All
   A. Raising VPK BSA
   B. Supporting Early Learning Bill
   C. Children’s Movement 2021 Agenda
   D. Other

VI. Meeting with Legislators  
   Evelio Torres

VII. 2021 Legislative Session Education Priorities  
   Evelio Torres

VIII. Public Comments  
   Alexander Soto

IX. Adjourn  
   Alexander Soto
Committee Attendees: Alex Soto (Chair), Matthew Bruno

Committee Absentees:

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Lisa Sanabria, Jackye Russell, Mercy Castiglione,

I. Welcome and Introductions
   Alex Soto
   - A. Soto called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
   - A quorum was established with one (2) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes
    Alex Soto
    - Motion to approve minutes by M. Bruno.
    - Motion seconded by A. Soto.
    - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Sustainability of PFP/House Bill 1091
     Evelio Torres
     - E. Torres stated that it is unsure if the Performance Funding Project will continue due to House Bill, 1091. The bill requires providers to be assessed and meet certain benchmarks. Funding for these assessments was given but they are not recurring dollars.

IV. Funding Formula
    Evelio Torres
    - E. Torres stated that the Funding formula has come up again and there is the possibility that there will be bill. A consultant has been hired to develop the formula and it appears it will take money away from Miami Dade/Monroe County.

V. ELC Legislative Agenda
    Evelio Torres
    - E. Torres stated that the three goals on this year’s legislative agenda will be:
      - Support and fund HB 1091, statewide program performance and effectiveness standards, support and accountability for a well-equipped early education workforce, and pay for performance for School Readiness. This has been funded and implemented for 2018-2019 FY but funding needs to be secured moving forward.
      - Increase School Readiness funding to enroll children 0-5 of working families on the waiting list and improve the quality of care.
Support WAGE$® and T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships. The Child Care WAGE$® FLORIDA Program rewards early childhood educators with salary supplements based on their education and continuity of employment. The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Scholarship Program funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning provides scholarships for early care educators to work towards earning an Associate and/or Bachelor degree or credentials in early childhood education.

VI. Legislative Visits

- E. Torres stated that they would begin scheduling legislative visits focusing on the new members of the legislation.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Adjourn
Education & Employment Committee | Florida House of Representatives (myfloridahouse.gov)

Chair: Chris Latvala, Pinellas
Vice Chair: Stan McClain, Marion
Members:
Vance Aloupis – MDM
Alex Andrade – Escambia and Santa Rosa
Kristen Arrington - Osceola
Melony Bell, Heartland and Polk
David Borrero, SWFL, MDM, Broward
Dr. James Bush, MDM
Randy Fine, Brevard
Joe Harding, Marion
Fred Hawkins, Osceola and Polk
Christine Hunschofsky, Broward
Chip LaMarca, Broward
Patt Maney, Emerald Coast
Amber Mariano, Pasco/Hernando
Travaris McCurdy, Orange
Daisy Morales, Orange
Dana Trabulsy, St. Lucie
Kaylee Tuck, SWFL, Florida’s Heartland, IRMO, St. Lucie
Susan Valdes, Hillsborough
Patricia Williams, Broward

Early Learning & Elementary Education Subcommittee | Florida House of Representatives (myfloridahouse.gov)

Chair: Vance Aloupis, MDM
Vice Chair: Elizabeth Fetterhoff, Flagler/Volusia
Members:
Linda Chaney, Pinellas
Tracie Davis, Duval
Fred Hawkins, Osceola and Polk
Christine Hunschofsky, Broward
Trace Koster, Pinellas and Hillsborough
Chip LaMarca, Broward
Andrew Learned, Hillsborough
Travaris McCurdy, Orange
Fiona McFarland, Sarasota
Jim Mooney, MDM
Anie Nixon, Duval
Spencer Roach, SWFL
Anthony Rodriguez, MDM
Dana Trabulsy, St. Lucie
Keith Truenow, Orange and Lake
Patricia Williams, Broward
Chair: Randy Fine, Brevard
Vice Chair: Melony Bell, Heartland and Polk
Members:
Vance Aloupis, MDM
Alex Andrade, Escambia and Santa Rosa
Robin Bartleman, Broward
Dr. James Bush, MDM
Elizabeth Fetterhoff, Flagler/Volusia
Brett Hage, Lake and Marion
Stan McClain, Marion
Spencer Roach, SWFL
Davis Smith, Seminole
Keith Truenow, Orange and Lake
Susan Valdes, Hillsborough
Matt Willhite, Palm Beach
Patricia Williams, Broward
THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
All Senate Professional Staff
FROM: Wilton Simpson
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Protocols for 2021 Interim Committee Weeks
DATE: December 18, 2020

In recent days, we have all been encouraged with positive reports surrounding new COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics. However, until a vaccine is widely available for those outside of high risk designation, the Senate will continue to proceed with care and caution, observing social distancing guidelines and limiting in-person meetings. To that end, I would like to share the protocols the Senate will utilize during the 2021 Interim Committee Weeks.

