

# THE GRAPEVINE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Family Child Care Home Association

Volume 32: Issue 3

Sunshine Funshine!!

Summer 2024

## President's Message:

### It's Summer Time!!

Our 32nd Annual FFCCHA conference was an absolute red-carpet affair. I commend our conference team for crafting such a star-studded atmosphere. A heartfelt thank you to all the attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and most importantly, our family home educators for making this conference a success. This year's conference highlighted insightful workshops and featured inspiring keynote speakers, where participants gained new insights and invaluable information.

Deepest gratitude to our past FFCCHA presidents in attendance: Lois Kendrick, Karen Hiester, Lynn Gibson, Cathy McCoy, Tammy Tener, and Gwen Wilson. Your presence was a testament to the strength of family child care providers, and your past efforts continue to inspire us. Your efforts have shaped the community we are today. We also want to acknowledge Patricia Dischler, NAFCC past president, and Francia Wisnewski, NAFCC Director of Membership and Community Engagement, for their invaluable contributions.

Dr Pamela Phelps inspired us with her knowledge of brain development in children, messy play, and the importance of the first 1,000 days in children's lives. Her delivery on play helps reconnect us to the important work we do with children.

Nigel Smith invigorated us to tap into our superpowers. We are not just family child care educators but superpower influencers who make a positive impact on the families we serve.

I want to especially thank Marica Cox Mitchell from the Bainum Family Foundation for her enlightening Sunday morning presentation. She shared research and data about what is occurring in early child care nationwide. Her profound statement and call to action left our membership with a challenge: "How can we find our *niche* in the landscape of early childhood"?

I propose a call to action to our members: **"If not you, then who?"** We have the superpower to influence change. Let's commit to leading the charge of being **The Voice for Family Child Care**.

Finally, I extend a warm welcome to our new FFCCHA Executive Committee members. Let's keep "Enhancing Our Minds" as we continue to lead.

Sincerely,

Arleen Lambert

FFCCHA President

## Mensaje de Nuestra Presidente:

Nuestra 32ª conferencia anual de FFCCHA fue un evento de alfombra roja. Felicito a nuestro equipo de la conferencia por crear una excelente atmósfera. Un sincero agradecimiento a todos los asistentes, presentadores, expositores y, más importante, a nuestros educadores en el hogar por hacer de esta conferencia un éxito. La conferencia de este año exalto tremendos talleres que destacaron oradores principales que nos inspirando. Los participantes obtuvieron nuevas ideas e información invaluable.

La junta y yo nos gustaría expresar nuestra más profunda gratitud a todos nuestros presidentes pasados de FFCCHA: Kathy McCoy, Tammy Tener, Gwen Willison, Karen Hiester, Lynn Gibson y Lois Kendrick. Su presencia en la conferencia ha sido un testimonio de la fuerza de los proveedores de cuidado infantil familiar, y sus esfuerzos pasados continúan inspirándonos.

Sus contribuciones han sido invaluable y han dado forma a la comunidad que somos hoy. También queremos reconocer a la pasada presidenta de la NAFCC, Patricia Dischler, y a Francia Wisnewski, Directora de Membresía y Participación Comunitaria de la NAFCC, por sus invaluable contribuciones.

La Dra Pamela Phelps nos inspiró con su conocimiento del desarrollo cerebral de los niños, el juego desordenado, y la importancia de los primeros 1,000 días en la vida de los niños. Su enseñanza de juego nos ayuda a reconectarnos con el importante trabajo que hacemos con los niños.

Nigel Smith nos vigoriza a tocar nuestro super poder. No somos solo educadores de cuidado infantil familiar, pero también tenemos el poder de influenciar y tener un impacto positivo a las familias que servimos.

Quiero agradecer especialmente a Marica Cox Mitchell de la Fundación de la Familia Bainum, por su esclarecedora presentación en la mañana del domingo. Ella compartió investigaciones y datos sobre lo que está ocurriendo en el cuidado de la primera infancia a nivel nacional. Su profunda declaración y llamado de acción, dejó a nuestros miembros con un reto de: "¿Como podemos encontrar nuestra entrada en el mundo de cuidado infantil?"

Yo propongo un llamado de acción para nuestros miembros: "¿Si no tú, entonces quién?" Tenemos el superpoder de influenciar un cambio. Entonces comprometámonos a tomar cargo de ser La Voz de Cuidado Infantil Familiar.

Finalmente, doy una cálida bienvenida a nuestros nuevos miembros del comité ejecutivo de FFCCHA. Sigamos "mejorando nuestras mentes" mientras sigamos liderando.

Arleen Lambert, FFCCHA Presidente



THE GRAPEVINE  
Published Quarterly: January, April, July, and October  
Submit Ads / Articles / Questions to Newsletter Editor  
Wendy Corso-Ruud email: ruud3@aol.com



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**Members of FFCCHA who serve on Early Learning Coalitions**

- Annette Eberhart - ELC of Hillsborough
- Nichola Griffiths/Butts - ELC of Palm Beach
- Naomi Helligar - ELC of Osceola County
- Cecil Wilson - ELC of Marion County

**Members of FFCCHA who serve on other Boards / Councils**

- Tammy Tener, Kissha Ballard - The FUTURE Project - The Children's Movement
- Angela Perla Almodovar - MDC Advisory Board, Early Childhood Initiative of America (Board Member), Early Childhood Training Institution (Board Member), Mariposas con Propósito Inc. (Board Member)
- Annette Eberhart - FICCIT Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants & Toddlers
- Kissha Ballard - ERIKSON Institute - Pre-K in Family Child Care Project
- Lynn Gibson - Pinellas County License Board Family Child Care Rep
- Kathy Jones - Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Family Child Care Home Advisory Board
- Arleen Lambert - Miami Dade College Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee
- Karen Robinson - Palm Beach County Health Department Child Care Advisory Council and Palm Beach State College Advisory Council
- Patricia Williams - North Florida Chapter of FLAEYC

**Credential Scholarship News**

By Abbie Bill, Scholarship Chair

6 Scholarships were awarded the past quarter  
**(April 1 - June 30, 2024) \$1,415**

**NAFCC Update:** Francine Creighton-Bey, Erika Montoya, Delores Penn  
**NAFCC Re-accreditation:** Vivene Smith  
**NAFCC QAT (Quality Ambassador Training):** Kissha Ballard, Sheretta Joseph

**FFCCHA HAS FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW!!**

When applying for a scholarship, make sure you thoroughly read the scholarship form and send ALL requested documents (complete Application, one reference letter, and copy of NAFCC membership card)

Applications are available NOW in this issue of The Grapevine or online on the FFCCHA website.

