

THE GRAPEVINE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Florida Family Child Care Home Association

Volume 34: Issue 3

Summer is Here .. Life is Good!

Summer 2026

President's Message:

UNSTOPPABLE STRENGTH

We are halfway through 2026, and as you look ahead, I encourage each of you to revisit your **WHY**.

Remembering your why means reconnecting with the deeper reason behind your actions - the purpose, belief, or calling that gives your work and your life meaning. It is the quiet force that keeps you moving when motivation fades, when obstacles appear, and when the path forward feels uncertain.

Your why is more than a goal. Goals can change. Circumstances can shift. But your why is the foundation beneath it all. It is the reason you began, the reason you continue, and the reason you rise again after setbacks.

And the truth is, discovering your why isn't a one-time event. It is something you must return to again and again. In a world full of noise, pressure, and distraction, your why must remain visible enough to guide your decisions, steady enough to ground your spirit, and strong enough to remind you who you are becoming.

Just like a seed buried beneath the soil, there will be seasons when growth feels slow and unseen. But roots are still forming. Strength is still building. Progress is still happening beneath the surface.

So, as you move into the second half of this year, ask yourself:

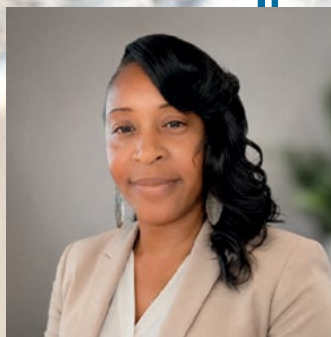
- What truly drives me?
- What impact do I want to leave behind?
- What purpose is worth pushing through the darkness for?

Because when your why is clear, your strength becomes unstoppable!
Sincerely,

Gertrude Freeman-Ford

FFCCHA President

See our conference
recap inside this newsletter
as well!!



Mensaje de Nuestra Presidente:

FUERZA IMPARABLE

Hemos llegado a la mitad del año 2026 y, al mirar hacia lo que resta del camino, los invito a detenerse un momento para reconectar con su propósito.

Recordar nuestro propósito significa volver a la razón más profunda que impulsa nuestras acciones: aquello que da sentido a nuestro trabajo, a nuestras decisiones y a nuestra vida. Es esa fuerza silenciosa que nos mantiene avanzando cuando la motivación disminuye, cuando surgen obstáculos o cuando el futuro parece incierto.

Nuestro propósito va más allá de una meta. Las metas pueden cambiar y las circunstancias pueden transformarse; sin embargo, el propósito es el cimiento que sostiene todo lo demás. Es la razón por la que comenzamos, la que nos impulsa a seguir adelante y la que nos ayuda a levantarnos después de cada desafío.

Lo cierto es que descubrir nuestro propósito no es un acontecimiento único. Es un ejercicio constante al que debemos volver una y otra vez. En un mundo lleno de distracciones, exigencias y ruido, nuestro propósito debe permanecer lo suficientemente claro para orientar nuestras decisiones, lo suficientemente firme para mantenernos centrados y lo suficientemente fuerte para recordarnos en quiénes nos estamos convirtiendo.

Al igual que una semilla que crece bajo la tierra, habrá etapas en las que el progreso parezca lento e incluso invisible. Sin embargo, las raíces continúan fortaleciéndose, la fortaleza sigue desarrollándose y el crecimiento avanza, aun cuando no podamos verlo.

Al comenzar esta segunda mitad del año, los invito a reflexionar:

- ¿Qué es lo que verdaderamente me impulsa?
- ¿Qué impacto deseo dejar en los demás?
- ¿Qué propósito merece mi esfuerzo, incluso en los momentos más difíciles?

Porque cuando tenemos claro nuestro propósito, nuestra fortaleza se vuelve verdaderamente imparable.

Con gratitud,

Gertrude Freeman-Ford, 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
Naomi Helligar - ELC of Osceola County
Zipporah Morris Scott - ELC of Palm Beach
Cecil Wilson - ELC of Marion County

Members of FFCCHA who serve on other Boards / Councils

Angela Perla Almodovar - MDC Advisory Board, Board
Member of: Early Childhood Initiative of America; Early
Childhood Training Institution; Mariposas con Propósito

Kissha Ballard - ERIKSON Institute - Pre-K in FCC

Annette Eberhart - FICCIT Florida Interagency
Coordinating Council for Infants & Toddlers

Lynn Gibson - Pinellas County License Board FCC Rep

Kathy Jones - Hillsborough County Board of County
Commissioners Family Child Care Home Advisory Board

Arleen Lambert - Early Learning Impact Network
Advisory Council (Children's Movement); Miami Dade
College Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee

Zipporah Morris Scott - PBC Children's Services
County - Resident Advisory Committee,
Great Ideas Review Team

Karen Robinson - Palm Beach County Health
Department Child Care Advisory Council; and Palm
Beach State College Advisory Council

Tammy Tener - Informal Pathway Advisory; The
Children's Movement Research & Policy Advisory

Patricia Williams - North Florida Chapter of FLAEEYC

Credential Scholarship News

By Abbie Bill, Scholarship Chair

**A total of 18 (\$8120) Scholarships were awarded
April - June 30, 2026**

Self Study @\$385: Jennifer Gingrich, Lucia Sanjurjo

NAFCC New Accreditation @\$615: Kari Allgood, Amber Easterday,
Jennifer Richards, Charmaine Scott-Lewis, Lakisheia Womble, Fahira
Zuberi

NAFCC 18 Month Update @\$200: Sylvia Castillo, Ydelsa Curbelo,
Leannette Simmons, Sandra Mathews, Katherine Uribe, Deborah Wil-
liams

NAFCC Reaccreditation: @\$615: Lyria Allen, Sylvia Castillo, Dameka
Coleman, Lucinda Hightower

New! You can find an accredited provider with the map of the US on
NAFCC's accreditation page. There is also a listing by state and county.
On the NAFCC website go to Accreditation > find an accredited provider.

