



Lenny, Melanie, Senator Rouson, Nicole and Beverley



Lenny, Melanie, Senator Braynon, BeverLy and Nicole



Nicloe, Lenny, Beverley, Senator Pizzo and Melanie

Dear School Social Workers in the state of Florida, as the FASSW Legislative Chair, I want to share with you that Florida Association of School Social Workers sponsored four school social workers, Lenny Mujica, and Melanie Birken from Broward county, Nicole Rooney, and Beverley Wilks, Seminole county, to attend the Leadership Education Advocacy Day in Tallahassee from January 27-29, 2020. Prior to attending LEAD, FASSW partnered with NASW-FL and Beverley Wilks attended conference calls facilitated by NASW-FL.

The FASSW legislative committee members participated in conference calls to help with finalizing the FASSW legislative Priorities and the FASSW Bill summary. Also Beverley Wilks received feedback from the FASSW Board as well as concerns that was shared from Pinellas county, Donna Sicilian and Dr. Robert Lucio regarding proposed changes to Baker Act reporting in SB 1062/HB 1083: Involuntary Examinations of Minors, and from retired former longtime Legislative Chair Sandy San Miguel on SB7012: Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, and SB 190/HB 81: Medicaid School Based Services revising applicable provisions for school-based services.

While in Tallahassee the following were accomplished:

- Beverley Wilks, met with NASW Board members to review upcoming legislation of interest which was well received by the NASW-FL Executive Director Jim Akins, President Carol Edwards, Legislative Chair Dawn Brown, and President-Elect Susan Mankita.
- The legislative committee team met with various Senators and staff and provided them with information related to our FASSW legislative priorities and current bills of interest.
 - Met with Senator Darryl Rouson (District 19 - St. Petersburg) regarding SB 7012 and the need to include Social Workers on the state's Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council. Also discussed with Senator Rouson's bill, SB 588 relating to allowing Mental Health days for excused absences.
 - Met with Senator Jason Pizzo (District 38 - North Miami Beach) to thank him for taking the time to address the NASW LEAD Day Conference attendees.
 - Met with Senator Oscar Braynon II (District 35 - Miami Gardens).
 - Met with staff from the office of Senator Wilton Simpson (District 10 - Trilby), Senator Victor Torres, Jr. (District 15 - Orlando), Senator Manny Diaz (District 36 - Hialeah)
- Met with Sheriff Nienhuis of Hernando County regarding SB 1062 and HB 1083 regarding proposed changes to Baker Act reporting and parent/guardian notification requirement that must be met before involuntary evaluation.
- Met with John Sullivan, Director of Legislative Affairs for Broward County Public Schools regarding SB 190 and HB 81 on Medicaid School Based Services revising applicable provision for school-based services. Also Discussed SB 7040, MSD Safety Bill, and adding a mental health component.
- Team Members Lenny Mujica and Melanie Birken spoke at the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and addressed higher teacher pay for veteran instructional staff

Established in 1942, FASSW is the oldest school social work association in our nation. In order to meet the growing needs of all our members, there are positions that we are trying to fill, and a member of the FASSW executive board will be reaching out to you.

FASSW has a historical legacy of being heard in Tallahassee, both personally and through its Legislative platform. FASSW looks forward to a continued relationship with the Department of Education's *Student Support Services*, through Ms. Iris Williams, DOE, SSW State Consultant. FASSW is aligned as an affiliate of the national *School Social Work Association of America* (SSWAA). This allows FASSW members to join or renew their membership with SSWAA at a reduced cost.

FASSW is a dynamic organization, and I am honored to serve as its Legislative Chair since October 2019. We need additional FASSW members to become active in their organization. I encourage you to take an active role, because FASSW needs your **ACTIVE** support more than ever. The FASSW Board of Directors is committed to preserving the much-needed school social worker positions we hold in our district schools. We believe that it is important to educate our legislators and local school board members so they can support our diversified roles within schools and increase our SSW to student ratios in order for us to do our jobs effectively so as to improve achievement for individual students. The students and families we serve need us now... more than ever! **Let's work together** to ensure that School Social Workers are not trimmed from the local or state budgets—sign up to represent your county or region.

SB 1062: Involuntary Examinations of Minors

GENERAL BILL by [Harrell](#)

Involuntary Examinations of Minors: Revises parent and guardian notification requirements that must be met before an involuntary examination of a minor; creating reporting requirements for schools relating to involuntary examinations of minors; requiring that certain plans include procedures to assist certain mental and behavioral health providers in attempts to verbally de-escalate certain crisis situations before initiating an involuntary examination, etc.

