Justina Acevedo-Cross
Program Officer
Packard Foundation

343 Second St  |  Los Altos, CA 94022  
(650) 917-7296  |  JAcevedo-Cross@packard.org

Justina Acevedo-Cross is a Program Officer for the Children, Families, and Communities program at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She oversees a grantmaking portfolio that ranges from after-school and summer learning advocacy, best practices and technical assistance to early learning advocacy and educator workforce development. She currently serves as Board Chair of Californians for Justice, an education policy organization that ensures that students have the opportunity to grow as leaders, and win campaigns so every school and community can thrive. Before joining the Foundation, she worked in the nonprofit sector as a communications professional for small and mid-size organizations. Her work has focused heavily on community development, economic security, education, and small business/workforce issues.

Mimi Aledo-Sandoval
Policy Director
Alliance for Early Success

1875 Connecticut Ave, NW 10th Floor  |  Washington, DC 20009  
(703) 346-5178  |  maledo-sandoval@earlysuccess.org

Mimi Aledo-Sandoval is a Policy Director at the Alliance for Early Success, leading the family support portfolio of investments including child care and home visiting as a strategy for high quality infant toddler programs and services. Before joining the Alliance, Mimi was a Senior Associate on two Pew Charitable Trusts projects, the Home Visiting Campaign and the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. She was a Senior Fiscal Analyst for New Mexico's Legislative Finance Committee, where she prepared and presented annual budget recommendations to legislative committees for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department; the Department of Workforce Solutions; and a number of other state commissions and agencies. Ms. Aledo-Sandoval is a former Policy Analyst for the Albuquerque City Council, a Mayoral Fellow with the City of Chicago, an AmeriCorps volunteer, and a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellow. In 2013 she was selected as an NCSL Early Learning Fellow.

Vance Aloupis
CEO
The Children's Movement of Florida

3250 SW Third Ave  |  Miami, FL 33129  
(305) 646-7134  |  Vance.Aloupis@childrensmovementflorida.org

Debra Andersen
Executive Director
Smart Start Oklahoma

421 NW 13th St Suite 270  |  Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
(405) 278-6978  |  debra.andersen@smartstartok.org
Bruce Atchison
Director Early Learning
Education Commission of the States

700 Broadway Suite 810  |  Denver, CO 80203
(303) 299-3657  |  batchison@ecs.org

Bruce Atchison is the Director of the Early Learning Institute at the Education Commission of the States. He has over 35 years of experience working in early childhood and on education policy. He has served as Chief of Staff for a Lieutenant Governor; on a Governors’ cabinet and senior leadership team; Executive Vice President of a state child advocacy organization; worked in a Governor’s Policy Office as the Head Start State Collaboration Director; Executive Director of Denver Public Schools Family Resource Schools; Director of the City of Boulder’s Children’s Services; and was President and CEO of a nonprofit child care center. Mr. Atchison served on the faculty at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado Boulder as a child development specialist. He has 10 years of classroom experience was honored as the “Educator of the Year” received the Edna Oliver Nancy Swank Early Childhood Lifetime Achievement Award.

Liz Barker-Alvarez
Chief Policy Advisor
First Things First

4000 N Central Ave Suite 800  |  Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-5063  |  lbarker@azftf.gov

Liz Barker Alvarez is Chief Policy Advisor at First Things First in Arizona, where she is responsible for strategic planning and oversight of the Public Affairs Unit, including Government Affairs and Tribal Affairs. She advises the First Things First Board and Executive Team on communication/public affairs matters and serves as the primary media spokesperson. She brings more than 20 years’ experience in the government, education and non-profit sectors. Ms. Barker-Alvarez has held the primary leadership role in communications at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), a state agency overseeing more than 50 human service programs; Children’s Action Alliance, a statewide child advocacy organization; and, the Isaac School District, an urban K-8 district in Phoenix.

Sarah Barnes
Policy Analyst
Colorado Children’s Campaign

1560 Lincoln St Suite 420  |  Denver, CO 80203
(303) 620-4571  |  sarahb@coloradokids.org

Leanne Barrett
Senior Policy Analyst
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

One Union Station  |  Providence, RI 02903
(401) 351-9400  |  lbarrett@rikidscount.org

Leanne Barrett is Senior Policy Analyst at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, the state’s leading child advocacy organization. In addition to advocacy in her home state, she helped lead the national Getting Ready: the 17 State School Readiness Initiative. Ms. Barrett also provides leadership to two peer-to-peer working groups for the Alliance for Early Success, one on aligning the early learning and early elementary years and one on PreK in mixed delivery systems.
Shana Bartley
Director of Programs and Legislative Affairs
DC Action for Children

1432 K St NW Suite 1050 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 234-9404 | sbartley@dckids.org

Shana Bartley is Director of Programs and Legislative Affairs at DC Action. She began working as a Youth Organizer and Program Coordinator assisting teen women in their efforts to advocate for improved access to health education and services. These experiences inspired her to learn more about how health, education, and other policies intersect and influence outcomes for children and their communities.

John Bebow
President and CEO
The Center for Michigan

4100 N Dixboro Rd | Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 769-4625 | jbebow@thecenterformichigan.net

John Bebow is President and CEO of the Center for Michigan, a state-based citizenship, journalism, and public policy think tank. He is responsible for managing and staffing the Children’s Leadership Council of Michigan, a network of 100 statewide business leaders who have successfully advocated for more than $500 million in additional state early childhood investments. Before this Mr. Bebow worked as an investigative reporter at the Chicago Tribune, Detroit News, and Detroit Free Press.

Dana Bell
Associate Director
Center for Education Policy Research, UNM

1 University of New Mexico MSC05 3040 | Albuquerque, NM 87131
(505) 277-1170 | belld@unm.edu

Dana Bell is Associate Director for Early Childhood Projects at the University of New Mexico Center for Education Policy Research, which engages state level policymakers, foundations, university-based researchers and practitioners in data-informed policy analysis to address the many educational challenges that face New Mexico. Her work with CEPR focuses on state and local policy efforts to improve outcomes for New Mexico children, including evaluation and research on the state’s home visiting, child care, PreK and workforce support programs, and leadership in statewide and local cross-sectoral early childhood initiatives.

Domenica Benitez
Provider Services Manager
CA Child Care Ntwk

111 New Montgomery St | San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 494-4655 | dbenitez@rntnetwork.org

Callie Benton
Executive Director
Kansas Parents as Teachers Association

315 N Lindenwood | Olathe, KS 66062
(913) 636-1096 | cbenton@kpata.org
Mindy Binderman
Executive Director
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students

3400 Peachtree Rd Suite 1720 | Atlanta, GA 30326
(404) 920-4921 | mbinderman@geears.org

Mindy Binderman is the founding Executive Director of GEEARS, the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students. She leads GEEARS’ efforts to inspire and provide leadership for a statewide movement on early learning and healthy development for children ages birth to five. She served as Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs for the Baltimore Jewish Council and as Vice President of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of Maryland before establishing her own successful lobbying firm based in Annapolis Maryland. She was named one of Maryland’s Top Women in 2004. Before coming to GEEARS Ms. Binderman served as the Advocacy Director of Voices for Georgia’s Children.

Brittany Birken
CEO
Florida Children’s Council

111 N Gadsden St | Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 921-4494 | bbirken@floridacsc.org

Renee Blahuta
Program Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

One Michigan Ave East | Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 969-2223 | renee.blahuta@wkkf.org

Helen Blank
Director, Child Care and Early Learning
NWLC

11 Du Pont Circle Suite 800 | Washington, DC 20036
(202) 319-3036 | hblank@nwlc.org

Helen Blank is Director of Child Care and Early Learning at the National Women’s Law Center. Her work focuses on child care and early education issues. She currently leads the federal Child Care and Early Learning Coalition and the Strong Start for America’s Children Campaign. She has authored numerous reports including an annual report on state child care policies and A Count for Quality: Child Care Directors on Quality Rating and Improvement Systems. Ms. Blank served 24 years as the Director of the Child Care and Development Division at the Children’s Defense Fund, where she spearheaded advocacy on a variety of efforts to improve early learning policies.

Ginny Blankenship
Education Policy Director
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Union Station #306 1400 W Markham | Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 371-9678 | gblankenship@aradvocates.org

Ginny Blankenship is Education Policy Director for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. Before this she served as a Legislative Analyst for the Arkansas General Assembly and was Communications Director in the U.S. House of Representatives. She recently founded The Open Book Project, a community-wide initiative to provide books, resources, and encouragement to teachers and students in Little Rock’s most disadvantaged schools.
Carol Brady
Project Director, FL MIECHV
FL Assn of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc.

1311 N Paul Russell Rd #A204  |  Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 608-8046  |  cbrady@fahsc.org

Carol Brady is the Project Director for the Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, an initiative of the Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions. She previously served as Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition and director of the Florida Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, a statewide advocacy group.

Megan Branham
Director of Policy
Children’s Trust of South Carolina

1330 Lady St Suite 310  |  Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 744-4047  |  mbranham@scchildren.org

Megan Branham is a Licensed Master Social Worker. She joined Children’s Trust of South Carolina as the Policy and Government Liaison in December of 2012, where she works with partnering organizations and elected officials to advance child well-being policy. Before this she was the Director of Programs and Public Affairs for the SC Chapter of the March of Dimes. She has spent more than a decade working in the field of teen pregnancy prevention and maternal and child health in South Carolina. She was also selected by The Annie E. Casey Foundation Leadership Institute to participate in the 2014-2016 Leadership for State-Based Advocates program with policy advocates from across the country.

Charlotte Brantley
President and CEO
Clayton Early Learning

3801 Martin Luther King Blvd  |  Denver, CO 80205
(303) 398-8578  |  cbrantley@claytonearlylearning.org

Charlotte Brantley is President and CEO of Clayton Early Learning, where she oversees the implementation of the Educare model at Educare of Denver and a second innovative preschool program in Far Northeast Denver. She oversees the work of the Clayton Institute, working toward improved early education by providing and facilitating effective teacher preparation, offering evaluation services to identify and promote promising practices, and designing and advocating for effective public programs and policies. She is a member of the Governor appointed Early Childhood Leadership Commission and co-chairs the Legislation Implementation and the Data and Outcomes Committees. Before this she taught preschoolers in model early childhood education programs; instructed teachers working toward AA and BA degrees; managed educational initiatives at PBS Kids television; and administered state and federal early childhood policies, programs and funding streams for the state of Texas and in the Clinton Administration.
Susan Broman  
Deputy Superintendent P-20 and Student Transitions  
Michigan Department of Education  

608 W Allegan St PO Box 30008  |  Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 335-4092  |  bromans@michigan.gov  

Susan Broman is currently the Deputy Superintendent for the P-20 System and Student Transitions Division in the Michigan Department of Education, which includes the Office of Great Start, responsible for early childhood development and family education, preschool and out-of-school time learning, Head Start State Collaboration Office, and child development and care. Before this Ms. Broman was President of the Steelcase Foundation, an endowment unit of Steelcase Inc., the global leader in the office furniture industry.

Melanie Bronfin  
Executive Director  
Policy Institute for Children  

PO Box 13552  |  New Orleans, LA 70185  
(504) 228-0988  |  mmbronfin@policyinstitutela.org  

Melanie Bronfin is the founding Executive Director of the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that is a source of data, research and information around issues related to children birth through age four. They develop policy proposals informed by data, research, best practices and the experiences of other states for improving the outcomes of Louisiana's young children, as well as provide educational and outreach activities around these recommended policy solutions. Ms. Bronfin has worked extensively in policy and advocacy around children's issues at the state and local level for the past 15 years.

