

Early Childhood Educator Equitable Compensation Task Force

Member Bios

Abigail Smith

Abigail Smith is an independent consultant, supporting mission-driven organizations through leadership coaching, strategic planning, and program design. Abigail was the founding designer and facilitator of DC's Early Educator Fellowship. She previously served as DC's Deputy Mayor for Education and as the Chief of Transformation Management for DCPS. She began her career as a first-grade teacher.

Anne Robinson

I have over a decade of experience working in education and early childhood policy matters both in the District of Columbia and the state and federal levels. I am currently serving as the Executive Director of the Building Pathways a non-profit education incubator in the District of Columbia and served as a Committee Director for the D.C. Council Committee on Education. I reside in Ward 4 and am a parent to three children which affords me personal experience with both child care and public education in the District.

Cynthia Davis

My name is Cynthia Davis, I'm the Owner/Director of Kings & Queens Child Care Center. I have worked in Early Childhood for over 15 years. Also, I'm the Executive Director of the DC Family Child Care Association.

Kathy Hollowell-Makle

Kathy Hollowell-Makle is the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Association for the Education of Young Children (DCAEYC). Prior to her role at DCAEYC, she was an early childhood educator for 22 years at DC Public Schools, where her students achieved consistently at high levels. In addition to her work in the classroom, Kathy served as a mentor teacher, trainer, and policy advisor.

Kellie Salley

I have been in childcare since 1986. I now have 21 years at the Senate Employees' Child Care Center (SECCC).

Maria Cristina Encinas

More than 20 years of experience working as a school administrator in the public and private sector in the District of Columbia with expertise in Early Childhood Montessori Bilingual Education. President Board of the Multicultural Spanish Speaking Providers Association (MSSPA).

Marica Cox Mitchell

Marica Cox Mitchell is Senior Director, Early Childhood for the Bainum Family Foundation, where she leads the Foundation's efforts to build quality, comprehensive early childhood services in the District of Columbia and in other communities throughout the country. Before joining the Foundation, Cox Mitchell worked for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), where she most recently served as Deputy Executive Director, Early Learning Systems. She also guided the implementation of early learning initiatives and strategic projects for the District's Office of the State Superintendent of Education and DC Public Schools central office. She began her career as a teacher — working in various early learning settings as well as with young children birth through age 8. Cox

Mitchell holds a Master of Science in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education from the University of the District of Columbia.

Marla Dean

Marla Dean has led an early childhood organization for the last five years that serves children and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. She is a member of the Mayor's Thrive by Five Coordinating Council. She recently presented a TedX Talk titled Two Generation Policy- A Pathway Out of Poverty. She is a fierce advocate of economic mobility for the Asset Limit, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) residents of the city. Marla lives in Ward 7.

Michael Madowitz

I'm a labor economist who studies labor markets, early childhood education and a variety of other topics. I've also served on the board of an ECE center and have 2 children who have both attended early childhood programs, DCPS prek3 & prek4, and DC public schools. I live in ward 6.

Ruqiyah Abu-Anbar

Ruqiyah is the Director of Early Childhood Policy and Programs at DC Action, where her work focuses on early childhood systems-building. She is also the Director of the Under 3 DC coalition, a member of the SECDCC, the Thrive by Five Coordinating Council, and national groups working on early learning.

Sally D'Italia

I have been a director of an early care and learning program for over 28 years. I serve as the co-chair of the Program Funding & Compensation Committee for Under 3 DC; co-chair of the DC Directors Exchange, and I served on the DC Commission on Early Childhood Compensation.

Sara Mead

Sara Mead is the Assistant Superintendent for Early Learning with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Prior to joining OSSE, she spent a decade conducting policy research and advising early childhood and K-12 education clients for Bellwether Education Partners and led the New America Foundation's Early Education Initiative from 2007-2009. She also served on the District of Columbia Public Charter School board from 2009-2017.

Taryn Morrissey

Taryn Morrissey is Associate Professor of Public Policy in the School of Public Affairs at American University. Her work focuses on examining and improving public policies for vulnerable children, including early care and education. She is co-author of *Cradle to Kindergarten: A new plan to combat inequality* (Russell Sage, 2017, 2021) and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Dr. Morrissey has worked as senior staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Senate.

Wallrick Williams

Wallrick Williams is a Partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Boston Consulting Group. Since joining BCG, Wallrick's experience has focused on strategy, large scale transformation, post-merger integration, and people & organization topics. He is a husband and proud father of Harper (4 years old) and Ethan (12 months old).