



National Experts Available for Consultation

November 7-9, 2017

Tampa, FL

BUILD Initiative

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. In addition, Ms. Cobb led BUILD's quality rating and improvement systems work during her first year with the BUILD Initiative. She came to BUILD from the Smart Start National Technical Assistance Center, where she assisted states in the development, implementation and integration of comprehensive, community-based early childhood systems. Areas of expertise include:

- Building state/local connections to early childhood systems building
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)
- State approaches and lessons learned in the development of kindergarten entry assessments (KEA)

Debi Mathias serves as Director of the QRIS National Learning Network for the BUILD Initiative and as Partnership Coordinator for National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance and Senior Consultant for the State Capacity Building Center IMPACT Project. BUILD provides technical assistance and support to states in the development of comprehensive early childhood systems. Previously, Debi was Director of Early Learning Services, OCDEL, Departments of Education and Public Welfare in PA, responsible for Keystone STARS (QRIS), state Pre-K, Head Start Collaboration Office and State Head Start funding, family support programs, professional development systems and standards aligned systems. Areas of expertise include:

- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)
- Professional Development, Training and Technical Assistance systems
- System Building

Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO)

Lori Connors-Tadros, Ph.D. is the Senior Project Director for CEELO, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Lori 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Identifying results and developing theories of action/evaluation plans to reach goals for children;
- Financing and sustaining systems/programs for children and families;
- Research and best practice to inform state policy to improve quality of teaching and learning (e.g. scaling up effective programs, revising/aligning early learning standards, quality improvement systems, eligibility policy, project management).

Jana Martella is Co-Director of CEELO at the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC). Throughout her career, a central part of her focus has been on education system and program improvement through standards-based reform and development, including her work in promoting improved opportunities in early childhood education. With the team at CEELO, Jana works with state leaders and decision-makers to achieve the following goals:

- Improve states' knowledge about and enhance the use of data and other information to improve program quality
- Increase the knowledge and skills of the early learning workforce
- Strengthen the alignment of birth through 3rd grade educational policies and systems and increase the coordination of resources and policies across statewide systems

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Hannah Matthews is Director of Child Care and Early Education at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) 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. Hannah 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. 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

Christine Johnson-Staub is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). She coordinates CLASP's state technical assistance work across teams, and provides technical assistance to state advocates, agency staff, and other stakeholders for the Child Care and Early Education team. Christine has authored publications on CCDBG

implementation, financing, comprehensive services, and other aspects of the early childhood system. Areas of expertise include:

- Child care subsidy policies, including CCDBG implementation
- State and federal ECE policies and linkages
- Early childhood system building and financing

Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

Lea Austin is Co-director of CSCCE. She has 15 years of experience in early childhood workforce and professional development and plays a primary role in shaping the research and policy work of CSCCE. Her areas of focus include: access to effective early childhood teacher preparation and development, workforce compensation and working conditions, and workforce policy. She also leads the Center's work on identifying and addressing issues of racial stratification and equity across early childhood job roles.

- Areas of expertise include:
- Early childhood workforce policy
- Early childhood professional supports, compensation and working conditions
- Early childhood higher education: access and systems
- Leadership development
- Diversity and equity across the ECE workforce

Caitlin McLean is a Workforce Research Specialist at CSCCE, where her primary focus is 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. Caitlin also serves as the CSCCE lead staff person in the Early Childhood Data Collaborative. Caitlin holds a Ph.D. in Social Policy from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and her areas of expertise include:

- Early childhood workforce policy
- Compensation initiatives
- Workforce data elements

Center on the Developing Child

Al Race is Chief Knowledge Officer and Deputy Director of the Center. His focus is on how to use the knowledge generated by the Center's work, internally and externally, in order to transform the landscape in which science-based innovation for children and families facing adversity can thrive and grow. 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, he helps scientists, researchers, students, the media, and other thought leaders improve their communication of the science of child development and science-based innovation. Areas of expertise include:

- Communicating the science of child development and developing organizational communication strategies
- Using the science of child development to support innovation in policy and practice