Elisabeth Burak  
Senior Program Director  
Georgetown Center for Children and Families  

3300 Whitehaven St, NW Suite 5000  |  Washington, DC 20057  
(202) 687-0883  |  elisabeth.burak@georgetown.edu  

Elisabeth Burak is the Senior Program Director at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, where she directs projects focused on young children's development, tracks federal legislative developments, and supports CCF's work with national partners. She has more than 15 years of experience in public policy to support low-income children and families at the national and state levels. She conducts research, develops strategies, and offers solutions to improve the health of America's children and families, particularly those with low and moderate incomes.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT  

1 Union Station  |  Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 351-9400  |  ebb@rikidscount.org  

Elizabeth Burke Bryant is the Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT since it began in 1994. She is Co-Chair of the Rhode Island Early Learning Council, serves on the board of the Partnership for America's Children, and is actively involved in many local and national efforts including: the United Way of Rhode Island, the Alliance for Early Success and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. She is the recipient of the Florette Angel National Child Advocate of the Year Award.
Miriam Calderon
Senior Director, Early Learning
Bainum Family Foundation

7735 Old Georgetown Rd Suite 1000  |  Bethesda, MD 20814
(240) 450-9038  |  mcalderon@bainumfdn.org

Miriam Calderon is Senior Director of Early Learning at the Bainum Family Foundation, which for 47 years has helped underserved children and youth exit poverty through quality educational programs and other support. Before joining the Foundation staff, she served as a Senior Advisor for Early Learning at the Foundation, advising on its investments in early learning in the District. Ms. Calderon was a Senior Fellow with the BUILD Initiative, leading their work related to dual language learners.

Jessica Cardichon
Senior Policy Advisor
Learning Policy Institute

1301 Connecticut Ave Suite 500  |  Washington, DC 20036
(202) 830-0079  |  jcardichon@learningpolicyinstitute.org

Jessica Cardichon is a member of the Latino Policy Institute’s Educator Quality and Deeper Learning teams, where she focuses on developing federal legislative and regulatory strategy and policy. She began her career teaching upper elementary school in New York City and then working for Teachers College, Columbia University, as a Program Manager for implementation of early career educator induction programs. She served as Education Counsel to Senator Bernard Sanders, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

HyeSook Chung
Executive Director
DC Action for Children

1432 K St NW Suite 1050  |  Washington, DC 20005
(202) 234-9404  |  hchung@dckids.org

HyeSook Chung is the Executive Director of DC Action for Children. She has worked to improve the lives of children through direct service, program management, philanthropy and advocacy for the past 20 years. Ms. Chung has consulted for and advised numerous organizations including the Washington Area Women's Foundation and the DC State Board of Education. She worked with the Head Start Quality Improvement Center and the Early Head Start Resource Center providing technical assistance and consultation to Early Head Start programs throughout the country. She serves on numerous advisory boards focused on social change and outcomes for children and families. She is a member of the Leadership Council for the Collaborative + The Classys.
**Cindy Cisneros**  
Vice President of Education Programs  
Committee for Economic Development  

1530 Wilson Blvd Suite 400  |  Arlington, VA 22209  
(202) 469-7817  |  Ccisneros@ced.org

Cindy Cisneros is the Vice President of Education Programs, responsible for leading the Committee for Economic Development’s comprehensive portfolio that covers the continuum from early education to postsecondary issues. She manages the day-to-day project work for CED’s state-based efforts in early education and related research. Before this Ms. Cisneros served as the Director of Stakeholder Engagement at Public Education Network and as a Principal Research Analyst at the American Institutes for Research.

**Terri Clark**  
Arizona Literacy Director  
Read On Arizona  

1202 E Missouri Ave  |  Phoenix, AZ 85014  
(480) 556-7151  |  tclark@readonarizona.org

**Gerry Cobb**  
State Services Director  
BUILD Initiative  

2506 Blooming St  |  Raleigh, NC 27612  
(919) 615-2684  |  gcobb@buildinitiative.org

Gerry Cobb is the Director of State Services for the BUILD Initiative. She supports state leaders in the design and development of effective early childhood systems, designs learning community activities and leads the BUILD Initiative National Meeting and the QRIS National Meeting. Ms. Cobb led BUILD’s quality rating and improvement systems work during her first year. Before this she was at the Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center, where she assisted states in the development, implementation and integration of comprehensive, community-based early childhood systems.

**Lori Connors-Tadros**  
Project Director  
Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes  

6385 Hawk View Lane  |  Alexandria, VA 22312  
(571) 239-5129  |  ltadros@nieer.org

Lori Connors-Tadros is the Senior Project Director for the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. She provides technical assistance to state education agencies, governor’s offices, and other early learning partners across the country to build capacity to implement comprehensive and aligned early learning systems for children birth through third grade.

**Jenna Conway**  
Assistant Superintendent, Early Childhood  
Louisiana Department of Education  

1201 N 3rd St  |  Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(347) 731-6884  |  jenna.conway@la.gov
Marica Cox Mitchell
Deputy Executive Director
NAEYC

1313 L St NW  |  Washington, DC 20005
(202) 350-8851  |  mmitchell@naeyc.org

Marica Cox Mitchell is Deputy Executive Director for Early Learning Systems at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, where she is responsible for advancing products and initiatives related to applied research, public policy and advocacy, higher education accreditation, and accreditation for programs serving young children. She has over 16 years of diverse experiences in the early childhood education field. She began her professional journey working in early learning programs as a teacher and curriculum specialist. She previously served in management positions at NAEYC, the District of Columbia’s Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and the District of Columbia Public Schools.

Tasha Cruzat
President
Voices for Illinois Children

208 S LaSalle St Suite 1490  |  Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 516-5565  |  tcruzat@voices4kids.org

Tasha Cruzat is the President of Voices for Illinois Children. Before this she was Chief of Staff to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, where she helped advance the administration’s efforts to strengthen public health, economic development, governance and fiscal stability. She was Senior Management Advisor to the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget and Chief Operating Officer for Central Management Services, where she oversaw the operations of programs and services that provide support and resources to state agencies. Ms. Cruzat dedicated six years of active duty service in the United States Navy, where she received many awards, including the National Defense Service medal and the Good Conduct Medal. She was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to the Illinois Reform Commission.

Cory Curl
Associate Executive Director
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

271 W Short St Suite 202  |  Lexington, KY 40507
(615) 438-5572  |  cory.curl@prichardcommittee.org

Tess Davis
Policy Analyst
Voices for Utah Children

747 E South Temple Suite 100  |  Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 364-1182  |  tess@utahchildren.org

Tess Davis is Policy Analyst at Voices for Utah Children. Before this she worked with the legislative policy team at Breathe Utah advocating for clean air. She has worked with the Immigrant Rights Project legal clinic and taught English as a Second Language in Utah, Texas, and Honduras.
Denise Dell Isola  
Program Officer  
Irving Harris Foundation

191 N Wacker Dr Suite 1500  |  Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 604-7913  |  ddellisola@irvingharrisfdn.org

Denise Castillo Dell Isola is a Program Officer at the Irving Harris Foundation, where she advances the Foundation’s early childhood public policy agenda at the state and federal levels. She manages grants and initiatives around early childhood mental health, early learning, family support, and early childhood advocacy, public policy and systems-building. She recently spearheaded the Foundation’s efforts, in partnership with the public and private sectors, to develop an action plan to better integrate early childhood mental health into Illinois’ child- and family-serving systems. Before joining the Foundation, Ms. Dell Isola served as the Executive Director of an early childhood center in Chicago and practiced law at DLA Piper LLP.

Harriet Dichter  
Consultant

535 Telner St  |  Philadelphia, PA 19118  
(484) 904-3599  |  hdichter@aol.com

Harriet Dichter provides strategic, organizational, policy and related services to federal, state and local governments; national, state and local non-profit policy and service organizations; and foundations. She has deep expertise in conceptualizing and executing reforms and innovation and public-private partnerships focused on the needs of young children and their families.

Louisa Diffey  
Policy Researcher  
Education Commission of the States

700 Broadway Suite 810  |  Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 299-3655  |  ldiffey@ecs.org

Louisa Diffey joined Education Commission of the States in July 2016 as a Policy Researcher focusing primarily on early learning. Before joining ECS she taught middle school special education in Colorado Springs as a Teach for America Colorado corps member. She has also taught special education in Denver Public Schools. Ms. Diffey has worked for a member of the Colorado House of Representatives and completed a fellowship with Leadership for Educational Equity.

Elizabeth DiLauro  
Director of Advocacy  
ZERO TO THREE

1255 23rd St NW Suite 350  |  Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 857-2677  |  edilauro@zerotothree.org

Elizabeth DiLauro is the Director of Advocacy at ZERO TO THREE where she develops grassroots and communications campaigns to improve policy for infants, toddlers, and their families. She coordinates the Policy Network, which engages more than 40,000 early childhood professionals in advocacy. Before this she worked with the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters-HIPPYUSA, focusing on children's policy and advocacy issues.
Claire Dudley Chavez
Executive VP for Policy and Stakeholder Engagement
United Way of Santa Fe County

440 Cerrillos Rd | Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 216-2974 | claired@uwsfc.org

Claire Dudley Chavez is Executive Vice President for Policy and Stakeholder Engagement for United Way of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership. She served as the Child and Youth Policy Advisory to Lieutenant Governor Denish, developing and directing the New Mexico Children's Cabinet. Ms. Dudley Chavez also developed and co-authored the annual Children's Cabinet report card and budget report, which provides a comprehensive overview of state and federal funding.

David Edie
Early Education Policy Analyst
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

555 W Washington Ave Suite 200 | Madison, WI 53703
(608) 284-0580 | dedie@wccf.org

Dave Edie is an Early Education Policy Analyst for the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. He worked as a lead child care administrator and planner in state government for over 20 years, an analyst for the Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership, and a consultant for the National Child Care Information Center. Earlier in his career, Mr. Edie worked in public elementary schools and as a teacher and director in early education programs in Massachusetts and Indiana.

Leadell Ediger
Executive Director
Child Care Aware of Kansas

1508 E Iron Ave | Salina, KS 67401
(785) 823-3343 | leadell@ks.childcareaware.org

Leadell Ediger is a founding member of the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, now known as Child Care Aware of Kansas. She served for two years as the Region V representative to the NACCRRRA Board of Directors. She was President of NACCRRRA from 2010 through 2011. Ms. Ediger served on the Board of Directors for the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children and the Kansas Head Start Association.
Bethany Edwards
Research and Policy Associate
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, UC Berkeley

2605 Iron Horse Lane Apt 532  |  Fort Worth, TX 76107
(281) 796-5661  |  bethany.edwards@berkeley.edu

Bethany Edwards is a Research and Policy Associate at the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. Before this she was a Coordinator for the WestEd E3 Institute, where she assisted with the implementation of the Race to the Top Action Plan in Santa Clara County, CA. Ms. Edwards’ areas of expertise include workforce preparation and support, quantitative data analysis, early childhood workforce policy, and QRIS implementation.