Committee Blocks
As we have previously discussed, you will notice that committee blocks have been reduced so no more than three committees are meeting at one time. This schedule will allow us to utilize the committee rooms with the largest seating area for Senators, 412 Knott, 110 SB, and 37 SB, to accommodate appropriate social distancing.

Required Testing
The Senate will utilize the same COVID-19 testing procedure for interim committee weeks that we had for the Organization Session. Senators and all Senate Professional Staff, as well as district staff based in or traveling to Tallahassee will test prior to each interim committee week. You will receive an email during the week of January 4 with information on testing time slots for the week of January 11. The mobile testing unit will be parked in the same location outside the Knott Building.

Remote Committee Viewing/Public Testimony
Input from various stakeholders and members of the public is critical to the legislative process, and the Senate will work diligently to ensure Floridians have access to their elected officials as we consider important legislation for our state. The Senate worked in partnership with Florida State University to reserve three remote viewing rooms at the Leon County Civic Center, which will provide the opportunity to for members of the public to view meetings and virtually address Senate committees in a safe, socially distant manner.
Each committee notice published in the Senate calendar will include the room number within the Civic Center where members of the public may gather should they wish to address the committee. As always, additional public comment can be offered in writing and for inclusion in the committee packet.

**Committee Viewing**
In-person committee viewing will be limited to those invited to present information before the committee as well as members of the media. As determined by the Committee Chair, in advance of each meeting, committee staff will contact those with subject matter expertise (for example, agency staff), who would typically attend a committee meeting within their jurisdiction, to determine whether, based on the specific agenda, they should attend the meeting in person in order to answer questions that may arise.

**Virtual Meetings**
For the month of January, Senators are asked to avoid in person meetings and to utilize available platforms to schedule meetings virtually. Likewise, when feasible, committees are asked to facilitate remote presentations. Senators and staff who require assistance in facilitating remote meetings or committee meeting presentations should contact Senate IT. We will monitor the status of the COVID-19 Pandemic and adjust this policy as appropriate for our February Committee Weeks.

As a reminder, I asked the Secretary of the Senate and Senate Administration to temporarily postpone bringing on board any Senate pages, Senate interns, or Senate volunteers for work at the Capitol during the 2021 Regular Session.

**Schedule of Meetings for the Week of January 11, 2021**
The weekly schedule of Senate meeting time allocations for our first interim committee week, January 11-15, 2021 is attached for your reference and planning. The first interim calendar will be published on January 4, 2020.

**Chair and Vice Chair Briefing/Closed Security Briefing**
On Monday, January 11 at 1:00 p.m., Senator Passidomo will host a procedural briefing for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs. At 1:45 p.m. Sergeant Kelly will host a closed security briefing, which all Senators are encouraged to attend.

I understand that these protocols represent a significant change for everyone, and there are sure to be bumps in the road as we navigate the best way to facilitate a safe environment for the 2021 Legislative Session. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and I look forward to seeing you all in January.
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Florida House of Representatives
From: Chris Sprowls, Speaker
Date: December 18, 2020
Re: COVID-19 Protocols for January & February 2021 Committee Weeks

Several weeks ago, we advised you that the House would address the impact of COVID-19 on our legislative work in phases. Speaker Pro Tempore Avila was tasked to work with staff in the development of the protocols for our next phase. Our goal has been to tailor our protocols to match the specific circumstances of the moment. I am pleased to share with you an outline of Phase II of our safety protocols, which will apply to the January and February committee weeks.

Any changes to the public health guidelines that result from the progress of the vaccination efforts will be considered in the development of protocols for Phase III. In late February, we will share our protocols for the regular legislative session that begins on March 2, 2021.

The House will implement a number of measures to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for Members, employees, and visitors when we convene at the Capitol for the upcoming committee weeks. As a reminder, the scheduled committee weeks are:

- Week of January 11, 2021
- Week of January 25, 2021
- Week of February 1, 2021
- Week of February 8, 2021
- Week of February 15, 2021

The schedule for the first committee week will be published later today. Subsequent committee week schedules will be published during the preceding week.