New requirement for Self-Study scholarships: Family Child Care
Educators in Self Study will be required to work with one of our Certified
Mentors or staff. They will help you through the Self Study phase so you
will be successful. Funds are available

NOW! FFCCHA now pays the full fee of each credential scholarship!
When applying for a scholarship, make sure you thoroughly read the
scholarship form and send ALL requested docu-
ments, as they have changed. Applications are
available NOW! in this issue of The Grapevine or
online.

Questions? Contact me at 561-445-7333 or
aright933@aol.com or
CredentialChair@familychildcare.org



**2027 NAFCC Conference - Hyatt Regency
Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL
July 14th - July 17th, 2027 www.nafcc.org**

Events Calendar 2026

September 2026 - July 2027

Apply NOW for FFCCHA Board Positions and Even number Area Reps to start in August 2026:Applications are available at www.familychildcare.org on the "Forms" page under Resources or contact:**Nomination Chair, Mayra Marquez.**E-mail: MMLatinoliason@gmail.com or 407-452-2967**2026****August**

- 15 FFCCHA Virtual Training & Full Board Meeting
 17 **Deadline** for October FFCCHA newsletter
 26 Power Hour Zoom 12:30pm TEACH & WAGES

October

- 10 FFCCHA EC Leadership Development / Training, Kissimmee, FL
 14-15 NAFCC Observer Training at FLAECY Conference, Jacksonville, FL
 16-18 FLAECY Conference, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL

November

- 14 Fall FFCCHA in-person Leadership Summit & Full Board Meeting, Kissimmee, FL
 17 **Deadline** for January FFCCHA newsletter

December

- 5-8 NAEYC Conference, Washington, DC

2027**January**

- Apply for FFCCHA Board positions to start July 2027
 25 All In for Early Learning Day

Feb

- 6 FFCCHA Training & Full Board meeting
 17 **Deadline** for April FFCCHA newsletter

March/April

- TBA Children's Week, Tallahassee, FL TBA

April

- 24 FFCCHA In-person training & Full Board Meeting - Location/Time TBA

July

- 15-17 NAFCC Conference, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL
 21-23 One Goal Summer Conference, Tampa, FL

October

- 13-17 FLAECY Conference, Disney Springs, Orlando

December

- 4-7 NAEYC Conference
 Chicago, IL

**Summer Membership News**

Kissha Ballard, Membership / Joselly Santos, FFCCHA Operation Manager

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

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

HCCPA of NE Hillsborough (April)
Palm Beach FCCA (May)
Central Florida AFCC (June)

As we continue to grow our association and welcome new members, we'd like to remind everyone that you do not need to create a new Join It profile to renew your membership. We've recently noticed an increase in duplicate accounts being created by members who are trying to renew.

If you have previously been a member, simply log in to your existing Join It account using your email address and password to complete your renewal. If you've forgotten your password, click the "Forgot Password" link to reset it rather than creating a new account. Creating duplicate profiles can delay your renewal and make it more difficult for us to maintain accurate membership records. If you need assistance accessing your account or are unsure whether you already have a profile, we're happy to help!

Please contact our Membership Officer, Kissha at (407) 616-5082 or membership@familychildcare.org before creating a new account. Thank you for your continued support and for being a valued member of the Florida Family Child Care Home Association. Your membership helps strengthen our voice and supports our mission to advocate for Family Child Care providers throughout Florida.

**June General Meeting News**

On Sunday, June 28, the final day of our conference at the Embassy Suites Kissimmee hotel, we enjoyed a wonderful keynote "Finding the Joy of Teaching," by Lilian Hubler Tobin.

Afterwards, we held our FFCCHA General Annual meeting. All board and committee reports were given, and past meeting minutes were approved. There were no new motions to vote on. First-time conference attendees were recognized, and the 5 state award winners as well as the Service Award recipients were announced. The installation ceremony for the new board members was led by past President Lois Kendrick. Grand prizes were awarded.



We are up to over 1,000 followers on our Facebook page!! WOOHOOO!!

www.facebook.com/FFCCHA

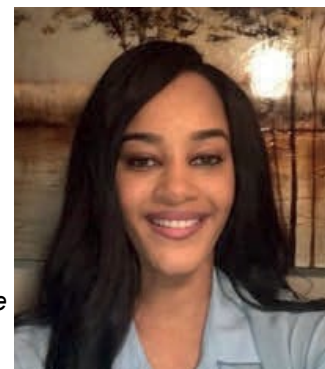
Share and Like us NOW! :) Click on our link below:



TALK OF THE TOWN

Wesley Chapel, Pasco County

Terrica Lashley



Terrica Lashley and her husband, Tevin, are proud natives of New Orleans, Louisiana, and parents of five children. Early childhood education is a family legacy, with both families owning and operating child care programs for generations. Together, they are committed to service, leadership, and strengthening children, families, and communities.

After gaining experience in her family's preschool beginning in 2002 and later founding *On The Geaux Consulting*, she and her husband opened Geaux Baby Preschool in March 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide dependable, high-quality care for children and essential workers. Family Child Care is more than a profession for them - it is their purpose and legacy. Geaux Baby Preschool is a Licensed Large Family Child Care Home that has operated since 2020 and proudly holds NAFCC Accreditation. The program offers VPK, supports military families, partners with local Early Learning Coalitions, and provides children with the benefit of both positive mother and father role models while emphasizing individualized learning and school readiness.

Terrica serves as an FFCCHA Hub Coordinator for Pasco/Hernando Counties, is an Advocacy Ambassador and Sunshine Committee member, and participates nationally in NAFCC's Leaders Shaping Leaders Cohort V. Through *On The Geaux Consulting*, she mentors providers, supports quality improvement, and advocates for family child care.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies and a Master of Arts in Organizational Management with a specialization in Organizational Leadership. She is TESOL Certified, RBT-trained, a Professional Development Specialist, and a Notary Public. Her many accomplishments include the FFCCHA Parent's Choice Award, features in Voyage Magazine (twice), and her husband's recognition as Teacher of the Year by the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties.

The Lashley's remain dedicated to educating children, supporting families, mentoring educators, and advancing the Family Child Care profession through leadership, advocacy, and service at the local, state, and national levels. They believe their legacy is not measured by awards or titles - it is measured by the lives they touch and the lasting impact they make.