Wendy Elliott
Coordinator
Alliance for Early Success

9501 SW 35th Terrace  |  Oklahoma City, OK 73179
(785) 979-7961  |  welliott@earlysuccess.org

Wendy Elliott is Coordinator for the Alliance for Early Success, leading grant management and responsible for internal and external meetings, and internal communications. She has 14 years of experience managing a variety of federal, state and private grants. Before joining the Alliance, Ms. Elliott was a senior staff member for Youth Volunteer Corps, where she was responsible for grants management and program development for 50 sub-grantees. She has an extensive background working with diverse populations including African American, Hispanic, Somali, Burmese and Vietnamese youth and provided diversity training to various youth serving organizations such as Volunteer Centers, HandsOn programs and Boys and Girls Clubs.

Dale Epstein
Senior Research Scientist
Child Trends

1516 Franklin St Suite 205  |  Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 869-3252  |  depstein@childtrends.org

Dale Epstein is a Senior Research Scientist at Child Trends, where she focuses on the intersection of research and policy and the role that state and national public policies play in the lives of young children and their families. She is the Project Director of the North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System and the Principal Investigator for an evaluation of the Quality Rating and Improvement System in Arizona. She also works on the Child Care and Early Education Policy and Research Analysis project.

Jennifer Esterline
Executive Director
Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium

PO Box 660327  |  Austin, TX 78766
(512) 796-4530  |  jennifermesterline@gmail.com

Jennifer Esterline is the Executive Director of the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium, a collaborative of 35 Texas grantmakers working to protect and improve public education through state level policy and advocacy. She brings a background in public policy, philanthropy, and nonprofit management to TEGAC. She started her career in the Office of Governor George W. Bush and has spent the last 15 years building connections between public officials, foundations, and nonprofit organizations. Ms. Esterline was the head of a private family foundation in Austin for seven years and has built the largest consortium of Texas foundations to ever work together on public policy.
**Danielle Ewen**  
Senior Policy Advisor  
EducationCounsel

101 Constitution Ave NW Suite 900 | Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 689-2919 | danielle.ewen@educationcounsel.com

Danielle Ewen is a Senior Policy Advisor at EducationCounsel LLC. Before this she was the Director of the Office of Early Childhood Education in the District of Columbia Public Schools, where she oversaw the operations of programs serving three- and four-year old children in high quality, comprehensive classrooms. Ms. Ewen has worked in early childhood policy at several organizations dedicated to ending child poverty, including serving as the Director of the Child Care and Early Education team at the Center for Law and Social Policy where she worked on federal and state issues around child care and early education, particularly the reauthorizations of the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start.

**Lisa Fasolo Frishman**  
Executive Director  
NY Funders Alliance

431 E Fayette St | Syracuse, NY 13202  
(585) 232-2380 | lisa@nyfunders.org

Lisa Fasolo Frishman is Executive Director of the New York Funders Alliance, a statewide network of diverse philanthropic organizations. She has worked at the Maxwell School for Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, as Executive Director for Social Venture Partners Denver, and as a Scholarship Officer at The Denver Foundation. She also served as the Associate Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at the Madeira School in McLean, Virginia.

**Lisa Fernandez**  
Chief Development Officer  
Educare Arizona

1300 N 48th St | Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 845-4150 | Lisa@EducareArizona.org

Lisa Fernandez is the Chief Development Officer for Educare Arizona, where she is responsible for supporting the Arizona non-profit’s fundraising and private philanthropic outreach, as well as marketing and communications efforts. Before this she was Campaign Manager for Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton’s successful 2015 re-election campaign and for Phoenix Councilwoman Kate Gallego’s campaign in 2013. Ms. Fernandez also served as a fundraiser and consultant for Congressman Ruben Gallego and for the Arizona Democratic Party.

**Rochelle Finzel**  
Group Director  
National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

7700 E 1st Pl | Denver, CO 80230  
(303) 856-1552 | rochelle.finzel@ncsl.org
Ellen Frede, Deputy Director for Early Learning at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leads a team dedicated to improving the quality of public pre-kindergarten education in the US. Before this she was at Acelero Learning, where she oversaw all education and research initiatives. Dr. Frede was Co-Director of the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University, where she investigated the relationship of program quality to child outcomes, the longitudinal effects of preschool, and early education policy. She was senior staff for Early Childhood Education at the New Jersey Department of Education, where she oversaw the implementation of high-quality preschool in more than 150 school districts, serving 50,000 children and their families. As an Associate Professor at the College of New Jersey for more than 16 years, Dr. Frede taught applied child development and early childhood teaching methods to prospective and practicing teachers.

Katherine Freeman is the President/CEO of United Way of Santa Fe County and the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership. Over the last ten years the focus of her work has been in early childhood education and care. She led United Way’s change in mission to focus exclusively on early childhood investment. Ms. Freeman directed the development of United Way’s continuum of early childhood programs with an eye toward aligning the footprint for Santa Fe County and the NMECDP, a state-wide policy and advocacy organization that engages business leaders, policy makers, and advocates.

Tara Ford is the Co-Founder and Legal Director of Pegasus Legal Services for Children, a non-profit law firm serving children and their families in New Mexico. She has been involved in children’s legal issues for over twenty years, including working with children and families at Peanut Butter and Jelly Therapeutic Pre-School, an intensive interactive parenting program. Ms. Ford has focused her career on issues impacting children, including special education, health care, mental health care and child welfare. She is a Senior Attorney with Young Minds Advocacy and has been recognized the National Association for Children as a Child Welfare Law Specialist since 2006.

Max Fose is the President and CEO of IWS, a national advertising and public affairs firm. He speaks frequently on topics ranging from effective messaging and digital strategy to the opportunities of using social media. Max was recognized by Politics Online, Harvard University and the American Association of Political Consultants as one of the 25 Internet professionals who are changing the world of politics.
**Stephanie Fuerstner Gillis**  
Managing Director  
Arabella Advisors  

340 Pine St Suite 400  |  San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 449-0578  |  stephanie.gillis@arabellaadvisors.com  

Stephanie Fuerstner Gillis leads Arabella’s Philanthropy Management team, where she is focused on services for families and individual donors. She joined Arabella as part of the firm’s acquisition of Blueprint Research + Design, Inc., where she was the COO and a senior consultant. She has spent her entire career in the social sector, and has been working with philanthropy clients for more than 15 years. She has an extensive background in evaluation, program strategy, and program design, as well as substantive expertise in youth development, education, arts education, organizational capacity building, family foundations, and philanthropy, among other areas.

**Rita Furlow**  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Maine Children’s Alliance  

303 State St  |  Augusta, ME 04563  
(207) 623-1868  |  rfurlow@mekids.org  

Rita Furlow is an attorney and serves as the Senior Policy Analyst at the Maine Children’s Alliance, working closely with state leaders to help make young children a top priority. Her legislative and policy experience includes working in a congressional office, in the Maine House of Representatives, the Virginia State Senate, and as Special Assistant to Maine’s Attorney General. She focused on special education and disability law and advocated for children in private practice as the Executive Director of a nonprofit advocacy group.

**Erin Gabel**  
Deputy Director  
First 5 California  

2389 Gateway Oaks Dr Suite 260  |  Sacramento, CA 95673  
(916) 263-1093  |  egabel@ccfc.ca.gov  

Erin Gabel is the Deputy Director for External and Governmental Affairs at First 5 California, where she is responsible for the Commission's legislative and public affairs initiatives. Before this she was the Education Consultant for California State Senate President pro Tempore, Darrell Steinberg, and advised the pro Tem and Senate on a wide range of education reform issues that included preschool and early learning, kindergarten through grade 12 public education, and higher education. Ms. Gabel was the Director of Government Affairs for California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and was Deputy Chief of Staff to Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia. She was one of the founding staff members of the Partnership for Children and Youth and their first Children Nutrition Project Director.

**Patty Garcia**  
Deputy Director of Constituency Services- Education  
NALEO Educational Fund  

600 Pennsylvania Ave, SE Suite 480  |  Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 360-4186  |  epgarcia@naleo.org  

Patty Garcia is the Deputy Director of Constituency Services for Education with NALEO Educational Fund, where she oversees and carries out state-based relations and efforts to provide Latino/a elected and appointed officials with professional development opportunities around governance skills and education policies. Her experience includes direct student mobilization, community outreach, programmatic and policy assessment and evaluation. Dr. Garcia serves as Co-Chair of the National Political Education Initiative for Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. and the Latin American Youth Center Associate Board to enhance fundraising efforts of the center and contribute to the growth of young professionals, students, and community members.
Barbara Gebhard is the Assistant Director of Public Policy at ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families. As part of the organization’s Policy Center she leads efforts to advance state policy priorities and support states in the development of policies and systems to meet the needs of infants and toddlers. She oversees the development of effective materials tools and technical assistance for state policymakers. Ms. Gebhard coordinates annual state policy action team meetings for teams from five states on various topics relevant to infant-toddler policies. She also provides technical assistance to public-private teams in states on a variety of topics.
**Kim Gore**  
State Director  
Council For A Strong America

4 Jersey Circle  |  Topsham, ME 04086  
(207) 725-5946  |  kgore@councilforastrongamerica.org

Kim Gore is the Maine State Director for Council for A Strong America and it’s subsidiary organization, Fight Crime: Invest In Kids. She has more than two decades of experience in Maine’s non-profit and state public policy positions. In 2009 she took on the role as State Director of ReadyNation, an organization of business leaders focusing on how strategic investments in children can help improve Maine’s future workforce and our economy. She also became the State Director of Mission: Readiness, an organization of retired admirals and generals who are concerned about the education of our nation’s young people and how what impact national security.

**Jon Gould**  
Deputy Director  
Children’s Alliance

718 6th Ave S  |  Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 324-0340  |  jon@childrensalliance.org

Jon Gould is Deputy Director of the Children’s Alliance in Washington, where he coordinates public policy, mobilization, lobbying, communications, and outreach activities. He has an extensive history of contribution and leadership in housing, human service, and children’s issues at the local, state and national levels. His strategic leadership has contributed to major state policy victories for children, including Washington’s Apple Health for Kids universal health coverage program, major expansions in early learning including the Early Start Act, and expansions of child nutrition programs.

**Rolf Grafwallner**  
Program Manager  
CCSSO

1 Massachusetts Ave, NW  |  Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 312-6432  |  rolf.grafwallner@ccsso.org

Rolf Grafwallner is Program Director for Early Childhood Initiatives at the Council of Chief State School Officers, where he works with states to improve learning opportunities and outcomes for young children. Prior to joining CCSSO, Dr. Grafwallner worked on early childhood policy and school reform as an Assistant State Superintendent at the Maryland State Department of Education. He has been a teacher, program director and administrator. His expertise is on large scale early childhood assessments, governance, finance, organizational leadership, and early education systems building.
Ted Granger
President
United Way of Florida

307 E 7th Ave | Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 488-8276 | tgranger@uwof.org

Ted Granger is President of the United Way of Florida, a statewide association representing Florida’s 32 United Ways on Florida legislative and administrative issues, coordinating statewide initiatives, and providing training for local United Ways. He is Chair of the FEMA State Set-Aside Committee, the Healthy Families Florida Statewide Advisory Committee, and Children’s Week, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Florida Afterschool Network, the Florida Nonprofit Association, and the One Goal Summer Conference on Children Committee.