Please be advised that Members diagnosed with COVID-19, who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who are in quarantine must email HouseSpeaker’sOffice@myfloridahouse.gov to request to be excused from committee meetings.
Protocol #1: Alternating Schedule / Shorter Committee Week
The intensity of activity in and around committee weeks creates challenges for guarding against the spread of the novel coronavirus. The House will mitigate that risk by splitting our committee blocks in two and implementing an alternating meeting schedule, which will result in a more condensed committee schedule by reducing the number of days Members will need to be in Tallahassee.

During the January 11 committee week, half the committees and subcommittees will meet over two days (rather than all the committees meeting over the traditional four days). During the January 25 committee week, the remaining committees and subcommittees will meet for two days. For the week of February 1, the committees and subcommittees that met during the January 11 committee week will meet again, and so on through February.

Protocol #2: Room Sanitation
We will have one hour breaks between committee meetings to clean and disinfect the meeting rooms, and replace microphone shields. Medical grade HEPA filters will be running in all committee rooms.

Protocol #3: Smart Space Management
The House will limit committee meetings to Webster Hall, Morris Hall, Reed Hall and Sumner Hall. All committee meetings will be live-streamed on https://thefloridachannel.org/.

Audience seating in committee rooms will be socially distanced and limited to meetings where committees are discussing bills or potential legislation. The House will use an online registration system for the public (including lobbyists and advocates) wishing to provide substantive testimony and for the press. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. There will also be an opportunity for the public to provide written testimony to committee members should they not be able to provide testimony in person. On certain issues of great public significance and when scheduling allows, we will also have expanded seating capacity for on-site virtual testimony. More details will be available on the House website the week of January 4.

When feasible, agency and expert presentations in committee will be carried out by video conference. Staff will be strictly limited to only those individuals essential to the operation of the meeting.

Protocol #4: Responsible Access to House Spaces
Visitors, including lobbyists, are required to observe social distancing and wear a face covering when in the company of another person. Visitors exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, who are in quarantine, or who were recently diagnosed with COVID-19 may not enter House spaces and should reschedule their visit to a different time.
Members and House employees are encouraged to use conference calls or virtual meetings as alternatives to in-person meetings. If in-person meetings are necessary, every effort should be made to limit the maximum number of guests who can safely social distance. As reference, standard Member offices generally accommodate two (2) guests, and standard employee offices generally accommodate no more than one (1) guest. In-person meetings should be by appointment only with sufficient time in between appointments to avoid crowding in common areas.

Consistent with the protocols that are currently in place, the House will not be offering Chamber tours or reservation of any House spaces to the general public in January or February.

Congregation in House seating areas or open spaces is prohibited.

**Protocol #5: Precautions for Members**
No Member of the House wishes to put themselves, their colleagues or our staff at risk. Therefore we are asking that you take full advantage of the available safety precautions.

The same COVID-19 molecular diagnostic testing offered during the Organization Session will be available on site to Members and legislative employees. Members and district legislative assistants should plan to arrive to Tallahassee the day before their first commitment at the Capitol to allow for testing and delivery of results. A negative COVID-19 test from the on-site testing service will be a prerequisite for access to House spaces. Testing information will be emailed on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

We would also ask you to wear a mask when around other Members, legislative employees, and visitors. Some exceptions may apply based on individual circumstances.

**Protocol #6: Precautions for Staff**
District legislative assistants are authorized to travel to Tallahassee for the January and February committee weeks and will be the only staff approved to work in each Member’s Capitol office. Members are not authorized to hire OPS staff or to recruit volunteers to share the space with their district legislative assistant in their Capitol office.

District legislative assistants diagnosed with COVID-19, who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or who are in quarantine are not authorized to travel to Tallahassee. District staff must return to their district immediately if they are not cleared with a negative COVID-19 diagnostic test from our on-site testing service.

Public-facing desks in committees and administrative offices will be retrofitted with plexiglass. Members may request to have their district legislative assistant’s desk in the Capitol retrofitted with plexiglass by emailing COVIDQuestions@myfloridahouse.gov.
All House employees will be required to wear a mask when interacting with others in the legislative process as well as undergo testing at the on-site testing center.

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We appreciate the challenges presented by COVID-19, but are confident that if we work together in a spirit of openness and consideration, we can navigate the challenges of the next few weeks.

Please email HouseSpeaker’sOffice@myfloridahouse.gov with your questions regarding the committee process or COVIDQuestions@myfloridahouse.gov for questions regarding COVID-19.