Please submit a "Talk of the Town" article about someone special from Areas 24 - 31.

Submissions must be submitted by August 17, 2026 to the Newsletter Editor, Wendy Corso-Ruud at ruud3@aol.com Thank you!

Support FFCCHA

Danish Williams, Fundraising Officer



Hello to everyone! We just got back from our conference, which started on a high note and finished with a bang!

I would like to thank all the Early Learning Coalitions, the Area Reps, the Chapter Reps, the many family child care educators as well as the private vendors who gave their very generous donations to support our conference.

Donations/Vendor Donations

- *Area Reps (All) - \$155.00 Gift Cards
- *Area Reps - 2 Gifts Bags
- *Child Care Boss - 2 Gift Bags
- *Early Education Link - GB
- *ELC of Hillsborough - Gift Box
- *ELC Duval County - Gift Basket
- *ELC of SWFL - Bin and Bucket Set
- *Emmafy - 2 Gift Bags
- *Extended Hands Consulting - \$25.00 Gift Card
- *FDCI - 2 Gifts Cards
- *FLAEYC - 2 Gift Bags
- *Florida Dairy - 1 Gift Box
- *Frog Vendor - CDs & Case
- *Rebecca Gonzalez - 2 Gift Basket

*Hillsborough County FCCA - 3 \$25.00 Gift Cards

- *Multicultural FCCA - 2 \$25.00 GC
- *NAFCC - 1 Gift Card
- *PCFCCPA - Gift Card
- *Putman County FFCA - 2 Gift Cards
- *Wali Salahuddin - \$250.00
- *South Florida HCCA - 2 \$25.00 GC
- *Chan Summer - \$25.00 Gift Card
- *TEACH - 1 Gift Bag
- *Karen Robinson - United Foundation \$25.00 GC
- *Wendy Corso-Ruud - Origami Owl Jewelry valued at \$400

Gift Bags value \$25.00 or more (24)
Gift Cards value \$25.00 or more (46)

We truly hope to see everyone again at our 2028 FFCCHA Conference in St Petersburg, FL, with the same enthusiastic support. Much LOVE, D

If you should have any questions or concerns, please call 305-495-5029 or email at fundraiser@familychildcare.org

NAFCC State of Florida Representatives



A: Northwest & Northeast Regions
LaTonya Richardson



B: Central Region
Mayra Marquez



C: Suncoast & Southeast Region
Cynthia Chipp



D: Southern Region
Arleen Lambert

BIG THANKS TO OUR 2026 FFCCHA CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Angela Almodovar
Lyria Allen
Adria Atkins
Kissha Ballard
Alison Burney
LaTonya Campbell
Gwendolyn Carr
Jo Ann Carswell
Jacqueline Cobb
Cynthia Chipp
Valeria Cummings
Mildred Davis
Joe Dean
Robin Dean
Tashunti Dericho
Lisa Dupree
Cynthia Durr
Morgan Durr
Amber Easterday
Annette Eberhart
Zandra English
Yolanda Evans
Ramona Fobbs
Gertrude Freeman-Ford
Aleta Ford
Carla Garcia
Shirley "Lynn" Gibson

Alba Gomez
Renee Graham
Kwaneshia Griffin
Nichola Griffiths-Butts
Maria Cristina Herrera
Genoveva Hernandez
Karan Hiester
Pamela Hinson
Kendra Hundley
Paasche Jackson
Deaira Johnson
Lecia Johnson
Kathy Jones
Sheretta Joseph
Monique Joy
Alphonso "Al" Kendrick
Lois Kendrick
Destiny Kent
Syreeta Kerse
Terrica Lashley
Perlie Lewis
Magdelyn Liranzo
Yolanda Marentes
Stacy Martin
Nilza Melecio
Shajunia Miller
Stephanie Minus

Sonji Mitchell
Nicole Moreno
Alybe Moreno Aurioles
Geraldo Moreno Calles
Gerardo Moreno Taborda
Judy Morris
Mary Morris
Zipporah Morris
Rhonda Noel
Lula Owens
Clara Osorio
Maria Papallo
Brittney Patillo
Delores Penn
Vicky Pierre
Vladimyr Pierre-Louis
Marcia Pinnock
Pomae Taylor
Olga Teran
Neomi Thompson
Sharon Thompson
Ortega Thomas
Naomie Tilus
Wilmarc Tilus
Tamika Rutledge
Mariesmer Sanchez
Charmaine Scott-Lewis

Beth Sickles
Sharon Singleton
Alexandria Slaughter
Karen Robinson
Alethea Roberson
Dorene Roach
Dairielis Rodriguez
Brianna Reeves
Gladys Reyes
Jennifer Richards
William Richards
Shandra Warner
Linabel Warner-Pennyfeather
Shamara Washington
Madelyn Washington
Margorie Wheeler
Patricia Williams
Danish Williams
Corine Williams
Patricia Wohlers
Amanda Wallace
Myrna Wright
Michael Wright
Sylvia Wright-Castillo
Fariha Zuberi



Are you interested in earning or
renewing an early learning
credential, working towards
college credits or a certificate,
or completing your degree in
early childhood education?

T.E.A.C.H. IS HERE FOR YOU!



Give us a call or visit our
website for more information:

877-FL-TEACH (358-3224)
WWW.TEACH-FL.COM

NAFCC Two-Day Observer Training offered at FLAEYC Conference

October 14-15, 2026 - Hosted by FFCCHA

at FLAEYC Pre-Conference
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
225 East Coastline Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

NAFCC Accreditation

*Scholarships available for FFCCHA Members! For
more information, contact:
credentialchair@familychildcare.org*

Join a network of professional leaders committed to ad-
vancing the **Power of Family Child Care!**

Participate in two full days of Observer Training and net-
work with like-minded professionals across the field to
assist in the career journey of Family Child Care educa-
tors!

If you are passionate about helping people reach their
highest potential in Family Child Care, we encourage you
to apply for a NAFCC Observer seat today!

Applications are required for training attendance.