Questions? Contact:  
credentialchair@familychildcare.org



**April and June Meeting News**

Submitted by Renie Roach, Acting Secretary

**APRIL** The FFCCHA Quarterly Full Board Meeting was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the ELC of Marion County in Ocala, FL. Meeting was called to order at 1:54PM. Budget for 2023-2024 was passed. Andrea Grace was approved as Area Rep for Escambia #1. Motion to continue to be an NAFCC affiliate was passed. Motion to approved revised By-Laws (2024 By-Laws) was approved. New Executive Director's contract was approved. Comp rooms list for 2024 Conference was approved. Conference Coordinator and Conference Assistant were given approval to search locations for 2026 Conference. Sarai Marquez was approved to be the Latino Liaison starting July 1, 2024 for a two year term. Motion approved to accept EC changes to the FFCCHA Policies that align with the new 2024 By-Laws. Meeting adjourned 3:55PM.

Training preceding the meeting was "Creating Magic: Leadership Building for Family Child Care Associations" presented by Patrica Dischler. The topic was well received and informative to the audience and the direction that FFCCHA is embarking on. As the training flyer said "You'll leave inspired and strengthened to become the type of leader FFCCHA needs to make a huge impact on family child care in Florida!"

The FFCCHA General **JUNE** Meeting was held Sunday, June 30, 2024 after the 32nd Annual Conference. Prior to the meeting, Keynote Speaker: Marica Cox Mitchell from the Bainum Family Foundation spoke about *FCC of the Future: The Crossroads & Opportunities Ahead*.

Meeting was called to order at 10:30AM. The Nomination committees recommendations for Annette Eberhart to remain and continue as the Professional Development Officer position, new term July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 and Sharon Singleton to Chair the Hospitality position, both passed. The installation of Full Board: Executive Officers, Area Representatives, and Chapter Representatives all come forward. Each position responsibility was read and all took an oath of office. Officiated by madam President, Arlene Lambert. Meeting was adjourned 11:27AM.



**Events Calendar 2024-25**  
August - July 2025

**\*Start planning NOW** for FFCCHA June 2025 conference –  
Make your hotel reservations!

FFCCHA current **OPEN** Board Applications to **START NOW**: **Secretary, Public Relations** and **OPEN Area Reps and Chair positions**

September

18-22 FFCCHA Executive Committee Leadership Training  
Orlando

October

17 Hotel Deadline for FFCCHA Nov 9 Leadership Summit  
16-17 NAFCC Observer Training at FLAEYC Conference, Orlando  
16-20 FLAEYC conference, Omni Hotel, Orlando

November

6-9 NAEYC Conference, Anaheim, California  
9 FFCCHA Leadership Summit & Full Board Meeting,  
Embassy Suites, Kissimmee, FL

December

Apply NOW for FFCCHA Board Positions and Odd number Area Reps to **start in July 2025**: President, Vice President, Area Rep Coordinator, Fundraising, Legislative Liaison, Latino Liaison  
Applications are available at [www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org) on the "Forms" page under Resources or contact: Nomination Chair, Mayra Marquez. E-mail: [MMlatinioliason@gmail.com](mailto:MMlatinioliason@gmail.com): 407-452-2967

January 2025

TBA FFCCHA Virtual training

February

1 FFCCHA Virtual training and Full Board Meeting

March

4 Florida Legislative Season starts

April

TBA FFCCHA training and Full Board Meeting in-person  
13-16 Children's Week, Tallahassee

May

2 Florida Legislative Season ends

June

25-29 FFCCHA Conference, Clearwater

July-Aug

31-2 NAFCC 2025 Conference, Dallas, TX



**Summer Membership News**

Recognition of the **Chapter** that submits the most new members, renewals, or advocate-members is given monthly.

**Congratulations to our SUMMER Chapter Membership Drive Winners!!**

South Florida HCCA (April)  
NE Hillsborough FCCA (May)  
FCCA of Jacksonville (June)

**IMPORTANT:** Please renew your membership before it expires to avoid a lapse in your membership! Expiration date is above your name on the back of this FFCCHA newsletter, **The Grapevine**.

**Remember, Chapter Reps must now renew/join chapter members ONLINE!! Thank you!**

14 CHAPTERS now have memberships available to join/renew online! *Brevard Sunshine FCCA, Central Florida FCCA, FCCA of Jacksonville, NE Hillsborough CCPA, Heart to Heart FCCA, HCCPA of Manatee, Marion County FCCHA, Multicultural FCCHA of Orange County, North Florida CCA, Palm Beach County FCCA, Putnam County FCCPA, Quality FCCHPA, South Florida HCCA and United Professional CC of South Florida!!*

**Chapter members** may renew **membership** online by going to our Chapter Membership link: <https://familychildcare.org/product-category/chapter-memberships/> If your Chapter is **not listed above**, go to FFCCHA memberships <https://familychildcare.org/product/ffccha-membership/> in the membership option, select CHAPTER PROVIDER, and write your Chapter in the NOTE box. Please, please **do not join** as an **INDIVIDUAL** provider if you are a **member of a Local Association (Chapter)**. You must renew thru your Chapter. And remember, as an added benefit, all FFCCHA Members can join NAFCC at \$5 off.