We hope you and your loved ones have a safe and joyful holiday season.
2019 Legislative Agenda

Support and fund HB 1091, statewide program performance and effectiveness standards, support and accountability for a well-equipped early education workforce, and pay for performance for School Readiness. This has been funded and implemented for 2018-2019 FY but funding needs to be secured moving forward.

Increase School Readiness funding to enroll children 0-5 of working families on the waiting list and improve the quality of care.

Support WAGE$® and T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships. The Child Care WAGE$® FLORIDA Program rewards early childhood educators with salary supplements based on their education and continuity of employment. The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Scholarship Program funded by the Florida Office of Early Learning provides scholarships for early care educators to work towards earning an Associate and/or Bachelor degree or credentials in early childhood education.

Questions regarding these legislative priorities should be directed to Evelio Torres, President and CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe etorres@elcmdm.org www.elcmdm.org
Evelio:

I’d like to take this opportunity to announce The Movement's 2021 Agenda.

You’ll see a continued focus on high-quality early learning, children’s health care, and supportive parents and caregivers. This year, we have also added some new priorities reflecting a growing appreciation that if we want young children to thrive, we must address the needs of the adults who care for them.

Since last year, faced with a choice between their careers and caring for their children, nearly 2.1 million women have left the workforce across the U.S. This will have a lasting effect on the American economy. (Of course many fathers have been affected, too.)

Supporting families and supporting child care will be our focus for the coming legislative session. And it will help get Florida’s economy back on track.
I'd love to know what you think.

Thank you.

Madeleine K. Thakur
President
The Children’s Movement of Florida insists on a strong start for all our children. We know young children need these basics to thrive: supportive parents and caregivers, stimulating early learning environments, and good health care—including early identification and intervention for developmental delays and disabilities. Our legislative priorities for 2021 also reflect a growing appreciation that if we want young children to thrive, we must address the needs of the adults who care for them, too. The pandemic economy underscores how important it is to support parents if we want to promote equity and maximize early investments.

**EARLY LEARNING**
- Adequately fund Florida’s VPK and School Readiness programs so that high-quality early learning is affordable for Florida families.
- Strengthen VPK standards that lead to real quality, valuing positive teacher-child interactions and social-emotional growth alongside early literacy development.
- Minimize learning loss by ensuring pandemic recovery funds for child care are allocated equitably and targeted to the needs of families across the state.

**HEALTH CARE**
- Get mothers and babies off to a strong start by ensuring prenatal health care for all, extending maternal Medicaid coverage for 12 months postpartum.
- Increase health care access for children by streamlining KidCare enrollment and increasing outreach efforts.

**PARENT SUPPORT**
- Ensure access to information and resources about developmental milestones and high-quality early learning opportunities.
- Help families be financially independent with policies that do not trigger abrupt cuts in child care and family benefits when parents get a raise. We want people to make more money knowing they won’t suffer a net loss of income due to benefit loss.
2021 AGENDA

A Strong Start #ForFloridaChildren

The Children’s Movement of Florida insists on a strong start for all our children. We know young children need these basics to thrive: supportive parents and caregivers, stimulating early learning environments, and good health care—including early identification and intervention for developmental delays and disabilities. Our legislative priorities for 2021 also reflect a growing appreciation that if we want young children to thrive, we must address the needs of the adults who care for them, too. The pandemic economy underscores how important it is to support parents if we want to promote equity and maximize early investments.

EARLY LEARNING

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- **Strengthen VPK standards that lead to real quality**, valuing positive teacher-child interactions and social-emotional growth alongside early literacy development.

- **Minimize learning loss** by ensuring pandemic recovery funds for child care are allocated equitably and targeted to the needs of families across the state.

HEALTH CARE

- **Get mothers and babies off to a strong start** by ensuring prenatal health care for all, extending maternal Medicaid coverage for 12 months postpartum.

- **Increase health care access for children** by streamlining KidCare enrollment and increasing outreach efforts.

PARENT SUPPORT

- **Ensure access to information and resources** about developmental milestones and high-quality early learning opportunities.

- **Help families be financially independent** with policies that do not trigger abrupt cuts in child care and family benefits when parents get a raise. We want people to make more money knowing they won’t suffer a net loss of income due to benefit loss.
Look Ahead to 2021 Legislative Session: Education Priorities Webinar

Friday, February 12th | 10:00 - 11:00 am EST

In partnership with the Florida Philanthropic Network, we’ll review the education priorities of policymakers, expected policy discussions, the budget outlook and how to follow the action in this no-cost webinar. Register now and plan to join us for an informative hour!

Featured Speaker:
Representative Chris Latvala (District 67)
Chair of Education and Employment Committee

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