Maribel Granja
Project Coordinator
National Center for Children in Poverty

215 W 125th St 3rd Floor | New York, NY 10027
(646) 284-9635 | granja@nccp.org

Emily Griffey
Policy Director
Voices for Virginia’s Children

701 E Franklin St Suite 807 | Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 649-0184 | emily@vakids.org

Emily Griffey is Policy Director for Voices for Virginia’s Children, where she focuses on early childhood education. She convenes the Early Childhood Policy Network and leads the development of the Unified Policy Agenda. Ms. Griffey has experience at local and regional levels, working for Greater Richmond’s Smart Beginnings, Richmond City Social Services and Baltimore’s Safe and Sound Campaign.

Carrie Hanlon
Policy Director
NASHP

10 Free St Floor 2 | Portland, ME 04101
(207) 822-3915 | chanlon@nashp.org

Carrie Hanlon is a Program Manager at the National Academy for State Health Policy, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization to advance health policy solutions. Ms. Hanlon studies state policies designed to improve the quality of health care, with special focus on Medicaid, maternal and child health, early childhood, and racial/ethnic health disparities. She staffed NASHP’s Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Project, where states tested ways to improve care coordination for Medicaid eligible children with developmental delays.

Sheila Hansen
Policy Director
Child and Family Policy Center

505 5th Ave Suite 404 | Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 280-9027 | shansen@cfpciowa.org
Lauren Heintz
Policy Specialist
Clayton Early Learning

3801 Martin Luther King Blvd | Denver, CO 80205
(303) 393-5623 | lheintz@claytonearlylearning.org

Lauren Heintz is the Policy Specialist at Clayton Early Learning, an early care and education nonprofit that promotes family-centered classroom and home-based practices through direct service, research and program evaluation, and professional development of teachers and leaders across the state. She oversees and coordinates public policy efforts including direct legislative advocacy, research and information dissemination, and serving as a content expert on national and statewide early childhood advisories and councils. Before this Ms. Heintz was a Policy Associate with the Education Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures and staffed the Standing Committee on Education. She worked with the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Governor John Hickelouper’s office, and staffed several members of the Colorado General Assembly.

Kat Hendrix
Outreach and Communications Director
Children First for Oregon

1209 SE Belmont St | Portland, OR 97214
(503) 893-5223 | kat@cffo.org

Dana Hepper
Director of Policy and Program
Children’s Institute

1411 SW Morrison Suite 205 | Portland, OR 97205
(971) 506-3262 | dana@childinst.org

Dana Hepper is Director of Policy & Program at the Children’s Institute in Oregon. She served as the National Director of Policy Development and Advocacy Director at Stand for Children, where she led a national project to implement Common Core Standards across 10 states and played a leading role in winning several key pieces of legislation to improve Oregon schools. Ms. Hepper started her career as an elementary school teacher and pre-K teacher.

Lauren Hogan
Senior Director, Public Policy and Advocacy
NAEYC

1313 L St NW Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 350-8837 | lhogan@naeyc.org

Lauren Hogan is the Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, where she is developing and leading their bi-partisan early childhood policy agenda with a keen focus on shared leadership, innovation, diversity and equity. Before this she was Vice President of Program and Policy at the National Black Child Development Institute. Hogan began her career working with an after-school program in Louisville, Kentucky and later served as the director of an early literacy and family support program in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Betty Holcomb
Policy Director
Center for Children’s Initiatives

322 Eighth Ave | New York, NY 10001
(212) 381-0009 | bholcomb@ccinyc.org
Rich Huddleston
Executive Director
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Rich Huddleston is Executive Director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families. He has conducted extensive advocacy work in public policy issues impacting children, including state tax and budget issues, poverty/low income economic issues, children’s health, and early childhood education. Mr. Huddleston has been recognized by the Arkansas Minority Health Commission as one of the state’s 20 most Influential Minority Health Advocates. The Arkansas Times Magazine named him one of the 50 most influential Arkansans for his work on children’s advocacy. The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation recognized him as part of their 40 Years, 40 Leaders for Arkansas. He has served on numerous state and national advisory committees, including the Arkansas Legislative Taskforce on Reducing Poverty and the Arkansas Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

Margaret Hulbert
Vice President, Strategic Resources and Public Policy
United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Bill Jaeger
Vice President, Early Childhood Initiatives
Colorado Children’s Campaign

Bill Jaeger is the Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Colorado Children’s Campaign, a non-profit, non-partisan research, policy, and advocacy organization. He leads efforts to advance child care, early learning, and mental health policy efforts to support Colorado’s youngest children. Mr. Jaeger has spent more than a decade teaching, studying, and working on issues in public education and public policy.
David Kass is the President of the Council for a Strong America, the nonprofit parent of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, Shepherding the Next Generation, ReadyNation, and Champions for America’s Future. Before this he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Housing, managing the agency’s Congressional affairs office. Mr. Kass also worked on children’s issues as a staffperson on Capitol Hill and for several nonprofit organizations.

Michelle Katona
Chief Program Officer
First Things First

4000 N Central Ave Suite 800 | Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-5018 | mkatona@azftf.gov

Katherine Kempe
Senior Director, Professional Recognition and Advancement
NAEYC

1313 L St NW Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 350-8867 | kkempe@naeyc.org

Yael Kiken
Child Care Licensing Program Coordinator
Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc.

2333 Ontario Rd NW | Washington, DC 20009
(202) 200-4158 | ykiken@maryscenter.org

Yael Kiken is Child Care Licensing Program Coordinator at Mary’s Center for Maternal and Child Care, Inc. She works with DC educators to open Child Development Homes and Centers, help families access early care and education, and improve the quality of that care. She has experience working with children and families in DC and abroad, and is excited about working with people from all different backgrounds to help develop a love of literacy and learning.
Carlise King is the Executive Director for the Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends, which promotes policies and practices that support the use of data to improve early care and education systems. Ms. King led ECDC’s national survey of states’ early care and education data systems and works closely with stakeholders on how coordinated data systems can answer key policy questions to support data-driven decision-making. She regularly directs the delivery of policy consultation and strategic communications that promote the development, implementation, and use of early childhood data systems. Ms. King has over 16 years of experience conducting state and national level research on early childhood issues and examining the impact of state and federal policies on parents’ access to child care services, licensed child care supply, child care costs, and the child care workforce.

Jeff Kirsch is a Vice President of the Council for a Strong America, the umbrella organization over five organizations of unexpected messengers: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, Mission: Readiness, ReadyNation, Shepherding the Next Generation, and Champions for America’s Future. He is responsible for coordinating the organizations’ state policy work with allies. Before this he was Deputy Director and Field Director of Families USA Field Director and Executive Director of the anti-hunger group, FRAC.

Lisa Klein is Executive Director of the Alliance for Early Success, responsible for leading and overseeing all Alliance strategy and investments. She has over 30 years of experience serving young children and their families in philanthropy and not-for-profit organizations. Before joining the Alliance she spent 10 years at the Kauffman Foundation, first as Manager of the Research and Evaluation Department and then as Vice-President of Early Education. Ten years of experience as a clinical psychologist and Director of a partial hospital program helped make her a more informed and better grantmaker. Dr. Klein serves on the Board of the Baum Family Foundation and is called on to consult with multiple family, community, and private foundations across the country. She combines her interests in children, social justice, and dance by serving on the Kansas City Board of Alvin Ailey.
Todd Klunk
Program Officer
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

One Michigan Ave East  |  Battle Creek, MI 49017
(269) 969-2141  |  Todd.Klunk@wkkf.org

Todd Klunk is a Program Officer for the Education & Learning team at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, where he identifies and nurtures opportunities for affecting positive systemic change within communities and executes programming efforts that are aligned with organizational goals. Before joining the Foundation, he was the Director of Finance, Administration and Planning with the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning. He was Acting Deputy Secretary from 2010-2011.

Lisa Knoche
Research Associate Professor
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

238 Teachers College Hall University of Nebraska-Lincoln  |  Lincoln, NE 68588
(402) 472-4821  |  lknoche2@unl.edu

Lisa Knoche is a Research Associate Professor and Director of the Nebraska Early Childhood Research Academy in the Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families and Schools at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Dr. Knoche is an applied developmental psychologist with expertise in the design, development, and evaluation of early childhood intervention and prevention programs to support healthy development in young children and support family engagement in early learning.

Angela Lampkin
Educare and EHS Director
Next Door Foundation

2545 N 29th St  |  Milwaukee, WI 53210
(141) 562-2929  |  alampkin@nextdoormil.org

Stacy Lee
Managing Director, Early Childhood Project Integration
Children Now

714 W Olympic Blvd Suite 909  |  Los Angeles, CA 90015
(213) 973-5081  |  slee@childrennow.org

StacyLee is the Managing Director, Early Childhood Project Integration at Children Now, where she leads the collaborative development of a statewide prenatal to age 3 policy agenda and supports key early childhood education projects focused in Los Angeles County. Before this she was Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Integration at First 5 LA, where she also served as the Policy Manager, overseeing an $18 million portfolio of grants focused on early childhood policy and advocacy; oversaw state lobbying efforts; led the agency’s policy strategy development focused on early education and home visiting advocacy; and developed partnerships and coalitions with funders and advocates at the local, state and federal levels.
Eva Lester
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Buffett Early Childhood Fund

3555 Farnam St  |  Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 541-4495  |  el@buffettearly.org

Eva Lester is Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, where she represents the Foundation’s work with Educare schools in the western United States, manages the collaborative Acceleration Grants promoting innovation across Educare Schools, and facilitates the implementation of the Educare Learning Network’s strategic plan. Before this she worked in Phoenix on community literacy initiatives and as Project Manager during Educare Arizona’s partnership development and capital campaign. She worked in Governor Janet Napolitano’s Office for Children, Youth and Families where she staffed the Children’s Cabinet, School Readiness Board, and Foundation Roundtable, and served as a liaison between the Governor’s Office and First Things First. She also spent two years as a data collector for the National Center for Early Development and Learning’s Multi-State Study of Pre-K.

Sam Leyvas
CEO
First Things First

4000 N Central Ave  |  Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-5091  |  sleyvas@azftf.gov

Abbie Lieberman
Policy Analyst
New America

1300 N St NW, 609  |  Washington, DC 20005
(202) 596-3610  |  lieberman@newamerica.org

Abbie Lieberman is a Policy Analyst on the Early & Elementary Education Policy team at New America, where she provides research and analysis on policies that impact children from birth through third grade. She has co-authored several New America policy papers. Ms. Lieberman interned on the legislative affairs team at Education Trust and at the U.S. Department of Education working on the 2013 Race to the Top District competition.

Laurie Liles
President and CEO
Arizona Grantmakers Forum

2201 E Camelback Rd  |  Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 845-1361  |  lliles@azgrantmakers.org

Laurie Liles is President and CEO of Arizona Grantmakers Forum, the statewide association serving Arizona’s philanthropic community. She served more than two decades at the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association, where she was President and CEO and a Senior Vice President of Public Affairs. She was a Washington, D.C. correspondent for Cronkite News, covering politics, immigration and Indian affairs for Arizona news media outlets.
Robyn Lipkowitz
Program Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

7700 E First Place | Denver, CO 80230
(303) 856-1420 | robyn.lipkowitz@ncsl.org

Robyn Lipkowitz is a Program Director for the Children & Families Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures. She coordinates NCLS’s work on issues related to child care and early education policy. Before this she managed the Utah Department of Health’s Office of Home Visiting and administered the Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. Ms. Lipkowitz worked as a policy analyst for Voices for Utah Children with a focus on early care and education. She participated in the Governor’s Early Childhood Council and was part of the coordinating team for the first Early Childhood Summit.