Corey Zimmerman is the Director of Policy and Scaling Strategies. In this role, she provides strategic leadership to the development of an innovation ecosystem for the early childhood field. This work includes sourcing new ideas and interventions, supporting teams to rapid-cycle test new approaches, and providing technical assistance to support teams to transition to scale. Corey also directs the Center's strategy for mobilizing science to create meaningful change in policy and systems. Corey brings to this work extensive experience advocating and shaping social policy on behalf of young children and families from her prior work at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care, and at Nurtury, Inc. Corey holds an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Areas of expertise include:

- Applying a rapid-cycle innovation process in the policy and systems context.
- Implications of the science of child development for public policy and systems

Child Care Aware of America

Dr. Lynette M. Fraga serves as the Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of America, a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to lead state and national initiatives that ensure every child has access to high quality child care and early learning experiences. Dr. Fraga has over 25 years of experience as an educator, program director, and executive leader working on behalf of children and families. Since her selection in 2012 as the Executive Director at CCAoA, Dr. Fraga has sought to position Child Care Aware® of America as the nation's leading voice on child care in policy, practice, and research. As an authority on child development, Dr. Fraga serves in an advisory capacity on a number of national panels and committees including the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood (COEC), the Institute of Medicine Early Care and Education Collaborative, Healthy Kids Healthy Futures Steering Committee, NAEYC's Power to the Profession Task Force, and the Early Care and Education Innovation Collaborative (ECE IC). In addition she serves on the boards of Generations United, whose mission is to improve the lives of children and youth and older people through intergenerational collaboration, policies and programs, and All Our Kin, an organization that trains, supports, and sustains community child care providers to ensure that children and families have the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life. Dr. Fraga is also Chair of the Children's Leadership Council (CLC), a coalition of 55 leading national organizations working together to improve the health, education, and well-being of children and youth. Areas of expertise include:

- Early childhood development
- Family and community engagement
- Strategy in organization and systems building

Michelle McCready serves as the Chief of Policy at Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA), providing her vision, leadership, and management to the organization's Public Policy & Research Department. In addition to her leadership, McCready also develops and promotes CCAoA's policy agendas and assists in assembling CCAoA's signature research reports on state child care data & the cost of child care in the United States. Through her career, McCready has accumulated more than a decade's worth of leadership experience on numerous, presidential, congressional and issue campaign efforts, her most notable being, her work as Regional Field Director for Organizing for America during the first three years of the Obama Administration, her role as the Field Director for Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA), her legal and policy roles at Advocates for Children in New York City, and her efforts implementing CCAoA's policy and legislative agenda for the past seven years.

- Grassroots and family advocacy organizing and mobilization
- State & federal early learning policy alignment and linkages
- Child care policy analysis, research, & CCDBG implementation

Dr. Dionne Dobbins is the Senior Director of Research at Child Care Aware® of America, a nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to lead state and national initiatives that ensure every child has access to high quality child care and early learning experiences. She leads a team of researchers who work closely with the policy staff to align research reports with Child Care Aware® of America's strategic goals, including our well known reports on the cost of child care and licensing. In addition, her team supports research and evaluation needs across the organization and works closely with external evaluation partners involved in child care research. Dr. Dobbins has over 15 years of research, evaluation, and technical assistance experience related to the well-being and stability of children and families placed at risk. She has broad experience in the areas of early childhood education, mental health of young children, child care, military families and vulnerable children and families. Upon joining Child Care Aware® of America in 2014, she has lead the coordination of a nationwide child care licensing database, and co-authored numerous research-driven briefs and white papers. She is currently leading a multidisciplinary team to closely examine the issue of child care deserts in 15 states across the country. Areas of expertise include:

- Research & evaluation, particular emphasis on early education and development
- Early childhood education & healthy development of young children

Child Trends/Early Childhood Data Collaborative

Elizabeth Jordan is the Director of Policy Communications and Outreach at Child Trends. Her work focuses on facilitating the better use of research by policymakers and practitioners. She works across Child Trends to identify and strengthen connections with end-users of our research, ensuring that our work gets into their hands in ways that are understandable and actionable. Beth is currently working on strategies for sharing research on public preschool and QRIS with policymakers, as well as studying policies that

support maltreated young children and young children who have experienced trauma. Areas of expertise include:

- Sharing research with policymakers
- Developing and implementing communications plans