**Our numbers are keeping steady!! Membership breakdown as of 07/31/2024:**

**Total: 640**, including Chapter/Full Providers, Chapters, Advocates, Co-Providers, Individual Members, Parent Members, Lifetime & Honorary Members, and Agencies/Alumni.

And again, if joining or renewing by mail, remember to **PLEASE** use the correct and updated individual/parent/chapter membership forms available on website. Any questions, please contact FFCCHA.



**We are up to 982 likes on our Facebook page!! WOOHOOO!!**

**[www.facebook.com/FFCCHA](http://www.facebook.com/FFCCHA)**

**Share and Like us NOW! :) Click on our link below:**



# Curriculum can be easy.



## A Company Dedicated to Family Child Care Providers

At Gee Whiz, we believe...

- The term "curriculum" really should be "learning plan"
- Family child care providers deserve a curriculum written specifically for them
- No one should spend thousands of \$ on curriculum

## VERY SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER

Use discount code **BIGSAVINGS24** to get **80% off your first month** of Gee Whiz!

### Providers that use Gee Whiz say:

"I love Gee Whiz because..."

- ✓ *I can be more creative & engage with children because I have a strong foundation upon which to build + Gee Whiz is aligned/approved, too!*
- ✓ *My family materials are ready to go ... I do not need to create them*
- ✓ *I have activities for ALL my ages at my fingertips every day*

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Yearly Outline - [CLICK HERE](#)

Onboarding Webinar #1: [CLICK HERE](#)

State Alignments: [CLICK HERE](#)



Learn more about Gee Whiz at [www.geewhizeducation.com](http://www.geewhizeducation.com)

\* After your first month (with the 80% discount), you will be charged at our regular rate of just \$24.95 per month until you cancel (which you may do at any time).

**TALK OF THE TOWN**  
**AREA 21 - Hillsborough County**

**CYNTHIA**  
**ROBINSON BROWN**



Cynthia has three grown children and a husband Robert. She grew up the youngest child of six, with a mother and father who worked hard as a housekeeper and plumber respectively. She credits her parents teaching her the importance of hard work and determination. She is grateful for their sacrifices, and her mom’s strength inspires especially by influencing her to always be willing to go the extra mile.

When Cynthia was in high school, she took Early Childhood classes on weekends to gain experience in the child care field, which started the path to now be Director and Owner of her own FCCH. She is proudly a first-generation college graduate, In 2007, she received her Bachelor of Science in Human Services/ Early Childhood, and in 2009, a Master’s Degree in Human Service/ Sociology and Youth Studies.

With over 18 years of experience with the Hillsborough County Head Start program in daycare centers, she was well-equipped to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to thrive. She had the passion to become her own boss and to give her experience and love to at-risk families to help them grow and learn, as well as the confidence from her experiences to help her to be successful in her role as an owner of a growing business.

Cynthia’s Large family child care home is open twenty four hours, with overnight hours available for those who need that schedule. She has been in operation for nine years and loving every minute of it.

She is involved in her community as a Board member of the Health, Education and Social Service Committee, a Board member of the Heart of East Tampa Front Porch Florida, a Member of the National Association for Family Child Care, as well as the Program Director for Ambassadors for Change Mentoring. She is presently a Chapter Rep for FFCCHA’s Area 21, Hillsborough County, and is working towards her NAFCC Accreditation.

Cynthia shares that “child care is not just a job for me; it is my true love. I come from a family background where caring for and supporting children has always been valued. After completing my certification in child care and spending 18 years feeling unappreciated and overworked, I decided to work for myself and make a difference, I am excited to contribute my skills and knowledge to my own Family Child Care Home.”

*Please submit a "Talk of the Town" article about someone special from Areas 24 - 31. Submissions must be submitted by August 17, 2024 to the Newsletter Editor: Wendy Corso-Ruud at ruud3@aol.com Thank you!*

**Support FFCCHA**  
 Danish Williams, Fundraising

Hello to everyone!  
 I hope your summer has been going well. I’d love to say thank you all for the support that was given this year at our FFCCHA Conference, and thank all my volunteers who were awesome workers.  
 I’d also like to thank all the Early Learning Coalitions, Sponsors, the Area and Chapter Coordinators and representatives, as well as the individuals who donated personal items to FFCCHA as door prizes and gifts.  
 I thank you all from the bottom of my big heart and thank you for your support. Stay safe and I will see you next year. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Danish at 305-495-5029 or email her at fundraiser@familychildcare.org



**Noticias Del Concilio Latino**  
 Sarai Marquez, Latino Liaison

Es un gran honor presentarme a todos los proveedores de cuidado infantil familiar latino/a /x en todo el estado de Florida como la nueva Enlace Latino (Latino Liaison) de la Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA).



Durante mi mandato, aspiro a servirles a todos y proporcionar los recursos necesarios para sobresalir en sus negocios privados y promover la participación dentro de nuestra asociación. Entiendo la importancia de apoyarlos como proveedores latinos, ya que muchos desconocen los increíbles apoyos y recursos que están disponibles en el estado de Florida.

¡No dude en ponerse en contacto conmigo con respecto a cualquier pregunta, inquietud o sugerencia ffccha.sarai@gmail.com ! Trabajemos juntos y crezcamos juntos por el mejoramiento de los niños a los que servimos.



**Public Relations News**

Public Relations

Having a meeting, workshop, or training session in your area coming up soon? We now have large and small display boards as well as brochures and other professional resources. FFCCHA display Boards are in Spanish and English.