Aaron Loewenberg
Program Associate
New America

740 15th St NW Suite 900 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 316-1331 | loewenberg@newamerica.org

Aaron Loewenberg is a Program Associate with the Education Policy program at New America. He is a member of the Early & Elementary Education team, where he provides research and analysis on policies that impact children from birth through third grade. Before joining New America, Mr. Loewenberg taught pre-K and kindergarten for four years in Washington, D.C.

Patricia Lozano
Senior Program Officer
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

13402 Killion St | Sherman Oaks, CA 91401
(206) 709-3149 | patricia.lozano@gatesfoundation.org

Amy Lusk
Vice President, Educare Learning Network
Ounce of Prevention Fund

33 W Monroe St Suite 2400 | Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 453-1942 | amyl@ounceofprevention.org

Marina Marcou-O’Malley
Policy Director
Alliance for Quality Education

94 Central Ave | Albany, NY 12206
(518) 432-5315 | marina@aqeny.org
Emmy Marshall  
Technical Assistance Specialist  
ZERO TO THREE  
1255 23rd St, NW Suite 350  |  Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 857-2285  |  emarshall@zerotothree.org

Jana Martella  
Co-Director  
Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes  
1025 Thomas Jefferson St, NW Suite 700W  |  Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 572-5311  |  jmartella@edc.org

Jana Martella is the Co-Director for the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes. She has over thirty-five years of experience in education, including as a teacher and assistant school administrator, SEA legislative liaison and coordinator for federal programs. A central part of her focus has been on education system and program improvement through standards-based reform, including her work in promoting improved opportunities in early childhood education. She has worked on multiple initiatives designed to advance high quality in early childhood education and in child and adult care in the states.

Debi Mathias  
Director QRIS NLN  
BUILD Initiative  
27 Brown St  |  Lewisburg, PA 17837  
(570) 238-7775  |  dmathias@buildinitiative.org

Debi Mathias is Director of the QRIS National Learning Network for the BUILD Initiative and Senior Consultant for the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance and the State Capacity Building Center IMPACT Project. Before this she was Director of Early Learning Services with the Departments of Education and Public Welfare in PA, responsible for the state’s QRIS, state Pre-K, Head Start Collaboration Office and State Head Start funding, family support programs, professional development systems and standards aligned systems. Her areas of expertise include QRIS, professional development, training and technical assistance, and systems building.

Hannah Matthews  
Director, Child Care and Early Education  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
1200 18th St NW Suite 200  |  Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 906-8006  |  hmatthews@clasp.org

Hannah Matthews is Director of Child Care and Early Education at the Center for Law and Social Policy and also leads CLASP’s work to advance large-scale policy opportunities and system reforms that address the needs of children and parents together, or “two-generation” policy work. She works on federal and state child care and early education policies to advance healthy child development and the needs of low-income families and has authored numerous publications on access to quality child care and early education for low-income families. Her areas of expertise include child care subsidy policies, including CCDBG implementation, immigrant families and early education, state and federal ECE policies and linkages, program integration and alignment.
Madeline McClure
CEO and Founder
TexProtects, The Texas Association for the Protection of Children

2904 Floyd St Suite A  |  Dallas, TX 75204
(214) 442-1672  |  brandy@texprotects.org

After a successful career as a financier on Wall Street, TexProtects founder and Executive Director Madeline McClure turned her problem solving skills to the issue of child abuse and healing victims. She practiced six years as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, providing therapy to child victims. It became clear to her that healing one child, one neighborhood, one community at a time - while necessary - was an insufficient response in proportion to the child abuse epidemic. She shifted her energies to working on a macro scale for greatest impact, leading others for over 15 years in successful child advocacy.

Marci McCoy-Roth
Partner
True North Group

9702 Carriage Rd  |  Kensington, MD 20895
(267) 456-3594  |  marci@truenorthgroup.com

Marci McCoy-Roth is a partner with True North Group, a policy and communications firm working to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations, primarily young children, adolescents, and youth in foster care. She has led several policy and communication issue campaigns, and frequently provides trainings to non-profit organizations on developing and implementing strategic communication plans to advance policy change, with a particular emphasis on using social media. She has designed and implemented several social media campaigns for early childhood issues, most recently the Early Success #Bthru8 campaign. Before joining True North, she was the Senior Public Policy and Communications Director at Child Trends and worked as a research and policy analyst in state government.

Michelle McCready
Chief of Policy
Child Care Aware of America

1515 N Courthouse Rd  |  Arlington, VA 22201
(414) 243-1644  |  michelle.mccready@usa.childcareaware.org

Michelle McCready is the Chief of Policy at Child Care Aware® of America, providing vision, leadership, and management of the Policy and Research Division, including federal policy, and health and emergency preparedness state initiatives. She started her career in special education advocacy at Advocates for Children of New York. She has worked for issue and political campaigns mobilizing grassroots advocates for presidential, gubernatorial and congressional races.

Davida McDonald
Senior Manager, Peer Learning
Ounce of Prevention Fund

33 W Monroe St Suite 2400  |  Chicago, IL 60603
(202) 431-5457  |  dmcdonald@ounceofprevention.org

Davida McDonald is the Senior Manager for Peer Learning for the Ounce of Prevention Fund's national policy team, where she oversees peer learning opportunities for a network of state advocates, Educare leaders and other state and local leaders. Before this she was a Senior Advisor for early childhood development in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development in the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. McDonald worked as the Director of State Policy at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, where she researched and tracked state public policy trends and worked with state and local affiliates to build their public policy capacity.
**Jane McGrath**  
Division Chief, Adolescent Medicine Dept of Pediatrics, UNM HSC SOM  
Envision NM

625 Silver Ave SW Suite 324  |  Albuquerque, NM 87102  
(505) 925-7606  |  jmcgrath@salud.unm.edu

Jane McGrath is the Founder and Director of Envision NM. She is a Pediatrician, and the Chief of Adolescent Medicine at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. She is a long-time advocate for and provider in school-based health centers and is currently the Medical Director for the clinical program which operates in the Albuquerque Public Schools. She was formerly the School Health Officer for the New Mexico Department of Health and spent many years visiting rural school districts and helping develop school health policy for the state. Dr. McGrath is a past President of the National Assembly for School Based Healthcare and former member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on School Health.

**Margie McHugh**  
Director, National Center on Immigrant Integration  
Migration Policy Institute

1400 16th st NW Suite 300  |  Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 266-1921  |  mmchugh@migrationpolicy.org

Margie McHugh is Director of the Migration Policy Institute’s National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, a national hub for leaders in government, community affairs, business and academia to obtain the insights and knowledge they need to respond to the challenges and opportunities that today's high rates of immigration pose for communities across the United States. Ms. McHugh’s work focuses on education quality and access issues for immigrants and their children from early childhood through K-12 and adult, post-secondary and workforce skills programs. She also leads the Center's work seeking a more coordinated federal response to immigrant integration needs and impacts, and more workable systems for recognition of the education and work experience immigrants bring with them to the United States. Before this she served for 15 years as Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, Deputy Director of New York City’s 1990 Census Project, and as Executive Assistant to New York Mayor Ed Koch's chief of staff.

**Annie McKay**  
President and CEO  
Kansas Action for Children

720 SW Jackson, Ste 201  |  Topeka, KS 66603  
(785) 232-0550  |  Annie@kac.org

**Caitlin McLean**  
Workforce Research Specialist  
Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

UC-Berkeley 2521 Channing Way  |  Berkeley, CA 94720  
(510) 642-1994  |  caitlin.mclean@berkeley.edu

Caitlin McLean is a Workforce Research Specialist at the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment. She is responsible for the Early Childhood Workforce Index, which examines early childhood workforce policies and the economic status of the workforce across all 50 states and the District of Columbia in order to assess progress toward improving early childhood jobs. Dr. McLean also serves as the CSCCE lead staff person in the Early Childhood Data Collaborative.
Aaron McMahan
Early Learning and K-12 Policy Manager
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

116 Pine St Suite 430 | Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 236-5680 | amcmahan@papartnerships.org

Aaron McMahan joined Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children in July 2016 as the Early Learning and K-12 Policy Manager, where he supports PPC’s education policy development and implementation work. Before this Mr. McMahan worked in the Governor’s Office of the Budget as a Fiscal Policy and Legislative Specialist for five years, focusing on education issues.

Matthew Melmed
Executive Director
ZERO TO THREE

1255 23rd St, NW Suite 350 | Washington, DC 20037
(202) 638-1144 | mmelmed@zerotothree.org

Matthew Melmed is the Executive Director of ZERO TO THREE. Since 1995 he has guided the considerable growth of the organization’s activities in support of professionals, policymakers and parents in their efforts to ensure that every baby has a strong start in life. He was the first elected Chair of the Children’s Leadership Council, a coalition of 55 leading national policy and advocacy organizations working to improve the health, education and wellbeing of America’s children and youth. He currently serves as CLC Treasurer. Mr. Melmed is Chair of the Board of Generations United, a Trustee of the Turrell Fund in New Jersey, and Immediate Past-Chair of the Board of the Food Research and Action Center. He was Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services, and prior to that was a Managing Attorney for Connecticut Legal Services.

Marina Merrill
Senior Research and Policy Advisor
Children’s Institute

1411 SW Morrison St #205 | Portland, OR 97205
(503) 219-9034 | marina@childinst.org

Marina Merrill is Senior Research and Policy Advisor at the Children’s Institute in Oregon. She has extensive experience in program evaluation and technical assistance in support of a wide range of early learning programs, parenting education programs, home visiting, education reform, safe schools, community partnerships, school and community health. Before this she was a Senior Research Associate at RMC Research. She was an Early Childhood Education Specialist at the Oregon Department of Education where she provided leadership for Oregon’s Even Start Family Literacy and Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education programs.

Martha Moorehouse
Program Director, Education
Heising-Simons Foundation

400 Main St Suite 200 | Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 887-0277 | Martha@heisingsimons.org
Kelley Murphy
Director, Early Childhood Policy
Children’s Action Alliance

4001 N 3rd St Suite 160  |  Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 266-0707  |  kmurphy@azchildren.org

Kelley Murphy is the Early Childhood Policy Director at the Children’s Action Alliance. Before this she was the Bureau Chief in Policy at the Arizona Division of Behavioral Health Services. She spent four years as Senior Health Policy and Program Specialist for Arizona’s early childhood agency, First Things First, where she worked at the state and local level for improved health policy for children and partnered with community members to further define and develop the system of early childhood in Arizona.

Roxana Norouzi
Director of Education and Integration Policy
OneAmerica

1225 S Weller St #430  |  Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 351-3062  |  Roxana@weareoneamerica.org

Roxana Norouzi is Director of Education and Integration Policy at OneAmerica, Washington State’s largest immigrant rights organization. She focuses on closing the opportunity gap through local and state policies and programs that support integration of immigrant children along with campaigns to increase bilingualism. She is a clinical instructor at the University of Washington for the Community Oriented Public Health Practice Master’s Program. Ms. Norouzi is the Board President of the Seattle Globalist, a global to local news media platform, serves as Vice-President of the Children’s Alliance Board of Directors and an appointee to the City of Seattle’s Immigrant and Refugee Commission. She was awarded the Bonderman Fellowship which allowed her to travel to twenty countries exploring and reporting on post-conflict regions, migration trends, and identity.