Registration fee includes both days of training and lunch
on Wednesday, October 14th and Thursday,
October 15th, 2026. **Contact us now!**

Public Relations Info

Having a meeting, workshop, or training session in your area coming up soon? We 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, call or contact info@familychildcare.org

MENTOR News Summer 2026

Abbie Bill -- MENTOR Program Chair

All Family Child Care Educators: Please APPLY now if you are interested in becoming NAFCC accredited. We have scholarships available.

All approved accreditation scholarship applicants will also have a Certified FFCCHA Mentor assigned to them to help with the accreditation process. If any FCC educators 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 indoor/outdoor learning environment, contracts and policies, marketing, obtaining your CDA, handling difficult situations, etc.

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

If you have any **questions** about what is needed, contact me. Abbie Bill 561-445-7333 or at aright933@aol.com



Chapter Rep News

Chapter Rep Coordinator



Congratulations!

Amber Easterday
Chapter Rep of the Quarter
Heart to Heart FCCA - Pinellas County

From Inspiration to Action: Moving Family Child Care Forward

The 2026 FFCCHA Annual Conference in Orlando brought family child care educators, leaders, and advocates together to learn, connect, and grow. Through meaningful professional development and shared experiences, we renewed our commitment to quality and excellence in family child care.

The conference may be over, but our work continues. The true impact of learning is reflected in how we turn new knowledge into action—strengthening our practices, our programs, and the experiences we provide for children and families.

Let's carry the inspiration forward and continue elevating the voice and value of family child care across Florida.

Remember to renew your membership online.

If you have any questions, or need assistance please contact:

info@familychildcare.org



Area Rep News

Mary Morris, Area Rep Coordinator



Congratulations!

Valeria Cummings
Area Rep of the Year
from Area 28 Ft Myers

Thank you for your dedication and untiring work as an Area Representative — all while attending college at the same time. Hats off to you!

I am extremely proud of and grateful for the incredible work our Area Reps continue to do alongside the many other responsibilities and accomplishments in their lives. Your hard work and commitment are not unnoticed.

Area Reps Cynthia Durr, Lula Owens, Matline Ford, Patricia Williams, Andrea Grace, Renee Graham, Sonia Mitchell, Valeria Cumming, Joyce Burks, Lisa Durpee and Fariha Zuberi who continues to promote FFCCHA and uphold its vision and mission throughout their communities.

A special thank you to all Area Reps who have signed up to serve on additional boards. Your commitment and leadership are truly appreciated.

For those who have not yet signed up, please do so as soon as possible. We are currently seeking Area Representatives for the following counties:

➡ Areas: 1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 3, 24, 26, 27, 30, & 31

If you enjoy advocacy work within your local community and collaborating with peers and childcare partners, please contact Mary at (561)832-0472 or email areacoordinator@familychildcare.org



FFCCHA Credential Scholarship Application

July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027



Requirements: Must be a Florida Licensed Family Child Care Home, FFCCHA Educator or Chapter Member, and NAFCC Member (included with FFCCHA Premium Membership).

Applying for: ☐ \$200 ☐ \$385 ☐ \$615 ☐ \$_____

- ☐ NAFCC Accreditation Quality Ambassador Certified Trainer
☐ NAFCC Accreditation Observer Training ☐ NAFCC Re-Accreditation: Application
☐ NAFCC New Accreditation: Self Study (*includes Mentoring sessions assigned by FFCCHA*)
☐ NAFCC New Accreditation: Application ☐ NAFCC Accreditation: 18-month Update

Note: \$950/person/year is the maximum awarded in time period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

PLEASE PRINT:

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

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

Office verification:

Regulation _____ **Chapter** _____ **Member since** _____ **FFCCHA** _____ **NAFCC** _____ **Application Rev 7-2025**



FFCCHA Virtual Zoom Training
Aug 15 (Saturday)
9:00 am – 11:00 am
 Sign-in online early at 8:45 am



Purpose-Driven Leadership

Strong organizations are built by leaders who lead with purpose, collaboration, and integrity. This interactive workshop explores the key principles of effective board leadership, team collaboration, and strategic growth. Participants will gain tools to strengthen relationships, build trust and create a culture that supports long-term success.

Trainer: ReShaun “Mama Shaun” Webb, M.Ed.

She is an award-winning educator, keynote speaker, leadership coach, author, and podcast host with more than 30 years of experience in early childhood education and leadership development. As the founder of the Rainbow Institute of Childcare Education (R.I.C.E.) and creator of the Heart-Shaped Leadership™ Framework, she empowers educators and organizations to lead with purpose, inspire others, and create lasting impact through authentic leadership.

Training Registration Fee: \$40 (\$30 scholarships available)

FFCCHA Members Pay Only \$10 (for FL licensed or registered providers or co-providers)

An email with a link to the Zoom class will be sent to you after FFCCHA has received your registration.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A TRAINING CERTIFICATE YOU MUST:

1. Submit your payment online with a credit card
<https://familychildcare.org/product-category/virtual-in-service-training/>
2. Be present the entire training session
3. Scholarship attendees MUST complete the Registration Link —>
[August 15 Purpose Driven Leadership Registration Link](#)
4. Complete and submit an evaluation after the training at this link: [Evaluation Form](#)

Questions about the Training?

Training@familychildcare.org or call (813)493-0828.

Questions about Scholarships?

Email: scholarship@familychildcare.org or call (954)581-1192

OR submit a check payment to:

FFCCHA
 9207 Edgemont Lane
 Boca Raton, FL 33434



**2026 Conference
 FUNDRAISING AREA
 Danish Williams, Chair**





Hurricane Season is officially underway, and the Department of Children and Families is encouraging you to stay 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 look over 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 updated
- 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/remains 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 to view Emergency Preparedness information in the "Providers" section.

Take every precaution to keep you and your family safe!

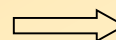
Thank You "Parent" Conference Sponsors

The very generous **parent-clients** of family child care providers' children collectively donated **\$1250** to sponsor providers for this 2026 conference.