Carlise King is Executive Director of ECDC at Child Trends. She 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. Ms. King directs the delivery of policy consultation and strategic communications that promote the development, implementation, and use of early childhood data systems. The ECDC is committed to helping state policymakers and practitioners advance policies and practice that support the use data to improve the quality of ECE programs and the workforce, increase access to high quality ECE programs and ultimately improve child outcomes. Ms. King has over 17 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Using administrative data to inform local, state, and federal early childhood policies
- State coordinated, longitudinal and improvement-driven ECE data systems
- Communicating to policymakers about early childhood data systems development

Committee for Economic Development (CED)

Mike Petro is the Executive Vice President of CED where he is responsible for overseeing and directing all functions of CED including development, communications, and the research agenda. Mr. Petro supervises a staff of 15 individuals and reports to some 160 CED Trustees throughout the country. He works to connect CED's policy projects and activities to the business community, government officials, and members of the media around the economic benefits of investing in early education. Areas of expertise include:

- Building business coalitions around early childhood programs
- Speaking on panels and at forums around how to engage the business community in ECE
- Liaison between business groups and advocacy community

Cindy Cisneros is the Vice President of Education Programs responsible for leading CED's comprehensive education 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. Prior to working at CED, 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Education and business stakeholder engagement
- Strategic planning, policy, research, and communications

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. Areas of expertise include:

- ECE policy analysis, grassroots advocacy strategies, and mobilization
- State & federal early learning policy alignment and linkages
- CCDBG implementation

Council for a Strong America

David Kass serves as 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, where he directs their overall operations. Previously, David served as deputy assistant secretary for legislation at the U.S. Department of Housing, managing the agency's Congressional affairs office, and also worked on children's issues as a staff person on Capitol Hill and for several nonprofits.

Areas of expertise include:

- Building high-performing advisory councils: strategic planning
- Building high-performing advisory councils: developing members' capacity as policy leaders
- Cultivating unlikely messengers in support of high quality early care and education

Council of Chief State School Officers

Dr. Rolf Grafwallner is Program Director for Early Childhood Education at the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). As a partner with the Alliance for Early Success, he will engage a group of chief state school officers in new leadership initiatives to implement consensus recommendations of the Council's *Equity Starts Early* position paper and on providing support to chiefs in integrating early childhood education into the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) planning process. In addition, his Office collaborates with the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO) on a number of quality initiatives.

Prior to his new position at CCSSO, he was an Assistant State Superintendent at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), heading its Division of Early Childhood Development which is responsible for the State's early childhood education programs and quality initiatives.

Areas of expertise include:

- Governance and organizational capacity building;
- Assessment and Early Childhood Data Systems;
- Alignment of early childhood with elementary education;
- Program quality standards;
- Leadership development.

Education Commission of the States (ECS)

Bruce Atchison is the Director of the Early Learning Institute at ECS. He brings more than 35 years of experience working in the field of early learning and education policy. He was Chief of Staff for Colorado's Lt. Gov. and a member of Governor Ritter's cabinet, served as the Executive Vice President of the state's child advocacy organization for eight years, worked in Governor Romer's policy office as the Head Start State Collaboration Director and worked as the Executive Director of the Early Learning Partnership focused on pre-K to 3rd grade alignment. Bruce has worked for Denver Public Schools as the Executive Director of the Family Resource Schools, was Director of the City of Boulder's Children's Services Division and was the President and CEO of a private non-profit child care facility serving low-income single parent families with children 6 weeks to pre-K. Bruce was a K teacher for three years and a Pre-K teacher another 7 years. Areas of expertise include:

- Linking policy makers to policy initiatives
- Early childhood governance, alignment and Systems building across domains
- K-3
- Early childhood policy, birth to age eight across states
- Pre-K – K transitions
- Pre-K Funding and strategies
- Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines

EducationCounsel LLC.