HB 1083: Involuntary Examinations of Minors

GENERAL BILL by Webb; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Eskamani; Grieco; Santiago; Smith, C.

Involuntary Examinations of Minors: Revises certain notification requirements relating to involuntary examination of student who is removed from school, school transportation, or school-sponsored activity; provides exceptions; provides requirements relating to transport of minor patient; revises certain data reporting requirements; requires district school boards to adopt certain policies; provides additional training requirements for school safety officers; provides certain requirements relating to mental health assistance allocation.

SB 588: Enforcement of School Attendance

GENERAL BILL by [Rouson](#)

Enforcement of School Attendance: Authorizing district school boards and charter school governing boards to allow a specified number of mental health days as excused absences for students, etc.

HB 315: Enforcement of School Attendance

GENERAL BILL by Valdes; Slosberg; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Cortes

Enforcement of School Attendance: Authorizes district school boards & charter school governing boards to allow specified number of mental health days as excused absences for students.

SB 190: Medicaid School-based Services

GENERAL BILL by [Montford](#) ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) [Harrell](#)

Medicaid School-based Services: Revises applicable provisions for the reimbursement of school-based services by the Agency for Health Care Administration to certain school districts; deleting a requirement specifying the use of certified state and local education funds for school-based services; revising a requirement for the agency's reimbursement of school-based services to certain charter and private schools; specifying the federal agency that may waive certain school-based provider qualifications, etc.

HB 81: Medicaid School-based Services

GENERAL BILL by Andrade; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Duran; Fernandez; Geller; Gottlieb; Grieco; Toledo

Medicaid School-based Services: Revises provisions relating to reimbursement of school-based services by AHCA to certain school districts & private & charter schools; specifies that U.S. Department of Health & Human Services is authorized to waive certain school-based provider qualifications.

SB 7012: Mental Health

GENERAL BILL by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Mental Health: Providing additional duties for the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention; requiring the Department of Transportation to work with the office in developing a plan relating to evidence-based suicide deterrents in certain locations; requiring that certain information be provided to the guardian or representative of a minor patient released from involuntary examination; requiring specified persons to complete certain suicide prevention education

courses by a specified date; providing that persons providing certain emergency care are not liable for civil damages or penalties under certain circumstances, etc.

SB 62: K-12 Education

GENERAL BILL by [Stargel](#)

K-12 Education: Requiring that a resolution to levy discretionary sales tax include a statement containing certain information; defining the term “early college program”; changing the calculation of full-time equivalent student membership for dual enrollment purposes; providing for calculation of full-time equivalent membership for students earning the Capstone Diploma; requiring school board mental health policies and procedures to include certain items, etc.

SB 1854: Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Pay Raise Initiative

GENERAL BILL by [Rodriguez](#)

Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Pay Raise Initiative: Establishing the Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Pay Raise Initiative and providing its purpose; requiring that the initiative be funded at a level sufficient to provide a specified annual salary increase for all instructional personnel and educational support employees, plus a specified cost-of-living adjustment, beginning in a specified fiscal year and continuing through a specified fiscal year, etc.

SB 1400: Education

GENERAL BILL by [Diaz](#)

Education: Revising initial scholarship eligibility criteria for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, beginning with a specified school year; providing that participation in certain virtual schools, correspondence schools, or distance learning programs does not make a student ineligible for a scholarship under the program in certain circumstances; revising eligibility criteria for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program and applying the criteria only to initial eligibility; creating the minimum base annual salary allocation to assist school districts in providing minimum base annual salaries to classroom teachers, etc.

SB 106: Instructional Personnel Salaries

GENERAL BILL by [Rader](#)

Instructional Personnel Salaries: Citing this act as the "Florida Teacher Fair Pay Act"; providing legislative intent that the Florida Education Finance Program be funded at a level that ensures a certain minimum annual starting salary for instructional personnel; specifying a statewide

minimum salary for all instructional personnel for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; requiring the Department of Education to annually calculate an adjusted statewide minimum annual starting salary, etc.

HB 1223: Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Salaries

GENERAL BILL by McGhee; Valdes ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Eskamani

Instructional Personnel and Educational Support Employee Salaries: Requires Legislature to fund FEFP at level that ensures instructional personnel & educational support employees earn living wage; provides minimum base salaries for or specified percentage increases to base salaries of instructional personnel for certain years; provides specified percentage increases to base salaries of educational support employees for certain years.

SB 486: Florida Best and Brightest Programs

GENERAL BILL by [Bradley](#)

Florida Best and Brightest Programs: Repealing provisions relating to the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program and the Florida Best and Brightest Principal Program, etc.