The following family child care homes each collected \$25 or more from parent-clients: Angela-Perla Almodovar, Kissha Ballard, Vanessa Brown, Wendy Corso-Ruud, Valaria Cummings, Lisa Dupree, Cynthia Durr, Annette Eberhart, Yolanda Evans, Gertrude Freeman-Ford, Matline Ford, Renee Graham, Karan Hiester, Lucinda Hightower, Merian Johnson, Monique Joy, Sheretta Joseph, Lois Kendrick, Shajunia Miller, Sonji Mitchell Walker, Mary Morris, Tiara Morrison, Lula Owens, Ruth Reddick, Jennifer Richards, Latasha Richardson, Zipporah Scott-Morris, Audrey Stewart, Ortega Thomas, Stephanie Thomas, Shamara Washington, Corine Williams, Danish Williams, Patricia Williams, Gwen Wilson, and Edward Worthen.



The WINNER of the 2026 FFCCHA "Save the Date" Flyer CHILD-IN-THE HEART PHOTO CONTEST (page 23) for 2028's Annual Conference Brochure cover and Conference Program cover is from the Family Child Care Home of Lois Kendrick.



Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc. — July 2026

Executive Committee of Board = 9	Name	City	Zip	Phone	Email
President	Gertrude Freeman-Ford	Cocoa	32926	321-890-8366	fordgertrude746@gmail.com
Vice President	Jennifer Richards	Daytona Beach	32114	386-846-9567	jjrichards23@gmail.com
Secretary	Open - Apply Now!				secretary@familychildcare.org
Treasurer	Renie Roach	St Augustine	32092	904-392-5366	treasurer@familychildcare.org
Membership	Kissha Ballard	Orlando	32811	407-616-5082	membership@familychildcare.org
Area Rep Coordinator	Mary Morris	Palm Beach	33401	561-386-3567	areacoordinator@familychildcare.org
Chapter Coordinator	Open - Apply Now!				chaptercoordinator@familychildcare.org
Latino Liaison	Open - Apply Now!				latinoliason@familychildcare.org
Professional Development	Annette Eberhart	Tampa	33612	813-493-0828	training@familychildcare.org
Fundraising	Danish Williams	Miami	33147	305-495-5029	fundraiser@familychildcare.org

Interested in serving on the Executive Committee? Contact nominations@familychildcare.org OR 407-452-2967

Area #	Counties	11 Area Representatives - Full Board			
1	Escambia	Andrea Grace	Pensacola	32506	850-453-6652 andreagrace4215@att.net
5	Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Taylor, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison	Matline Ford	Tallahassee	32305	850-877-3885 matlinef@aol.com
7	Duval	Patricia Williams	Jacksonville	32209	904-403-8948 Patriciawilliamsfcc@yaho.com
10	Alachua	Lula Owens	Jacksonville		904-779-9988 Lulafrank@bellsouth.net
13	Flagler, Volusia	Cynthia Durr	Daytona Beach	32114	386-405-1605 cbrownsugarmd@aol.com
16	Brevard	Joyce Burks	Cocoa	32922	321-292-2159 JoyceBurksChildCare@gmail.com
17	Orange	Sonji Mitchell	Orlando	32808	407-936-8358 mitchellsonji3@gmail.com
18	Osceola	Fariha Zuberi	Orlando	32837	407-361-0130 montessori.home@yahoo.com
21	Hillsborough	Renee Graham	Tampa	33619	813-621-5369 rgraham89@verizon.net
28	Lee, Hendry, Glades, Collier	Valeria Cummings	Ft Myers	33916	239-822-3235 wifey02@hotmail.com
29	Palm Beach	Lisa Dupree	Riviera Beach	33404	561-574-0154 ladyd0316@yahoo.com

Interested in serving as an Area Representative for your county? Contact arearepcoordinator@familychildcare.org

17 Chapter Representatives - Full Board						Members
Area	CHAPTER NAME	Meeting City/County	Chapter Rep.	Phone	E-Mail	
5	North Florida FCC Association	Big Bend Area	Charlene Thornton	850-980-2824	LSLCKids@yahoo.com	8
7	Family Child Care Assoc. of Jacksonville	Duval County	Myrna Wright	904-477-2965	Jbear_226@yahoo.com	37
8,9,13	Putnam County FCC Provider Association	Rotates Cities	Karan Hiester	386-957-4482	educate71@gmail.com	12
12	Marion County FCCH Association	Marion County	Marjorie Wheeler	352-299-7203	marjoriejanae19@gmail.com	14
15,17,18	Central Florida Association for FCC	Osceola-Orange	Alethia Dittren	407-870-1569	dittrena@gmail.com	22
16	Brevard Sunshine FCH Association	Brevard County	Cheryl Guest	321-537-8751	cguest08@gmail.com	4
17	Multicultural FCCHA of Orange Co	Orlando	Stephanie Thomas	407-373-3762	elementzofbusiness@gmail.com	47
21	HCCPA of NE Hillsborough County	Hillsborough County	Cynthia Brown	813-766-4682	robinsontrainingconsultant@yahoo.com	34
21	Quality FHCC Provider Association	Hillsborough County	Shandra Warner	813-495-0985	Warnerfamilyday-care@gmail.com	22
22	Heart to Heart Child Care Assoc	Pinellas County	Amber Easterday	937-248-4175	ambjohnson@gmail.com	40
23	HCC Providers Assoc. of Manatee County	Manatee County	Tia Jackson	941-504-5017	tjackson34@aol.com	11
29	Palm Beach County FCC Assoc	Palm Beach County	Zipporah Morris Scott	561-506-4739	ladymz2009@gmail.com	39
29	United Professional CCP of South Florida	Palm Beach County	Karen Robinson	561-574-8512	davis7769@yahoo.com	23
30	Broward County FCCA	Broward County	Lakisha Womble	305-528-3127	YoungAchievers21@yahoo.com	5
30,31	APCID of Hialeah	Hialeah	Daysi Mordan	786-797-8684	Daysimordan81x@gmail.com	23
31	South Florida Home CC Association	Dade County	Kelly Patterson	305-986-8826	pattersonKelly91@gmail.com	18
31	FCCPA of Miami-Dade County	Miami/Dade County	Gladys Reyes	786-704-2012	Lalyreyes252@yahoo.com	19

Interested in joining a chapter near you? <https://familychildcare.org/join-us>

Florida Family Child Care Home Association, Inc. — July 2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (NON-BOARD POSITIONS)

Advisory	Gwen Wilson	352-351-5370	gwenlo50@hotmail.com	Newsletter Editor	Wendy Corso-Ruud	561- 715-1361	ruud3@aol.com
Awards	Renie Roach	904-392-5366	renieroach@yahoo.com	Nominations	Mayra Marquez		nominations@familychildcare.org
Chaplain	Cynthia Durr	386-258-6603	cbrownsugarmd@aol.com	M.E.N.T.O.R.	Abbie Bill	561-445-7333	FLMentorpgm@aol.com
Hospitality	Sharon Singleton	407-404-3038	singsd63@gmail.com	Bylaws	Open - Apply Now!		