You can use any of our PR materials for virtual meetings and presentations with your ELC, Food Program and your own Chapter Association meeting.

No time to wait?? You can print directly from our FFCCHA website under the Publications tab <https://familychildcare.org/resources/publications/>

Do not forget to take advantage of advertising your business in our quarterly Grapevine newsletter!

For more info, contact [publicrelations@familychildcare.org](mailto:publicrelations@familychildcare.org)

**MENTOR News - July 2024**

**All Family Child Care Providers** - If you would like help from a mentor or have questions or concerns about accreditation, please contact me. Mentors are trained to help in many other areas, not just accreditation. (such as setting up your child care indoor or outdoor environment, contracts and policies, marketing, obtaining your CDA, handling difficult situations, etc.)

FFCCHA Certified Provider Mentors - please make sure you are sending me any updates on your credentials and in service hours needed for each year.

If you have any questions on what is needed, contact Lois Kendrick 239-337-7188 or [FLMentorpgm@aol.com](mailto:FLMentorpgm@aol.com)



**Chapter Rep News**

Angela-Perla Almodovar, Chapter Rep Coordinator



**Congratulations!**

**Daysi Mordan**

**Chapter Rep of the Quarter from APCID Miami-Dade County**

**Successful City Efforts**

United Professional Child Care Providers of South Florida in Palm Beach County, collaborated with the City of Riviera Beach to advocate for Family Child Care support. As a result of their combined efforts, the payment fee for Large Family Child Care was successfully reduced from \$4,600.00 to no more than \$800.00. The Florida Family Child Care Home Association (FFCCHA) extends its heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for your team's hard work and leading to this significant accomplishment, which has made a substantial positive impact on FCC in the community.

**Successful Recruitment Efforts**

Just north of Gainesville, in a close-knit community, lays the quaint town of Alachua, where a significant initiative is taking place. Deborah Danzy, Lyria Allen, Maria Papallo, and Dietra Sherman are leading an admirable effort to recruit Family Child Care Providers in the area to establish a (FFCCHA) local Chapter in Alachua. This chapter aims to provide essential resources and professional development opportunities to help local providers grow their businesses and better serve the community. This initiative promises to bring invaluable support and growth to Family Child Care Providers in the area and will empower providers with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive. Ladies, we celebrate your hard work and dedication. Congratulations on this wonderful achievement. Your commitment to enhancing the Family Child Care landscape in Alachua sets a shining example for others to follow. Keep up the fantastic work!

If you have any questions, or need clarification, please contact me at (305)321-6735.

**Area Rep News**

Jennifer Richards, Area Rep Coordinator

**Congratulations!**

**Matline Ford**

**Area Rep of the Quarter (Area 5, Leon County)**

**Thank you for your dedication to family childcare!**

FFCCHA wants to thank all Area Reps for doing an excellent job in building positive relationships in their local areas. I asked and all Area Reps delivered!!



I'm extremely proud and beyond grateful for all you beautiful ladies, who stepped up at conference, gave out directions to trainings, and excelled in their classes! Congratulations Area Reps!!!

We are currently **looking for Area Representative** for the following current vacant areas:

**1,2,3,4,6,11,12,14,15,18,19,22,23,24,25,26,27,30 and 31.** Area rep positions are for 2 years. If you would like more information on job duties, reach out to me anytime. All even numbered areas are open now, and we are accepting applications. All even numbers are open for July 1, 2024 term, elected in even years. Anyone can apply at any time for an open area. If you like working as an advocate in your local community, share information with peers and childcare partners, this is the perfect job for you.

Please contact Jennifer Richards (386) 846-9567 or email [jjrichards23@gmail.com](mailto:jjrichards23@gmail.com)



## 2024-2025 FFCCHA Credential Scholarship Application



Florida Gold Seal FCC Provider/Educators earn a 20% increase in payment rate for School Readiness (subsidized) children. You must be Nationally accredited to become and earn a FL Gold Seal designation.

There are **165 NAFCC accredited** FCC home providers in Florida. Florida leads the nation!

**Requirements:** Must be a Florida Licensed Family Child Care Provider, a FFCCHA chapter provider member and NAFCC member.

**Applying for:**  \$160 (***\$200***)  \$315 (***\$385***)  \$525 (***\$615***)  \$\_\_\_\_\_

Note: New NAFCC fee increases are in **Bold** and *Italics* above and effective on August 1, 2024.

- NAFCC Accreditation Quality Ambassador Certified Trainer
- NAFCC Accreditation Observer Training
- NAFCC New Accreditation: Self Study
- NAFCC New Accreditation: Application
- NAFCC Accreditation: 18-month Update
- NAFCC Re-Accreditation: Application

*Note: \$950/person/year is the maximum awarded in time period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Family Child Care License: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:  Licensed  Large Licensed  VPK  CDA  NAFCC Accredited since \_\_\_\_\_

Local FFCCHA Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Area: # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Chapter President: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of your local chapter? \_\_\_\_\_

List current leadership roles or participation in your chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

List current leadership roles or participation in FFCCHA: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a full-time family child care provider? \_\_\_\_\_

List other child care related experience: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your future plans in family child care? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly explain how receiving this scholarship will benefit you, the children, your parent clients, and/or other providers:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you agree to sign a contract to return the awarded money, if you fail to meet the scholarship purpose within an agreed upon deadline?  Yes  No

*Please **submit application via email** (put your name in subject line) to: [credentialchair@familychildcare.org](mailto:credentialchair@familychildcare.org) Include a copy of your current NAFCC Membership Card OR receipt of purchase and copy of your Child Care Home license and 1 letter of recommendation (dated within past 6 mos.) from any of the following: Child Care Agency, Early Learning Coalition, local FFCCHA Chapter, FFCCHA Certified Mentor, parent client from your FCC home, Food Program sponsor, Training Instructor, Licensing, Community or State College.*