Gail Nourse
Vice President, Illinois Policy
Ounce of Prevention Fund

33 W Monroe St Suite 2400  |  Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 256-8873  |  gnourse@ounceofprevention.org

Gail Nourse is the Vice President of Illinois Policy at the Ounce of Prevention Fund, where she is responsible for leading the Illinois Policy Team in the areas of legislative and advocacy work, outreach, and systems development. Before this she served as a Senior Policy Manager for the National Policy Team at the Ounce where she focused on peer learning among states and individualized state consultation to Arizona, Colorado, and Florida. Ms. Nourse was the first Director of Pennsylvania Keys, where she provided statewide leadership in the development of an integrated and coordinated system of program quality improvements and professional development supports for the field of early childhood education. She coordinated the PA BUILD initiative and has extensive experience in child welfare.
**Sessy Nyman**  
Vice President of Policy and Strategic Partnerships  
Illinois Action for Children

4753 N Broadway Ave Suite 1200  |  Chicago, IL 60640  
(773) 564-8844  |  sessy.nyman@actforchildren.org

Sessy Nyman is the Vice President of Policy and Strategic Partnerships at Illinois Action for Children, where she directs state and federal legislative strategy and coalition building. Her leadership and advocacy efforts have contributed to an increase of state resources invested in early care and education by more than $160 million. She manages statewide campaigns for policy change and increases in fiscal expenditures; creates partnerships with community organizations, parents and faith-based initiatives; and develops grassroots organizing activities and strategies. Before this Ms. Nyman was the Director of the Violence Prevention Project for the Alliance for Logan Square Organizations.

**Amy O’Leary**  
Campaign Director  
Strategies for Children

400 Atlantic Ave  |  Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 330-7384  |  aoleary@strategiesforchildren.org

Amy O’Leary is Director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children, an advocacy and policy organization that works to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. She joined EEA in 2002 as the Early Childhood Field Director and has also served as the Campaign's Deputy Director. Prior to joining SFC, Amy worked as a preschool teacher and Program Director at Ellis Memorial in Boston. She was elected to the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, is a member of the Children's Defense Fund Emerging Leader Fellowship, and serves on the adjunct faculty at Wheelock College in Boston and Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester.

**Linda O’Neal**  
Executive Director  
TN Commission on Children and Youth

Andrew Jackson Tower, 9th Floor 502 Deaderick Street  |  Nashville, TN 37243  
(615) 532-1600  |  linda.oneal@tn.gov

Linda O’Neal is the Executive Director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, an independent state agency with a primary mission of advocacy to improve the quality of life for Tennessee children and families and provide leadership for other children's advocates. Before this she worked with children in foster care, juvenile justice advocacy and legislative and administrative advocacy for the state Legal Aid agency. She chairs or serves on national, state and local committees and boards focused on improving a wide range of child-serving systems, and served on the inaugural KIDS COUNT Steering Committee. Ms. O’Neal has received national, southeast regional, state and local recognition for her advocacy work for children of all ages.

**Mia Orr**  
Policy Director  
Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

PO Box 13552  |  New Orleans, CA 70185  
(504) 323-5487  |  morr@policyinstitutela.org

Sessy Nyman is the Vice President of Policy and Strategic Partnerships at Illinois Action for Children, where she directs state and federal legislative strategy and coalition building. Her leadership and advocacy efforts have contributed to an increase of state resources invested in early care and education by more than $160 million. She manages statewide campaigns for policy change and increases in fiscal expenditures; creates partnerships with community organizations, parents and faith-based initiatives; and develops grassroots organizing activities and strategies. Before this Ms. Nyman was the Director of the Violence Prevention Project for the Alliance for Logan Square Organizations.
Amy Owens
Executive Director
Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County

6400 Glenwood St #205 | Mission, KS 66202
(913) 432-2900 | amy.owens@itsjc.org

Maki Park
Policy Analyst
Migration Policy Institute

1400 16th st NW Suite 300 | Washington, DC 20036
(202) 266-1922 | mpark@migrationpolicy.org

Maki Park is a Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute’s National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy, where her work focuses on domestic and comparative issues affecting children of immigrants and dual language learners in early childhood and K-12 education. Previously, Ms. Park worked as Director of Outreach and Program Manager at WorldTeach, based at Harvard’s Center for International Development, where she oversaw recruiting and admissions operations and managed the organization’s program in Guyana. She has also worked as an education consultant in Malawi and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan.

Chhandasi Patel
Program Officer
Heising-Simons Foundation

400 Main St Suite 200 | Los Altos, CA 94022
(650) 209-8920 | chhandasi@heisingsimons.org

Kris Perry
Executive Director
First Five Years Fund

1010 Vermont Ave NW Suite 810 | Washington, DC 20005
(202) 730-0252 | kperry@ffyf.org

Kris Perry, Executive Director of the First Five Years Fund, understands that America’s future lies in the health and well-being of the country’s youngest children. She has dedicated her career to bringing resources and support to parents, caregivers, and early learning workforce professionals to ensure children grow up healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life. Before this she was Executive Director of First 5 California, fostering their emergence as one of the most well-known and respected advocates for early childhood development on the state and national levels.

Sophie Phillips
COO
TexProtects, The Texas Association for the Protection of Children

2904 Floyd St Suite A | Dallas, TX 75204
(214) 442-1672 | sophie@texprotects.org

Sophie Phillips is the Chief Operating Officer for TexProtects, where she manages the daily operations of the organization. She focuses her efforts on the evidence of child abuse prevention programs, such as family support home visiting, and engages in public policy and research efforts to increase investments in such programs in Texas. Ms. Phillips manages the Texas Home Visitation Consortium, a collaborative of home visiting providers, funders, researchers and state agency resources to raise awareness of the increasing need of home visiting in Texas and to coordinate legislative efforts.
Gail Piggott
Executive Director
Alabama Partnership for Children

2529 Bell Rd  |  Montgomery, AL 36117
(334) 271-0304  |  gpiggott@smartstartalabama.org

Gail Piggott is the Executive Director of the Alabama Partnership for Children. She has over 42 years of experience in education, administration, and management of non-profit and government programs for children and families at the local and state levels. Her work has centered on early education and the needs of young children and their families. Ms. Piggott was the Executive Director of the Alabama Partnership for Children, a broad public/private state-level agency that coordinates the state’s Strengthening Families, Help Me Grow, and Project LAUNCH initiatives and administers the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program.

Karen Ponder
Consultant
Ponder Early Childhood, Inc.

4817 Wood Valley Dr  |  Raleigh, NC 27613
(919) 389-5934  |  kponder@nc.rr.com

Karen Ponder is an early childhood consultant whose work focuses on comprehensive state systems building. She is the former President and CEO of the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc, where she helped to create and administer Smart Start at the state level and oversaw community partnerships in all 100 counties. She helped develop North Carolina’s pre-kindergarten plan and served on a state advisory panel to launch More at Four (now NC PreK). Ms. Ponder has been involved in all aspects of early care and education, as a teacher, center director, board member, teacher educator and government policy maker.

Julie Poppe
Program Manager
NCSL

7700 E First Place  |  Denver, CO 80230
(303) 856-1497  |  julie.poppe@ncsl.org

Julie Poppe is a Program Manager for the early care and education project in the Children and Families Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures. She provides a range of informational and policy services to state legislators and legislative staff through technical assistance, publications, legislative educational presentations and research on issues related to early care and education. Ms. Poppe has authored and co-authored publications on topics including state early childhood care and education financing and budgeting, preschool, children’s mental health services, and infant and toddler development and care.

Peter Pratt
President
Public Sector Consultants Inc.

230 N Washington Square Suite 300  |  Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 484-4954  |  ppratt@pscinc.com

Peter Pratt is president of Public Sector Consultants, where he oversees strategy and human resources for the firm and its clients. He also manages health care and human services consulting services, conducts research and writes policy reports and program evaluations, facilitates coalitions, conducts focus groups, and provides strategic policy counsel to nonprofit health and human services organizations. Mr. Pratt has worked extensively with diverse stakeholders to forge consensus policy solutions on issues such as early childhood education and care, behavioral health, expanding coverage to the uninsured, oral health, and health care workforce development. He is a frequent speaker and writer on a broad range of health care policy topics, including national health care reform. Before joining PSC, he taught at Michigan State.
**Ryan Pricco**
Director, Policy and Advocacy
Child Care Aware of Washington

1551 Broadway Suite 300  |  Tacoma, WA 98402  
(253) 267-4966  |  ryan@wa.childcareaware.org

**Al Race**
Chief Knowledge Officer
Center on the Developing Child

50 Church St 4th Floor  |  Cambridge, MA 02464  
(617) 495-4158  |  al_race@harvard.edu

Al Race is Chief Knowledge Officer and Deputy Director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. He leads the Center’s knowledge translation, communication, and public engagement portfolios, including the development and execution of strategic communications plans, communications research, publications, and new media products. As a senior spokesperson for the Center, Mr. Race helps scientists, researchers, students, the media, and other thought leaders improve their communication of the science of child development and science-based innovation.

**Diana Ragbeer**
Director, Public Policy and Community Engagement
The Children's Trust

3150 SW 3rd Ave 8th Floor  |  Miami, FL 33129  
(305) 571-5718  |  diana@thechildrenstrust.org

Diana Ragbeer is the Director of Public Policy and Community Engagement for The Children’s Trust in Miami-Dade County, where she is responsible for legislative and advocacy efforts on behalf of children and families at the state, federal and local levels. She helps develop and implement community engagement efforts, including Read to Learn, a program to help ensure children are reading on grade level by the 3rd grade. Ms. Ragbeer is the founder of The Miami-Dade Advocacy Institute for Children, in partnership with United Way of Miami and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, which provides advocacy training to providers and parents. She has worked for the Mayor's Office in Miami-Dade County as the Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs and Assistant Director in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Rosita Ramirez**
Director of Constituency Services- Education
NALEO Educational Fund

1122 W Washington Blvd 3rd Floor  |  Los Angeles, CA 90015  
(213) 765-9433  |  rramirez@naleo.org

Rosita Ramirez is Director of Constituency Services for the Education Portfolio for the National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, a nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. Dr. Ramirez is primarily responsible for the overall design, implementation and development of education policy institutes and governance training opportunities within the organization for Latino elected officials across the United States.
Jessie Rasmussen
President
Buffett Early Childhood Fund

3555 Farnam St  |  Omaha, NE 68131
(402) 541-4030  |  jr@buffettearly.org

Jessie Rasmussen is the President of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, which promotes the opportunity for children living in circumstances of risk to have quality experiences in the first five years of life. She directs all investments in practice, policy, and knowledge development in Nebraska and nationally. Ms. Rasmussen has extensive policy experience, having served as a Nebraska State Senator and Director of the Governor’s Office of Children and Family Policy, as well as Director of Health and Human Services in Nebraska and Director of Human Services in Iowa. She was the Early Childhood Policy Director at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, where she led a legislative initiative to establish a $60 million endowment benefiting children under the age of three.

Grace Reef
Outreach Consultant
Committee for Economic Development

1530 Wilson Blvd Suite 400  |  Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 408-7159  |  gracereef2013@gmail.com

Grace Reef is the Committee for Economic Development’s Senior Outreach Consultant working to engage the business community in calling for quality child care and early learning settings. Prior to working with CED, Ms. Reef served as Chief of Policy and Evaluation for Child Care Aware of America and as U.S. Senate Staff Director for the HELP Subcommittee on Children.