STAFF (NON-BOARD POSITIONS)

Executive Director	Tammy Tener	407-234-3473	info@familychildcare.org
Finance Manager	Sande Harper	727-345-0299	sharper3601@aol.com
Operations Manager	Joselly Santos		jsantosffccha@gmail.com
Advocacy & Policy Manager	Tasheba Berry	954-464-3134	info@tashebaberry.com
Scholarship Coordinator	Abbie Bill	561-445-7333	scholarship@familychildcare.org
Conference Coordinator	Karan Hiester	386-957-4482	conference@familychildcare.org

HUB COORDINATORS STAFF (NON-BOARD POSITIONS)

Broward County	Tasheba Berry	954-464-3134	info@tashebaberry.com
Pasco/Hernando County	Terrica Lashley	813-380-5138	terriclashleyffccha@gmail.com
Polk County	Valorie Wilkerson	407-350-0821	PolkHubCoord@familychildcare.org
Santa Rosa/Okaloosa/Walton	Eva Anderson	850-943-0178	NwHubCoord@familychildcare.org

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 AREA REP Positions:**

Area Representatives: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31

Apply for open positions and all odd number Areas for a 2 year term.Submit Area Rep applications to: areacoordinator@familychildcare.org**Apply NOW for Current Vacant CHAIR Positions:**

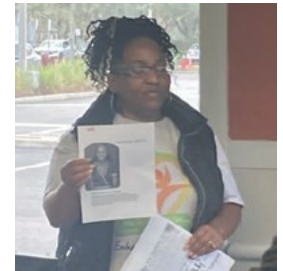
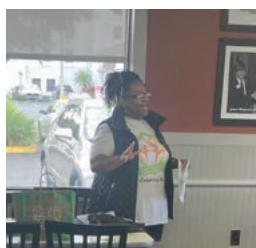
Committee Chairs (non-board positions): Bylaws, Finance, Chapter Dev, Fundraiser, Historian, Parliamentarian, Latino Development, Member Development, and Translation

Apply NOW for Vacant EXECUTIVE Positions to start immediately: Latino Liaison, Secretary, Chapter Rep Coordinator**Applications are available** at 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 OR call: 407-452-2967

LOCAL CHAPTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

MULTICULTURAL Chapter - Area 17 meeting.

Our chapter offers trainings, mentorship, bringing information to educators and as always, receiving information about FFCCHA. For more info, contact Stephanie Minus



2026 Award Honorees

Provider Hall of Fame: **Patricia Williams** Duval
 Advocate Hall of Fame: **Cynthia Krosky** Hillsborough

Heart Award: **Patricia Williams**
 Volunteer of the Year: **Zipporah Morris Scott**
 Officer of the Year: **Annette Eberhart**
 Outstanding Teamwork: **Mary Morris**
 Advocate of the Year: **Lynn Gibson**



Child in Heart Photo Contest Winner from the home of **Lois Kendrick**

Parent Choice Awards: **Terrica Lashley** (Pasco), **Sheretta Joseph** (Duval)
 and **Alison Burney** (Hillsborough)

Parent Choice Honorable Mention: **Wendy Corso-Ruud, Robin Dean, Cynthia Durr, Alba Gomez, Renee Graham, Pamela Hinson, Lois Kendrick, Madgelyn Liranzo, Jennifer Richards, Leanette Simmons, Neomi Thompson, Dawn Tomsik, Patricia Williams, and Myrna Wright**

Outstanding NAFCC Accredited Home: **Leanette Simmons** Hillsborough
 Outstanding FFCCHA Chapter: **HCCPA NE Hillsborough County** ([Hillsborough](#))

Chapter Rep of the Year: **Cynthia Brown** (Hillsborough)

Area Rep of the Year: **Valeria Cummings** (Lee)

Agency Helping Associations Prosper: **Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County**

Ultimate Provider Sponsor: **ELC of Orange County**

Top Provider Sponsor: **ELC of Osceola County**

Outstanding Provider Sponsor: **ELC of the Big Bend Region**

SPECIAL THANKS to our KEYNOTES

Holly Elissa Bruno, Dawn Espinoza, Cari Miller,
 Erica Phillips, Courtney Smith, Lillian Hubler Tobin

THANK YOU to our MIND SPONSORS

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FL DCF Office of Child Care Regulation

Innovative Mind Sponsor (\$2,500)

National Early Childhood Program Accreditation

Inquisitive Mind Sponsor (\$2,000)

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Caring Mind Sponsor (\$1,000)

Gee Whiz Education

GTE Financial

Creative Mind Sponsor (\$500):

Lakeshore Learning

The Children's Movement of Florida

Curious Mind Sponsors (\$250)

Central Florida Association For FCC

Kendrick's Large Family Child Care

Marion County FCC Association

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

BIG thanks to Music with Mar. for ABC books, **Florida Dairy Farmers** for Bags and Books,
Gertrude Freeman Ford for Lunch Centerpieces, and **Wendy Corso-Ruud** for Jewelry Gifts



BIG THANKS TO OUR 2026 CONFERENCE DONORS

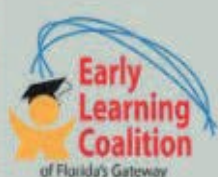
*Thank you for your donations
and contributions!*