**ALL** correspondence is by e-mail, so make sure your email is valid and check it often after applying.

**Questions? Please call 561-445-7333, 407-234-3473 or e-mail [credentialchair@familychildcare.org](mailto:credentialchair@familychildcare.org)**

Office verification: Regulation \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Member since \_\_\_\_\_ FFCCHA \_\_\_\_\_ NAFCC \_\_\_\_\_

*Application Revised 8-2024*



**One Goal News**

Submitted by Tammy Tener

Tasheba Berry and Past President, Karan Heister attended The Children's Forum Workforce Initiatives Professional Development and Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday afternoon. FFCCHA had a display table on Wednesday for non-profits Exhibitors. Tasheba Berry attended Advocacy training as part of the Children's Forum Advocacy Cohort. On Wednesday, Tammy Tener attended the Informal Pathway Statewide Advisory Committee meeting in the morning and the Early Learning Consortium meeting in the afternoon followed by dinner (see photo below). Arleen was also invited to the dinner.

The Consortium meets virtually weekly or monthly regularly year round and consists of Executive Directors from Children's Movement, The Children's Forum, The Association of ELCs, Head Start Association, FLAEYC, Children's Services Council, Children's Trust and United Way of FL and FFCCHA.

FFCCHA Participated in the One Goal Summer Conference in Tampa, FL on July 16-19, 2024.

Board members: Arleen Lambert, Annette Eberhart,



**2024 NAFCC Observer Training in Orlando, Florida at FLAEYC**



**October 16-17, 2024** (Wednesday-Thursday)  
**Omni Orlando Resort - 1500 Masters Blvd**  
**Champions Gate, Florida 33896**

Join a network of professional leaders who are committed to moving the Power of Family Child Care forward! You will have the opportunity to participate in a full 2-day Observer Training and network with like-minded professionals from across the field to assist in the career journey of Family Child Care providers! If you are passionate about helping people reach their highest potential in the field of Family Child Care, we encourage you to apply today. Applications are required for training attendance. Seating is limited to 30 eligible applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact: [info@familychildcare.org](mailto:info@familychildcare.org) for scholarships available for FFCCHA members.

Submission Deadline: September 15, 2024, for Registration on FLAEYC conference link: <https://www.flaeyc.org/annual-conference>

Hotel Deadline: September 24, 2024, for hotel sleeping room block at \$172/night. <https://bookings.omnihotels.com/event/orlando-championsgate/flaeyc-annual-meeting---2024-10122024>

Click this link for the NAFCC Observer Trainer Pre-Qualification Eligibility Assessment: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/b9L671qfz4FZAbux4US60qEN>

WANT TO GO  
 BACK TO SCHOOL?  
**WE CAN HELP!**



Visit us online at [www.TEACH-FL.com](http://www.TEACH-FL.com)  
 or give us a call at 1-877-FL-TEACH

## Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc. – August 2024

Executive Committee - Officers	Name	City	Zip	Phone	Email
President	Arleen Lambert	Miami Gardens	33169	305-793-4011	president@familychildcare.org
Vice President	Gertrude Freeman-Ford	Cocoa	32926	321-890-8366	vicepresident@familychildcare.org
Secretary	<b>OPEN - Apply Now!</b>				secretary@familychildcare.org
Treasurer	<b>OPEN</b>				treasurer@familychildcare.org
Membership	<b>OPEN</b>				membership@familychildcare.org
Area Rep Coordinator	Jennifer Richards	Daytona Beach	32114	386-846-9567	areacoordinator@familychildcare.org
Chapter Rep Coordinator	Angela "Perla" Almodovar	Doral	33178	305-321-6735	chaptercoordinator@familychildcare.org
Public Relations	<b>OPEN</b>				publicrelations@familychildcare.org
Latino Liaison	Sarai Marquez	Kissimmee	34743	407-978-2131	ffccha.sarai@gmail.com
Professional Development	Annette Eberhart	Tampa	33612	813-493-0828	training@familychildcare.org
Fundraising	Danish Williams	Miami	33147	305-495-5029	fundraiser@familychildcare.org
Legislative Liaison	Tasheba Berry	Hollywood	32201	954-464-3134	info@tashebaberry.com
Executive Director, Asst. Conference & Contracts	<b>NON-BOARD POSITIONS</b>				
	Tammy Tener	Crystal River	34428	407-234-3473	info@familychildcare.org
Finance Manager	Sande Harper	St Petersburg	33710	727-345-0299	sharper3601@aol.com