Elliot Regenstein
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy
Ounce of Prevention Fund

33 W Monroe Suite 2400  |  Chicago, Il 60603
(312) 453-1931  |  eregenstein@theounce.org

Elliot M. Regenstein leads the Ounce of Prevention Fund’s national policy consultation practice and coordinates its overall state and national policy efforts. He has extensive experience in working directly with states on policy development, and is a frequent speaker and author on topics including governance, data systems, and linkages between early learning and K-12. He also partners with the First Five Years Fund to support policy change at the federal level.

Judy Reidt-Parker
Senior Manager, National Policy Team
The Ounce of Prevention Fund

34 W Monroe Suite 2401  |  Chicago, IL 60603
(207) 730-3424  |  jparker@theounce.org
**Cynthia Rice**  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey

35 Halsey St  |  Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 643-3876  |  crice@acnj.org

Cyndie Rice has worked at the Advocates for Children of New Jersey, serving as Senior Policy Analyst for the last 16 years. She has worked closely with members of Congress, the Governor’s Office, the New Jersey Legislature, school districts and the early childhood community to advocate for quality early learning experiences for all young learners. Her work has included identifying, monitoring, writing about and advocating for critical early childhood education issues, especially around quality preschool and its expansion, child care and linking preschool to the early elementary years. Most recently Ms. Rice has focused on reducing PreK-12 chronic absenteeism to ensure educational success for all students. Before working at ACNJ, Ms. Rice spent three years as an assistant district attorney in Bronx County, New York.

**Trisha Robinson**  
Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Investments  
First Things First

4000 N Central Ave Suite 800  |  Phoenix, AZ 85012  
(602) 771-5153  |  trobinson@azftf.gov

Trisha Robinson is Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Investments at First Things First, where she is responsible for planning and implementing the plan to explore how the organization can strategically leverage local, state and national resources to advance Arizona’s early childhood system. Before this she spent 15 years in leadership positions in the nonprofit sector building relationships and convening multi-sector, diverse stakeholders to cultivate resources and create change to strengthen organizations and their communities. Her experience includes working in public health, as the Vice President of Field Services for the American Lung Association of California, and in human services with the United Way of Chittenden County in Vermont leading their community engagement division. Most recently Ms. Robinson worked in higher education in Vermont directing the major gifts program and the early childhood lab school program.

**Angela Rothermel**  
Senior Associate, Early Childhood Policy  
Children Now

1404 Franklin St Suite 700  |  Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 763-2444  |  arothermel@childrennow.org

**Stephanie Rubin**  
CEO  
Texans Care for Children

1106 Clayton Ln #111W  |  Austin, TX 78723  
(512) 473-2274  |  srubin@txchildren.org

Stephanie Rubin joined Texans Care for Children as CEO in 2015. Before this she was Senior Officer, Campaigns, for The Pew Charitable Trusts, where she coordinated state policy and advocacy strategies across Pew’s early education, health and justice policy initiatives. Previously, she was State Program Director of Pre-K Now, a 10-year national campaign to support quality pre-k across the country. Ms. Rubin led advocacy efforts to increase public investment in early education, after-school, mental health, and child abuse prevention services at Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California. She has also served as Legislative Director to a California State Senator and Counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Higher Education in Sacramento, California.
Shannon Rudisill
Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development
US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

330 C St SW | Washington, DC 20201
(202) 401-6984 | shannon.rudisill@acf.hhs.gov

Shannon Rudisill is the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She serves on the Administration’s senior leadership team for early childhood programs, setting strategy for ACF programs such as child care and Head Start, as well as programs jointly administered with the U.S. Department of Education, such as the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge and the Preschool Development Grants. She is especially proud of the new $500 million Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grants. She also serves on the Administration-wide Interagency Policy Board for Early Learning. Before this Ms. Rudisill was the Director of ACF’s Office of Child Care for five years.

Sue Russell
Executive Director
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

PO Box 901 | Chapel Hill, NC 27514
(919) 967-3272 | suer@teachecnationalcenter.org

Sue Russell is Executive Director of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center, which helps states implement effective workforce strategies to address the education, compensation and retention of their early care and education workforce. She has over forty-five years of experience in the early childhood profession, most recently as the President of Child Care Services Association.

Jason Sabo
Founder
Frontera Strategy

PO Box 1811 | Austin, TX 78767
(512) 450-2125 | sabo@fronterastrategy.com

Jason Sabo is the Founder of Frontera Strategy, an Austin-based public affairs firm serving nonprofits and philanthropists. He has worked as a lobbyist at the Texas Capitol for fifteen years and has advised advocates at state capitols across the country on effective advocacy and political strategy. Mr. Sabo works with foundations and other philanthropists interested in strategic grant making to improve state policies for children and families.

Ernesto Saldana
Senior Advisor on Education Policy and Programs
Advancement Project

1910 W Sunset Blvd Suite 500 | Los Angeles, CA 91104
(213) 406-9151 | esaldana@advanceproj.org
**Robert Sanborn**  
President and CEO  
CHILDREN AT RISK  

2900 Weslayan St Suite 400  |  Houston, TX 77027  
(713) 869-7740  |  sanborn@childrenatrisk.org  

Robert Sanborn is the President and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK. Before entering the nonprofit sector, he had a distinguished career in higher education at Rice University and Hampshire College. Dr. Sanborn has worked and served as a senior leader with many organizations, always bringing with him a focus on innovation, collaborations with like-minded groups, resources of developing partnerships, and a belief that all children deserve extraordinary opportunities to succeed.

**Jessica Scher**  
Director, Public Policy  
United Way of Miami-Dade  

3250 SW 3rd Ave  |  Miami, FL 33129  
(305) 322-6143  |  scherj@unitedwaymiami.org  

Jessica Scher is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where she works on early childhood education issues from birth through third grade. Her work has focused on programs and policies regarding early literacy and language development; the impact of evidenced based Family Support programs in urban, rural and tribal areas; early childhood systems building; and alignment between early learning policies, program practices and education reform initiatives. Before joining the NGA, Dr. Scher served as the Senior Director of Family Support and Literacy with First Things First, where she authored Arizona’s Family Support framework which helped to address the gaps in the early childhood system and assisted with connecting programs and resources for children and their families across the state.

**Ruth Schmidt**  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Early Childhood Association  

744 Williamson St Suite 200  |  Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 729-1042  |  ruschmidt@wisconsinearlychildhood.org  

Ruth Schmidt is Executive Director of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the state’s largest membership organization for early childhood educators and the NAEYC state affiliate. She is a registered lobbyist with extensive executive leadership experience that includes management consulting with organizations, associations, counties and municipalities. On the national level Ms. Schmidt serves on Congressman Mark Pocan’s K-12 and Early Childhood Education Advisory Group and previously served on the Early Childhood Advisory Committee convened by former Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

**Aaliyah Samuel**  
Program Director  
National Governors Association  

444 N Capitol St NW Suite 267  |  Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 624-7857  |  asamuel@nga.org  

Aaliyah A. Samuel is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where she works on early childhood education issues from birth through third grade. Her work has focused on programs and policies regarding early literacy and language development; the impact of evidenced based Family Support programs in urban, rural and tribal areas; early childhood systems building; and alignment between early learning policies, program practices and education reform initiatives. Before joining the NGA, Dr. Samuel was the Senior Director of Family Support and Literacy with First Things First, where she authored Arizona’s Family Support framework which helped to address the gaps in the early childhood system and assisted with connecting programs and resources for children and their families across the state.
**Stephanie Schmit**  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Center for Law and Social Policy

1200 18th St NW  |  Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 906-8008  |  sschmit@clasp.org

Stephanie Schmit is a Senior Policy Analyst for the child care and early education team and Legislative Coordinator at the Center for Law and Social Policy, where she focuses on quantitative and qualitative analysis of data, state technical assistance and federal and state policy analysis. Ms. Schmit has expertise in home visiting, data analysis, and state and federal child care and early education policy. Before joining CLASP she worked at the National Center for Parents as Teachers in St. Louis focusing on policy and advocacy for young children. She has also previously worked in direct practice doing home visits through an early childhood program in Cincinnati, OH.

**Karen Schulman**  
Child Care and Early Learning Research Director  
National Women’s Law Center

11 Dupont Circle, NW Suite 800  |  Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 319-3037  |  kschulman@nwlc.org

**Brandi Slaughter**  
CEO  
Voices for Ohio’s Children

33 N Third St Suite 200  |  Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 940-4248  |  brandi@raiseyourvoicforkids.org

Brandi Slaughter is CEO of Voices for Ohio’s Children. She has spent her career focused on developing and implementing policy that impacts children and families. Ms. Slaughter has provided direct service to children and families and worked in the Ohio Senate as a legislative staffer. Her policy expertise includes juvenile justice, child welfare, after-school/out-of-school time, and youth development.

**Natalie Smith**  
Consultant  
Frontera Strategy

PO Box 1811  |  Austin, TX 78767  
(512) 201-7619  |  smith@fronterastrategy.com

Natalie Smith is a Consultant with Frontera Strategy, where she draws from her background in communications, law, and government. She is an active volunteer in the Austin community and a member of the 2015 Leadership Austin Emerge class.
**Sheila Smith**  
Director, Early Childhood  
National Center for Children in Poverty

215 W 125th St, 3rd Floor | New York, NY 10027  
(646) 284-9643 | sheila.smith@nccp.org

Sheila Smith is the Director of Early Childhood at the National Center for Children in Poverty, where she leads policy and research projects focused on strengthening the quality of early care and education Quality Rating Improvement Systems, parent engagement, early childhood mental health, and children in deep poverty. She serves on the Advisory Board of Columbia University’s Head Start/Early Head Start Board and participates in a NYC research network that is examining the implementation of the city’s expanded PreK program. Before this Dr. Smith led the Forum for Child and Family Policy and two Early Reading First Grants at NYU’s Child and Family Policy Center, and was Director for Research at the Foundation for Child Development.

**Meaghan Sprout**  
Government Affairs Director  
PA Partnerships for Children

116 Pine St Suite 430 | Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 236-5680 | msprout@papartnerships.org

**Sarah Stachowiak**  
CEO  
ORS Impact

1100 Olive Way Suite 1350 | Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 728-0474 | sstachowiak@orsimpact.com

Sarah Stachowiak is the CEO of ORS Impact. She is a nationally recognized thought leader in advocacy and evaluation and has collaborated with many non-profit and philanthropic clients. Her broad spectrum of experience ranges from early childhood, environmental and public health, to education reform, federal marine and agricultural policy. She has worked with many U.S. based and International foundations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, David & Lucile Packard Foundation and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

**Helene Stebbins**  
Senior Policy Director  
Alliance for Early Success

4617 8th Rd S | Arlington, VA 22204  
(703) 769-2772 | hstebbins@earlysuccess.org

Helene Stebbins is a Senior Policy Director for the Alliance for Early Success, leading the health portfolio. She also provides strategic oversight for the knowledge development grants, with a focus on making the research more accessible to policymakers. Before this she worked in the Center for Best Practices at the National Governors Association as the Program Director for children and youth policy. She was a Presidential Management Intern for the Food Stamp Program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ms. Stebbins also has her own consulting firm, specializing in the coordination of the health, education, and care of children from birth through age five. Her clients include dozens of state and national organizations working to improve state policies for vulnerable young children.
**Howard Stevenson**  
Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education; Professor of Africana Studies  
University of Pennsylvania

3700 Walnut St | Philadelphia, PA 19104  
howards@upenn.edu

Howard Stevenson is the Constance Clayton Professor of Urban Education, Professor of Africana Studies, and former Chair of the Applied Psychology and Human Development Division in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Racial Empowerment Collaborative at Penn, designed to promote racial literacy in education, health, and justice institutions. Dr. Stevenson is a nationally recognized clinical psychologist and researcher on negotiating racial conflicts using racial literacy for independent and public K-12 schooling, community mental health centers, teachers, police and parents. His recent best-seller book, Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools: Differences that Make a Difference, is designed to reduce racial threat reactions in face-to-face encounters.