- ◆ Abbie Bill
- ◆ Al and Lois Kendrick
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- ◆ Chan's Jewelry Box
- ◆ Children's Forum Teach/Wages
- ◆ Children's Movement
- ◆ Early Education Link
- ◆ Eckerd Early Head Start
- ◆ ELC of Duval County
- ◆ ELC of Flagler / Volusia County
- ◆ ELC of Hillsborough County
- ◆ ELC of Marion County
- ◆ ELC of Orange County
- ◆ FFCCHA Fundraising
- ◆ FL Division of Early Learning
- ◆ FL Office of Licensing
- ◆ Florida Alliance of Children's Council and Trust / Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign
- ◆ Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC)
- ◆ Florida Dairy Farmers
- ◆ Florida Day Care Insurance (FDCI)
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- ◆ HCCPA of NE Hillsborough County
- ◆ Karan Hiester
- ◆ Marion County FCCH Association
- ◆ Music with "Mar."
- ◆ National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- ◆ National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)
- ◆ North Florida FCC Association
- ◆ Palm Beach County FCC Association
- ◆ Putnam County FCC Association
- ◆ SFHCCA of Miami-Dade County
- ◆ Tammy Tener
- ◆ University of Florida - Anita Zucker Center for Excellence
- ◆ Wendy Corso-Ruud - Origami Owl Jewelry

**THANK
YOU**

BIG THANKS TO OUR 2026 FFCCHA PROVIDER SPONSORS

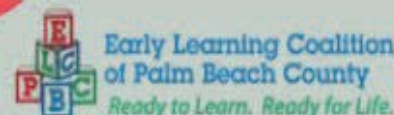
Ultimate Provider Sponsor: ELC of Orange County **Top Provider Sponsor:** ELC of Osceola County
Outstanding Provider Sponsor: ELC of Big Bend



**EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF ORANGE COUNTY**



EARLY LEARNING COALITION
OF POLK COUNTY



A Special Shout out to our FFCCHA 2026 Conference Team:

Karan Hiester: Conference Coordinator, Sponsors, Exhibitors, Ads

Sarai Marquez: Brochure & Program Book

Cynthia Durr: Registration Help Desk, Registration & Volunteer Intake

Tammy Tener: First Timer Scholarships

Jennifer Richards: Pre-Conference

Danish Williams: Fundraising & Donations

Sheretta Joseph: Volunteers

Sande Harper: Finance & Budget

Patricia Williams: Parent Sponsors

Gertrude Freeman-Ford: Decorations, Saturday

Provider Celebration, Sunday Meeting

Renie Roach: Awards



*Thank you for all of your hard work in
helping prepare an amazing conference!*

A GREAT BIG THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ◆ Lisa Adams - ladams@thechildrensforum.com | ◆ Elizabeth Ibarra - ibarrae@pbsc.edu | ◆ Courtney Smith - courtney.smith@myffamilies.com |
| ◆ Claire Adrian - clairedrian@gmail.com | ◆ Herima Iriarte - iriarte@pbsc.edu | ◆ Karla Sotelo-Blanco - karla.Sotelo-Blanco@del.fldoe.org |
| ◆ Tasheba Berry - info@tashebaberry.com | ◆ Katherine Jones - katherine.jones@myffamilies.com | ◆ Keller Stout - kstout@ounce.org |
| ◆ Stephen Boyd - Sebyd74@gmail.com | ◆ Warner Kelley - Kelly.warner@ecs4kids.org | ◆ Sherry Tindall - sherry.tindall@ecs4kids.org |
| ◆ David Brook - David@thatgratitudeguy.com | ◆ Lexi Langieri - lexi.langieri@del.fldoe.org | ◆ Noemi Thompson - neomithompson7@gmail.com |
| ◆ Lorrie Brinson - lorriannbrinson@gmail.com | ◆ Jennifer Latterell - jenniferl@flaeyc.org | ◆ Linda Townsend - linda.townsend@dep.fldoe.org |
| ◆ Holly Elissa Bruno - info@hollyelissabruno.com | ◆ Lisette Levy - lisette.levy@del.fldoe.org | ◆ Shayna Torres - storres@elcog.org |
| ◆ Audia Bradwell - audia.bradwell@del.fldoe.org | ◆ Daria Lowman - daria.lowman@myffamilies.com | ◆ Zoe Turner - zstwr78@gmail.com |
| ◆ Sylvia Castillo—scastillo8@frontier.com | ◆ Sarai Marquez - saraipmarquez@gmail.com | ◆ Svitlana Uniyat - suniyat@gmail.com |
| ◆ Marica Cox Mitchell - mcoxmitchell@bainumfdn.org | ◆ Varnessa McCray - varnessa.mccray@childrensmovementflorida.org | ◆ Storm Webb - stormw@necpa.net |
| ◆ Robin Dean - nanlearningpost@gmail.com | ◆ Hannah McGlothlin - hannah.mcglothlin@myffamilies.com | ◆ Valorie Wilkerson - destinyinstitutetraining@yahoo.com |
| ◆ Samantha Dominguez - s.dominguez@elcph.org | ◆ Cari Miller - Cari.Miller@del.fldoe.org | ◆ Fariha Zuberi - Montessori.home@yahoo.com |
| ◆ Camille Eckrem - camilleeckrem@gmail.com | ◆ Kathy Moss - kathy.moss@del.fldoe.org | |
| ◆ Dawn Espinoza - d.espinoza@elcph.org | ◆ Janis Nakagama - nakagamajanis@gmail.com | |
| ◆ Sharon Estrin - include.vision.42@gmail.com | ◆ Wendy Occhipinti - wendyo@flaeyc.org | |
| ◆ Rebecca Gonzalez - rebecca.gonzalez@coe.ufl.edu | ◆ Qiana Peters - qpeters@thechildrensforum.com | |
| ◆ Wendy Gomez - gomez@pbsc.edu | ◆ Marvia Perez-Tosca - marviapereztosca@gmail.com | |
| ◆ Natalie Hagler - nhagler@ufl.edu | ◆ Erica Phillips - ephillips@nafcc.org | |
| ◆ Maryann Harman - mar@musicwithmar.com | ◆ Krista Price - krista.price@icloud.com | |
| ◆ Homer Hartage - homer.hartage@agedcareguardian.com | ◆ Amanda Quiroz-Guajardo - amanda@goodstarhub.com | |
| ◆ Lucinda Hightower - 1thechildcareprovider@gmail.com | ◆ Mary Kay Rodgers - mkrogers@coe.ufl.edu | |
| ◆ Lillian Hubler Tobin - contact@timetosign.com | | |
| ◆ Matilde Huapilla - Matilde.huapilla@myfamilies.com | | |

*Thank
you* ❤️

FFCCHA Annual Conference 2026 RECAP

by Karan Hiester, Conference Coordinator



I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's conference, because of you our conference is always a success. This year we attended sessions, ate lunch together, and celebrated our community at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Kissimmee.