Area #	Counties	Area Representatives – Full Board			
1	Escambia	Andrea Grace	Pensacola	32506	850-452-6652 andreagrace4215@att.net
2	Santa Rosa	<b>Open</b>			
3	Okaloosa, Walton	<b>Open</b>			
4	Holmes, Jackson, Franklin, Bay, Calhoun, Washington, Gulf	<b>Open</b>			
5	Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Taylor, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison	Matline Ford	Tallahassee	32305	850-877-3885 matlinef@aol.com
6	Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Columbia, Union	<b>Open</b>			
7	Duval	Patricia Williams	Jacksonville	32209	904-403-8948 Pdt62@comcast.net
8,9	Nassau, Baker, Clay, Bradford, Putman, St. Johns	Renie Roach	St Augustine	32092	904-392-5366 renieroach@yahoo.com
10	Alachua	Lula Owens			904-779-9988 Lulafrank@bellsouth.net
11	Citrus, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Sumter	<b>Open</b>	Temporary: Tammy Tener		407-234-3473 tenerfcc@gmail.com
12	Marion	<b>Open</b>	Temporary: Gwen Wilson		352-351-5370 gwenlo50@hotmail.com
13	Flagler, Volusia	Cynthia Durr	Daytona Beach	32114	386-258-6603 cbrownsugarmd@aol.com
14	Lake	<b>Open</b>			
15	Seminole	<b>Open</b>			
16	Brevard	Joyce Burks	Cocoa	32922	321-292-2159 JoyceBurksChildCare@gmail.com
17	Orange	Sonji Mitchell	Orlando	32808	407-936-8358 sonjip@hotmail.com
18	Osceola	Fariha Zuberi	Orlando	32837	407-361-0130 montessori.home@yahoo.com
19	Pasco, Hernando	<b>Open</b>			
20	Polk	<b>Open</b>			
21	Hillsborough	Renee Graham	Tampa	33619	813-621-5369 rgraham89@verizon.net
22	Pinellas	<b>Open</b>	Temporary: Lynn Gibson		727-397-982 childcarelaws@aol.com
23	Manatee	<b>Open</b>			
24	Sarasota	<b>Open</b>			
25	Hardee, Highlands, DeSoto, Charlotte	<b>Open</b>			
26	Okeechobee, Indian River, Martin	<b>Open</b>			
27	St Lucie	<b>Open</b>			
28	Lee, Hendry, Glades, Collier	Valarie Cummings	Ft Myers		2390822-3235 wifey02@hotmail.com
29	Palm Beach	Mary Morris	Palm Beach	33409	561-832-0472 msmlm57@msn.com
30	Broward	<b>Open</b>			
31	Miami-Dade, Monroe	<b>Open</b>	Temporary: Danish Williams		305-495-5029 danishwilliams@hotmail.com

**Interested in serving as an Area Representative?  
Contact Jennifer Richards areacoordinator@familychildcare.org OR call: 386-846-9567**

Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc. – April 2024

Area	CHAPTER NAME	FULL BOARD Chapter Rep.	Phone	E-Mail	Meeting City
5	North Florida FCC Assoc. (11 members)	Charlene Thornton	850-980-2824	LSLCKids@yahoo.com	Big Bend Area
7	Family Child Care Assoc. of Jacksonville (27)	Myrna Wright	904-477-2965	Jbear_226@yahoo.com	Jacksonville
8,9	Putnam County FCC Provider Association (11)	Karan Hiester	386-957-4482	educate71@gmail.com	Rotates cities
12	Marion County FCCH Association (27)	Marjorie Wheeler	352-299-7203	marjoriejanae19@gmail.com	Ocala
15,17,18	Central Florida Association for FCC (61)	Alethia Dittren	407-870-1569	dittren01@netzero.com	Orlando
16	Brevard Sunshine FCH Association (8)	Cheryl Guest	321-537-8751	cguest08@gmail.com	Cocoa
17	Multicultural FCCHA of Orange Co (41)	Stephanie Minus	407-373-5090	elementzofbusiness@gmail.com	Orlando
21	HCCPA of NE Hillsborough County (43)	Cynthia Brown	813-766-4682	robinsontrainingconsultant@yahoo.com	Temple Terrace
21	Quality FHCC Provider Association (28)	Robin Dean	813-205-4432	nanaslearningpost@gmail.com	Riverview
22	FLEXx Production Southside CCA (8)	Dorothy Jenkins	727-895-7101	Blueeyes33701@yahoo.com	St. Petersburg
22	Heart to Heart Child Care Assoc (66)	Michelle Pugh	727-215-0946	mrp701@aol.com	Pinellas Park
23	HCC Providers Assoc. of Manatee County (19)	Victoria Morgan	941-251-6431	mslilvick@aol.com	Bradenton
29	Palm Beach County FCC Assoc (69)	Nichola Griffiths-Butts	561-506-4739	nicholagriffiths@yahoo.com	Royal Palm Beach
29	United Professional CCP of So Florida (4)	Cynthia Bedford	561-644-8151	Cbedford@bellsouth.net	Palm Beach
30,31	Broward County FCC Association (8)	Phyllis Grant	954-873-2747	grant589@bellsouth.net	Lauderhill
30,31	APCID of Hialeah (79)	Daysi Mordan	786-797-8684	daysimordan81x@gmail.com	Hialeah
31	South Florida Home CC Association (37)	Kelly Patterson	305-986-8826	kklbbabyinn@aol.com	Miami
31	FCCPA of Miami-Dade County (27)	Gladys Reyes	786-704-2012	Lalyreyes252@yahoo.com	Kendall

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS (NON-BOARD POSITIONS)**

Advisory	Gwen Wilson	352-351-5370	gwenlo50@hotmail.com	Latino Development	Open - Apply now!
Awards	Renie Roach	904-392-5366	renieroach@yahoo.com	Member Development	Open - Apply now!
Bylaws		Open - Apply now!		M.E.N.T.O.R.	Abbie Bill 561-445-7333 FLMentorpgm@aol.com
Chaplain	Cynthia Durr	386-258-6603	cbrownsugarmd@aol.com	Newsletter Editor	Wendy Corso-Ruud 561- 715-1361 ruud3@aol.com
Chapter Dev		Open - Apply now!		Nomination	Mayra Marquez nominations@familychildcare.org
Finance		Open - Apply now!		Parliamentarian	Open - Apply now!
Fundraiser		Open - Apply now!		Credential Scholarship	Abbie Bill 561-445-7333 credentialchair@familychildcare.org
Historian		Open - Apply now!		Social Media	Karan Hiester 386-957-4482 educate71@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sharon Singleton	407-404-3038	singsd63@gmail.com	Translation	Open - Apply now!
ASSISTANT CONFERENCE COORDINATOR: KARAN HIESTER 386-957-4482 conference@familychildcare.org					
Contact a Chair if you would like to serve as a member of any of the above committees!					