**Louise Stoney**  
Co-Founder  
Opportunities Exchange

521 35th St | West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
(561) 841-6501 | louise.stoney@gmail.com

Louise Stoney is an independent consultant specializing in early care and education policy and finance. She has consulted with policy makers, national organizations, academics, foundations and advocates in 38 states. She has written extensively and also co-founded the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance to deepen understanding an exploration of ECE finance, and Opportunities Exchange to foster Shared Service Alliances within early care and education.

**Kim Straus**  
Foundation Manager  
Brindle Foundation

PO Box 31696 | Santa Fe, NM 87594  
(505) 986-3983 | kim@brindlefoundation.org

**Blair Taylor**  
President  
Memphis Tomorrow

22 N Front St Suite 670 | Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 322-8080 | btaylor@memphistomorrow.org

**Deborah Stein**  
Network Director  
Partnership for America’s Children

1101 14th St NW Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 290-1816 | dstein@4americaschildren.org

Debbie Stein is the first Director for the Partnership for America’s Children, a network of 54 state and local independent, multi-issue, child advocacy organizations. She has more than 30 years of experience in policy analysis and advocacy on behalf of vulnerable children, including serving as Vice President for Policy with the Hatcher Group. Ms. Stein developed much of the content for the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Advocacy Learning Lab.
Karen VanLandeghem
Senior Program Director
National Academy for State Health Policy

1233 20th St, NW Suite 303 | Washington, DC 20036
(847) 797-1824 | kvanlandeghem@nashp.org

Karen VanLandeghem is a Senior Program Director at the National Academy for State Health Policy, where she leads the organization’s work on child and family health. She has deep expertise and experience in child and family service delivery systems, mental health, public insurance coverage, and early childhood development. Before this she was a Senior Advisor at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, where she led efforts to build the organization’s portfolio of work on health reform. She is adjunct faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health. She has held leadership roles in the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) Maternal and Child Health Section, and currently serves on the APHA Governing Council.

Kim VanPelt
Chief Regional Officer
First Things First

4000 N Central Ave Suite 800 | Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 771-5001 | kvanpelt@azftf.gov

Kim VanPelt is Chief Regional Officer at First Things First, where she is responsible for the strategic leadership and management of the Regional Operations Division that includes 28 regional partnership councils consisting of over 300 volunteers, and a team of staff to lead, support and facilitate the governance work of FTF regional partnership councils. Before this she served as Director of State Health Policy and Advocacy at St. Luke’s Health Initiatives. She has 25 years of experience working in the government, non-profit and philanthropic sectors. She has spent much of her career working to improve the quality of life for Arizona families through expanded health coverage and better public health policies. She has served at the Arizona Department of Health Services and March of Dimes in New York.

Erick Vaughn
Executive Director
Kansas Head Start Association

932 Massachusetts St Suite 301 | Lawrence, KS 66044
(785) 856-3132 | evaughn@ksheadstart.org

Erick Vaughn is Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association, where he manages and directs various projects and initiatives including professional development for Head Start staff and parents, home visiting training and coaching, parent health literacy, financial literacy, oral health training and resources, community collaboration support to implement high-quality integrated preschool classrooms, and advocacy for early childhood social emotional services. Before this, Mr. Vaughn worked at the state of Kansas Department of Mental Health.
Frank Walter
Vice President of Communications
Child Trends
7315 Wisconsin Ave, Ste 1200W  |  Bethesda, MD 20814
(240) 223-9302  |  fwalter@childtrends.org

Frank Walter is Vice President for Strategic Communications at Child Trends, where he leads the organization's branding, policy communications, media relations, social media, website management, and graphic communications. Mr. Walter has extensive experience in strategic communications planning, message development, media relations, public speaker training, and crisis communications. Before joining Child Trends he was Senior Vice President at Environs Communication and Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Reading Is Fundamental, where he created an award-winning multicultural communications program.

Margie Wallen
Director, National Partnerships
Ounce of Prevention Fund
33 W Monroe  |  Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 453-1978  |  mwallen@theounce.org

Margie Wallen is Director of Policy Partnerships for National Policy at the Ounce of Prevention Fund. She partners with and supports state early childhood leaders as they protect, improve and grow public and private investment, policies, and high-quality early learning and development services for young children at greatest risk. She also works with the Educare Learning Network to expand access to high-quality early learning by extending Educare’s best practices through policy change. Before this she coordinated the work of the Illinois Early Learning Council and has consulted on a variety of state initiatives to enhance access to high-quality early care and education.

Karina Wagnerman
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Georgetown Center for Children and Families
3300 Whitehaven St NW Suite 5000  |  Washington, DC 20007
(202) 687-2904  |  khw24@georgetown.edu

Karina Wagnerman is the Senior Policy Analyst at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, where she conducts research on Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and eligibility, children’s healthy development, and many other Medicaid topics. Georgetown CCF conducts research, develops strategies, and offers solutions to improve the health of America’s children and families, particularly those with low and moderate incomes. They examine policy development and implementation efforts related to Medicaid, CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act at the federal and state levels.

Becky Veak
Director
First Five Nebraska
301 S 13th St, #600  |  Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 261-9671  |  bveak@firstfivenebraska.org

Becky is the Director of First Five Nebraska, an organization that works with the Nebraska Legislature, state agency partners, private partners and early childhood professionals on shaping effective early childhood policies based on best practices. Becky brings over 25 years of experience working as an aide in the Nebraska Legislature and the U.S. Senate lobbying for the long-term care industry and developing and administering a statewide program for the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services. She worked in a multi-agency effort during restructuring and redesign of Nebraska's Health and Human Services System and has also spent time fundraising and working in the area of strategic planning.

Frank Walter
Vice President of Communications
Child Trends
7315 Wisconsin Ave, Ste 1200W  |  Bethesda, MD 20814
(240) 223-9302  |  fwalter@childtrends.org

Frank Walter is Vice President for Strategic Communications at Child Trends, where he leads the organization's branding, policy communications, media relations, social media, website management, and graphic communications. Mr. Walter has extensive experience in strategic communications planning, message development, media relations, public speaker training, and crisis communications. Before joining Child Trends he was Senior Vice President at Environs Communication and Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Reading Is Fundamental, where he created an award-winning multicultural communications program.
Sarah Weber is a Senior Program Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the US Program Division on the Early Learning team. She works closely with state partners at the Department of Early Learning and Thrive by Five to strengthen statewide infrastructure through more effective data systems, Quality Rating and Improvement Systems and kindergarten readiness assessments. Ms. Weber works with national and regional advocates to promote more effective policies which result in high quality early learning experiences for children ages birth to five, particularly those who are at-risk. She assisted with the development of the Seattle Educare site by creating a sustainable finance model leveraging public dollars to support both the capital development and operations. Her experience at the Foundation includes also working on the U.S. Library Initiative, the Pacific Northwest Program, the Sound Families Program.

Albert Wat is a Senior Policy Director at the Alliance for Early Success, leading the learning portfolio of investments in PreK, workforce, and the education continuum birth through grade three. Before this, he was a Senior Policy Analyst in the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. Mr. Wat also served as the Research Manager at Pre-K Now where he authored a number of policy reports, managed research activities for the initiative, and provided staff and states analysis and information about the latest research and policy developments. He has extensive experience in state policies on literacy and social-emotional development, PreK access and quality, learning standards, assessments, data systems, and alignment between early learning policies and practices and education reform initiatives, especially in the early elementary years.

Sarah Weber is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Human Development, Arizona’s largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development. She sits on a variety of boards and committees charged with forming policy on and improving services for children and families including: the American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter Board of Directors, BUILD Steering Committee, Children’s Action Alliance Health and Early Care and Education Committee, Educare Arizona Board of Directors, Educare National Leadership Council, First Things First Program Committee, Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Advisory Committee, Healthy Families Steering Committee, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Task Force, Maricopa County Family Support Alliance Steering Committee and Capacity Building Subcommittee, and the ZERO TO THREE National Board of Directors.

Ginger Ward is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Southwest Human Development, Arizona’s largest nonprofit dedicated to early childhood development. She sits on a variety of boards and committees charged with forming policy on and improving services for children and families including: the American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter Board of Directors, BUILD Steering Committee, Children’s Action Alliance Health and Early Care and Education Committee, Educare Arizona Board of Directors, Educare National Leadership Council, First Things First Program Committee, Arizona Department of Economic Security Child Care Advisory Committee, Healthy Families Steering Committee, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Task Force, Maricopa County Family Support Alliance Steering Committee and Capacity Building Subcommittee, and the ZERO TO THREE National Board of Directors.
Michael Weinberg  
Policy Officer  
Thornburg Foundation

2300 N Ridge Top Rd  |  Santa Fe, NM 87506  
(505) 506-0782  |  michael@thornburgfoundation.org

Michael Weinberg is the Early Childhood Education Policy Officer at the Thornburg Foundation, where he works to increase the number of children ready for kindergarten in New Mexico. Before this he was the Program Evaluation Manager for New Mexico’s Legislative Finance Committee, where he identified opportunities to improve outcomes across the birth to college education continuum. Mr. Weinberg spent the first fourteen years of his career as a teacher, literacy coach, and principal of a PreK-8 school. In 2015, the Child Care Exchange recognized him as an “Exceptional Emerging Leader.”

Liz Weingartner  
Senior Program Associate  
Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Renee Wessels is Associate Executive Director of the Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska. She has more than 30 years of experience working on behalf of vulnerable children and families. She worked in the Nebraska Legislature and Governor’s Office. She directed public affairs and communications programs for the National Commission on Children, the Children’s Defense Fund, Population Services International, and Save the Children. Ms. Wessels worked for Hill and Knowlton as a Senior Managing Director overseeing social marketing and behavior change programs, and subsequently ran her own strategic communications firm specializing in after-school, child welfare, and public health issues.

Kara Williams  
Interim Vice President  
Health Foundation for Western and Central New York

Kara Williams, Interim Vice President at the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, has over 20 years of experience designing and directing large, complex community health projects. Before working at the Foundation, she was Director of Operations for the Onondaga County Health Department in Syracuse, NY, and directed community-based participatory research at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine’s Division of Community Pediatrics. She has managed health journalism programs, trained law students in mediation and creative problem solving, and provided technical assistance to nonprofits in program design and evaluation, and strategic planning. Ms. Williams was a 2014 Grantmakers In Health Terrance Keenan fellow and a 2009 fellow of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Ladder to Leadership program.
Corey Zimmerman
Policy and System Strategy Lead / Senior Project Manager
Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

50 Church St | Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-9041  | corey_zimmerman@harvard.edu

Corey Zimmerman is Senior Project Manager and Policy and Systems Strategy Lead at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. She manages emerging innovation clusters that are focused on rapid-cycle learning within large public systems and interventions operating at scale for the Frontiers of Innovation project. She is also involved in finding ways to mobilize the science to create meaningful change in policy and practice. She has extensive experience advocating and shaping social policy on behalf of young children and families. Before this she was the Assistant Vice President for Healthy Child Development at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and the Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis for the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care.