To our conference team, thank you for stepping up to volunteer your time to make this an incredible event. Your commitment to follow through on your responsibilities makes all the participants experience an event with little to no issues.

To our volunteers, thank you for committing your time during the event to not only enhance your mind but share your service with the team and participants. Your commitment to follow through your responsibilities helps our event to be successful and fun!

To our presenters, thank you for sharing your knowledge! As conference coordinator, I know you may not have had a "full" class but those that attended those workshops gained your wealth of experience to bring home and share in their community, business, and families. Our keynotes; Holly Elissa Bruno, Dawn Espinoza, and Lillian Toblin Hubler - thank you for sharing and spotlighting your gifts to all of us!

To our exhibitors, thank you for displaying your business or service to our attendees. I know the decision to support our event and break even is not always easy. But sharing your time, resources, and giving information at our venue is valued and appreciated.

To our sponsors, thank you for your financial support to help our organization support our Early Childhood Educators enhance their minds not just at our conference event but to bring back what they gained to the community, families and children they serve.

Our conference was an amazing success because we all came together with the goal to enhance the minds of our early childhood educators, to honor the successes of those who run a successful program, to showcase resources available to those who attended, and to end it all with fun! We danced and had a wonderful time with our Disney-themed party on Saturday evening, and YOU all showed up and looked awe-mazing!

Start planning for 2027! We will host our national organization, National Association for Family Child Care in Jacksonville on July 15-17, 2027! Look for details coming soon!

**CEU Information**

We were informed about our CEUs through Auburn University after the conference.

Anyone needing CEUs please reach out to Karan Hiester, educate71@gmail.com for information.



FFCCHA Annual Conference 2026 in Pictures Saturday Evening





Join Us!

FFCCHA ADVOCACY POWER HOUR



TEACH & CHILD CARE WAGES



Join FFCCHA for the Advocacy Power Hour with **TEACH** and **Child Care WAGES**, talking about all of the great things they have in store for you!



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**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26,
2026**

12:30 PM ET



Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/88682616180?pwd=13oSZFzaMVZlMWVmeSaCmYyC18iWaj.1>

Meeting ID: 886 8261 6180 | Passcode: 6ILxur



**Stronger Together.
Brighter Futures.**



**Empowering Educators.
Strengthening Communities.**

We're here for YOU! 



Stronger Families. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

JOIN. SUPPORT. CONNECT.

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

INVITE PARENTS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FLORIDA FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME ASSOCIATION!

Your voice matters! As a Parent Member, you'll connect with resources, support educators, and advocate for quality family child care.

Together, we can build stronger families, support our educators, and create brighter futures for our children.



*Stronger Families.
Stronger Communities.*

AS A PARENT MEMBER, YOU GET:



COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

Connect with other families and be part of a supportive community.



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

Access helpful parenting resources, tips, and tools for every stage.



ADVOCACY THAT MATTERS

Your voice helps shape policies that support children, families, and child care.



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Enjoy family-friendly events, workshops, and parent circles throughout the year.



STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

Build positive relationships with educators and your child's community.



SUPPORT THE HEART OF CHILD CARE

Show your support for family child care educators who nurture your children every day.



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A LASTING IMPACT!

- Support quality family child care
- Invest in your child's future
- Help educators thrive
- Build a stronger community

JOIN TODAY!

Ask your family child care educator how you can become a Parent Member and make a difference!

Email: info@familychildcare.org

Website: www.familychildcare.org

Families + Educators = Stronger Communities

Thank you for being part of the village!
 Together, we build stronger families, support our educators, and create brighter futures for our children.

FFCCHA Annual Conference 2026 in Pictures



The Latino Caucus headed up by Sarai Marquez had a great afternoon together!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CS/CS/CS/SB 1690

Child Care and Early Learning Services

Florida’s CS/CS/CS/SB 1690 brings several important updates for child care and early learning programs across the state.



	1. NEW TERMINOLOGY “Family Day Care Home” is now officially Family Child Care Home throughout Florida law.
	2. PARENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REMOVED Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes are no longer required to provide certain annual notices regarding: • Flu vaccinations. • The dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles.
	3. GREATER TRANSPARENCY The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and local licensing agencies will provide more information online, including licensing standards, inspection reports, health and safety information, and data on serious injuries, child deaths, and substantiated abuse in child care settings.
	4. EXEMPT PROGRAMS Certain exempt child care programs must meet additional health and safety requirements and clearly disclose their exempt status to families. Failure to meet these requirements can result in losing their exempt status.
	5. INSURANCE PROTECTION Homeowners’ insurance companies cannot deny, cancel, or refuse to renew residential property insurance solely because a provider operates a Large Family Child Care Home in the residence.
	6. WORKFORCE SUPPORT The legislation includes initiatives to strengthen Florida’s early childhood workforce and improve access to quality child care services, including the creation of the Florida Child Care Fund and the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition (under certain conditions).

These updates reflect Florida’s continued commitment to supporting high-quality early learning, increasing transparency, and strengthening protections for children, families, and child care educators.

Stay informed and review how these changes may impact your program.





NAFCC 2027

Annual Conference

Your National Hub for Family Child Care!



July 15 -17, 2027



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA



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with industry leaders



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SAVE the DATE

**Aug 15 Virtual Training and Full
Board Meeting**

**October 14-15 NAFCC Observer
Training in Jacksonville, FL**

**July 14-17, 2027 NAFCC
Conference in Jacksonville, FL**

Stay tuned for future trainings!



**Some of the Past Presidents of FFCCHA
from over the many years!**