FFCCHA: 9207 Edgemont Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33434 Phone: 954-581-1192 E-mail: info@familychildcare.org

*Passionate about your profession as a family child care provider? Interested in promoting our mission?*

**Apply NOW for Current Vacant Positions for Area Reps:**

Area Representatives: 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31

Apply for open positions serving 2-year term if even number and 1-year term if odd number.

Submit Area Rep applications to: [areacoordinator@familychildcare.org](mailto:areacoordinator@familychildcare.org)

**Apply NOW for Current Vacant Positions for Chairs:**

Committee Chairs (non-board positions): see Committee Chair list above in chart

**Apply NOW for Vacant Executive Committee Officer Positions to start immediately:**

Secretary, Public Relations

**Apply in January for Executive Committee Board: 2 year terms**

President, Vice President, Area Rep Coordinator, Fundraising, Legislative Liaison, Latino Liaison

Applications are available at [www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org) on the "Forms" page under Resources or contact:

Nomination Chair, Mayra Marquez. Applications can be submitted via e-mail, mail, fax or hand delivery. Questions? E-mail: [nominations@familychildcare.org](mailto:nominations@familychildcare.org) OR call: 407-452-2967





## Benefits of Mixed-Age Groups for the Child

**Developmentally Appropriate.** The mixed-age group environment is a very normal and natural setting. The real world is full of people of all ages, just as in the child's family, neighborhood, and community. Although schools and many daycare centers choose to segregate children by ages, this does not reflect real life.

**Provider Continuity.** Children are not moved to a new classroom and new teacher when they have a birthday or master a certain skill. It is difficult for parents and children to frequently have to transfer feelings of trust, comfort and affection to another caregiver.

**Individual Attention.** Family child care providers are more accepting of uneven development. They are able to focus on each child as an individual rather than on just one child in a group of babies/children. Teachers of same-age groups may be more tempted to expect children to learn at the same pace.

**Family/Sibling-Like Relationships.** These relationships can be fostered, and are sources of trust, affection, comfort, and closeness. Research has shown that age is not an important factor for friendship choices.

**Experience Different Roles.** Each child has the opportunity to play various roles such as the youngest, middle, or oldest of the group, and therefore have exposure to different learning experiences.



**Social Development Enhanced.** Each child has the opportunity to interact with a variety of behavior and continuously practice cooperative work and play skills (sharing, taking turns, expressing feelings, being helpful to others, etc.).

**Builds Leadership Skills and Self-Esteem.** The older children have the opportunity to lead, instruct, assume responsibility, and nurture others. They also strengthen their own skills and knowledge already acquired through the process of tutoring others.

**Learning from Other Children.** The younger children are exposed to more complex play, advanced language, and educational activities by observing and imitating the older children. They often learn better from other children than from adults.

**Therapeutic for "At Risk" Children.** Children with difficulty following rules are encouraged to remind the younger ones of the rules and therefore often learn to obey and control their own behavior. Children with low self-esteem have the opportunity to refine their social skills and interact in a non-competitive way around the younger children.

**Minimizes Competitive Pressures.** Many children are at various learning levels and will have age-specific needs at different times. In mixed-age groups, they are not usually compared to their same-age peers and therefore will not usually feel the need to compete.

**"Waiting Time" is Minimized.** Many activities are open-ended or coordinated for all ages – with all children involved. The older children are usually able to be helpful and assist with holding the door open, hand washing, putting away toys, setting the table, etc.

[www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org)



# 2024 Award Honorees



Provider Hall of Fame: **Cynthia Chipp** (Hillsborough)  
Advocate Hall of Fame: **Dawn Espinoza** (Pasco-Hernando)  
Outstanding NAFCC Accredited Home: **Andrea Grace** (Pensacola)

1<sup>st</sup> Parent Choice: **Gwen Wilson** (Marion)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Parent Choice: **Wendy Corso-Ruud** (Palm Beach)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Choice: **Patricia Williams** (Duval)

Parent Choice Honorable Mention: **Kissha Ballard, Cynthia Chipp, Adrienne Donaldson, Peggy LaFuente, Lois Kendrick, Joyce Pettigrew, Shannon Richardson, Fariha Zuberi**

Outstanding FFCCHA Chapter: **Marion County Family Child Care Home Association** (Marion)  
Chapter Rep of the Year: **Myrna Wright** (Duval)  
Area Rep of the Year: **Mary Morris** (Palm Beach)  
Agency Helping Associations Prosper: **Infant and Child Nutrition, Inc.**



Heart Award: **Karan Hiester**  
Officer of the Year: **Arleen Lambert**  
Volunteer of the Year: **Jennifer Richards**  
Outstanding Teamwork: **Gertrude Freeman-Ford**  
Advocate of the Year: **Gwen Wilson**

Child in Heart Photo Contest Winner from the FCC home of **Wendy Corso-Ruud**

Ultimate Provider Sponsor: **ELC of Orange County**  
Top Provider Sponsor: **ELC of Osceola County**  
Outstanding Provider Sponsor: **ELC of Big Bend**

Outgoing Board Service Awards  
**Wendy Corso-Ruud** Membership    **Kissha Ballard** Treasurer

### SPECIAL THANKS to our KEYNOTES

Courtne Wheelless, Nigel Smith, Marica Cox Mitchell, Francia Wisnewski,  
Dr. Pamela Phelps, and Courtney Smith



## 2024 Award Honorees (page TWO)

### THANK YOU TO OUR MIND SPONSORS

Ultimate Mind Sponsors (\$5,000 and above)  
**FL DCF Office of Child Care Regulation**

Innovative Minds (\$2,500)  
**Bainum Family Foundation**

Inquiring Minds (\$2,000)  
**Florida Head Start State Collaborative Office**  
**Family Day Care Insurance (FDCl)**

Caring Minds (\$1,000)  
**Wonderschool**  
**The Association of Early Learning Coalitions**  
**Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County**

Creative Mind Sponsor (\$500):  
**The Children's Movement of Florida**  
**Sunshine Health**  
**Gee Whiz Education**  
**Kendrick Large Family Child Care / Preschool**

Curious Mind Sponsors (\$250)  
**Central Florida Association for Family Child Care**  
**Gretchen Murphy**  
**Marion County FCC Association**  
**Wendy Corso-Ruud: Think Goodness Brands / Origami Owl**

Award Plaques sponsored by **Florida Day Care Insurance**

**BIG thanks** for donations from: **Florida Dairy Farmers** for the purple conference bags and books;  
**Maryann Harman** for the large puppets and *Music with Mar* CDs;  
**Kaplan** for \$50 Gift Cards for Luncheon Tables;  
**Florida Day Care Insurance** for sunglasses and beach balls in conference bags;  
**Lakeshore** for door prizes; **Discount School Supply** for gift certificates;  
 and **Sheraton Sand Key** for the Grand Prize of a three-night stay at next year's conference.



## ANNOUNCING FFCCHA's June 25-29, 2025 Conference

- Wednesday-Thursday Pre-Conference FFCCHA Certified M.E.N.T.O.R. Training
- Second Helping      • Curriculum Training and more!
- Friday Luncheon Keynote with FFCCHA Awards and Workshops
  - Saturday Keynote "The Becoming of Family Child Care - through Evolution, Elevation & Innovation" Jerletha McDonald
- Concilio Latino y Talleres en Español Sunday Keynote with FFCCHA General Meeting



Here's your hotel link you can use to make room reservations:

[HOTEL LINK \(click here\)](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1691079467834&key=GRP&app=resvlink) or go to:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1691079467834&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**Our room block ALWAYS SELLS OUT** so reserve NOW!!

Last Day to Book: Monday, May 26, 2025





Hurricane Season is officially underway, and the Department of Children and Families is encouraging you to be prepared. The season began June 1 and continues through November 30. All providers are encouraged to take the time to prepare their families and homes for the season. Additionally, now is a good time to review your program’s emergency preparedness plan and ensure all necessary supplies are available.

When reviewing your plan, think about activities that occur before/after a storm. Below are some examples.

**Before the Storm:**

- Coordinate with your licensing counselor to ensure that your contact information is update to date
- Make sure child care personnel (substitutes and employees for Large Family Child Care Home) know your program’s Emergency Preparedness policies and procedures
- Have a plan in place for communicating with parents/guardians
- Ensure you have hurricane supplies
- Secure buildings and any outdoor items that are not anchored down

**After the Storm:**

- Contact your licensing counselor within 24 hours to update them on the operational status of your program
- If your program is without power you may not operate, unless powered by an alternate power source, such as a generator, that is permanently installed and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations and comply with the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code 69A-60, F.A.C. The alternate power source and fuel supply shall be located in an area that is not subject to flooding or damage from storm surge
- Childcare programs may re-open/remain open if there is no structural damage, the site has full electrical service, and the water and sewage/ septic tank are working properly



Visit [www.myflfamilies.com/childcare](http://www.myflfamilies.com/childcare) to view Emergency Preparedness information in the “Providers” section.

**Take every precaution to keep you and your family safe!**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THIS ONLINE COURSE!?**

**Want to avoid the most common violations?**

Last July, the Department of Children and Families launched the “*Stay Compliant with the Top Ten Violations (SCTT)*” online course.

This course will help you identify the most common violations and how to avoid them. Visit [www.myflfamilies.com/childcaretraining](http://www.myflfamilies.com/childcaretraining) for training information. Or log into your Child Care Training Account to view online courses.







# Save the Date!

## Enhancing Our Minds... in 2025



# FFCCHA Annual Conference

June 25-29, 2025

Sheraton Sand Key Resort • 1160 Gulf Boulevard • Clearwater Beach, FL 33767

### Wednesday-Thursday Pre-Conference

FFCCHA Certified M.E.N.T.O.R. Training • Second Helping • Curriculum Training and more!

### Friday Luncheon Keynote

with FFCCHA Awards and Workshops

### Saturday Keynote

*"The Becoming of Family Child Care - through Evolution, Elevation & Innovation"*

Jerletha McDonald

### Concilio Latino y Talleres en Español

### Sunday Keynote

with FFCCHA General Meeting

Visit [www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org) for more conference updates!



*Enjoy... invigorating morning walks in the*

*relaxing evenings of beautiful sunsets on the Gulf*

*sand; inspiring, motivating workshops during the day; and*



## Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc.

9207 Edgemont Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33434  
info@familychildcare.org  
954-581-1192



# Future FCC Conference

*"FFCCHA Enhancing Our Minds...in 2026" June 24-28*

**Certified M.E.N.T.O.R. & Second Helping Training: June 24-25**

Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Rd, Kissimmee, FL 34746

407-597-0000 • Visit: [www.orlandolakebuenavistasouth.embassysuites.com](http://www.orlandolakebuenavistasouth.embassysuites.com)



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## Need more information on HOW to ENHANCE Minds?

Karan Hiester, Conference Assistant via email: [conference@familychildcare.org](mailto:conference@familychildcare.org) or call 386-689-3046

Tammy Tener, FFCCHA Executive Director via e-mail: [tenerfcc@gmail.com](mailto:tenerfcc@gmail.com) or call 407-234-3473

[www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org)



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**SHOUT OUT & THANKS to  
Conference Team, Sponsors,  
Awardees, Keynotes,  
and Exhibitors!**

**Apply for a FFCCHA Officer, Rep  
or Chair Position Now!**

**NAFCC Observer Training in  
Orlando, Florida  
Oct 16 - 17, 2024!**

**Apply for NAFCC Accreditation  
Scholarships!**

**Stay tuned for future trainings!**

## FFCCHA Conference Fun and Friendships