Danielle Ewen is a Senior Policy Advisor at EducationCounsel LLC. Before joining EducationCounsel, Ms. Ewen served as 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. Prior to her work in DCPS, Ms. Ewen 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 (CLASP). At CLASP, 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Implications of ESSA for the early childhood community
- State birth to third grade systems
- Financing of high quality early learning systems

Frontera Strategy

Jason Sabo is the founder of Frontera Strategy, an Austin-based public affairs firm dedicated to helping nonprofits and foundations achieve clear public policy goals. Jason has led and assisted efforts to pass legislation and secure appropriations at state capitols across the country for more than a decade. Frontera Strategy focuses on connecting committed philanthropists and effective advocates to improve policies for children and families. Prior to launching Frontera, Jason worked at the United Way of Texas and at a public policy think tank. Areas of expertise include:

- Legislative advocacy and lobbying

- Policy analysis and political strategy
- Communications and media strategy
- Community organizing and mobilization
- Survey research and design
- Strategic grant making for effective advocacy
- Pre-kindergarten and child care policy
- Home visiting policy

Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF)

Joan Alker is the Executive Director and Co-founder of the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (Georgetown CCF), an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center with a mission to expand and improve high-quality, affordable health coverage for America's children and families. In particular, CCF examines policy development and implementation efforts related to Medicaid, CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) at the federal and state levels. She has authored numerous reports and studies on a range of issues including Medicaid 1115 waivers, child and family coverage and a multi-year study on Florida's Medicaid program. A frequent speaker and commentator, Alker has 25 years of experience working on issues affecting low-income families. Georgetown CCF can provide expertise on the following federal and state policy issues and their interactions:

- Medicaid and CHIP financing
- Medicaid 1115 waivers
- ACA Medicaid expansion for adults
- Pediatric benefits – Medicaid/EPSDT, CHIP and ACA marketplace plans
- Cost-sharing policies in Medicaid, CHIP, ACA marketplace plans
- Enrollment/eligibility/renewals in Medicaid/CHIP

Elisabeth Wright Burak is the Senior Program Director at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (Georgetown CCF), where she directs projects focused on young children's development, tracks federal legislative developments, and supports CCF's work with national partners. She brings more than 15 years of experience in public policy to support low-income children and families at the national and state levels. 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. In particular, CCF examines policy development and implementation efforts related to Medicaid, CHIP, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) at the federal and state levels. Georgetown CCF can provide expertise on the following federal and state policy issues and their interactions:

- Medicaid and CHIP financing
- Medicaid interactions with other programs serving young children (e.g. Part C, home visiting)
- Parent/caretaker coverage and benefits for children
- Improving developmental screenings and interventions
- Pediatric benefits – Medicaid/EPSDT, CHIP and ACA marketplace plans

- Cost-sharing policies in Medicaid, CHIP, ACA marketplace plans
- Enrollment/eligibility/renewals in Medicaid/CHIP

Migration Policy Institute (MPI)

Margie McHugh is Director of the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. The Center is 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. It provides in-depth research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and information resource services on a broad range of immigrant integration issues. 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Adult education and training policy and program designs
- State and federal immigration and integration policy
- Education access and success for immigrant and refugee children and youth
- Language access policies and service designs

Maki Park is a Policy Analyst and Program Coordinator for the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. Ms. Park's work focuses on domestic early childhood and K-12 education policies affecting children of immigrants. She has authored several reports on key issues relating to the education of immigrant children and youth, including barriers to literacy, diversity in the early childhood education workforce, and early learning systems for Dual Language Learners. Previously, Ms. Park was the Director of Outreach and a Program Manager for WorldTeach, within Harvard's Center for International Development. She has also worked as an education consultant in Malawi and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan. Areas of expertise include:

- Educational access and success for immigrant and refugee children
- Diversity in the early childhood education and care field
- Children and family policies relating to immigrants and refugees

National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP)

Carrie Hanlon is a project director at NASHP, where she analyzes state policies designed to improve population health and advance health equity, particularly for women and young children. Her projects focus on Medicaid, cross-agency collaboration, racial and ethnic health disparities, and oral health. She oversees research about state Medicaid/CHIP performance measures and incentives for preventive services for women and children. She also has written extensively about Medicaid policies—including payment and care delivery strategies for: improving young children's access to screening, facilitating referral and care coordination to support healthy child development, addressing social determinants of

children's health, and promoting women's access to high-quality perinatal care. Prior to joining NASHP in 2007, Carrie was a planning and research associate at the Maine Quality Forum, a division of Maine's Dirigo Health Agency. There, she helped coordinate statewide quality improvement initiatives. Areas of expertise include:

- State health policy
- Maternal and child health
- Medicaid
- Population health (health equity, oral health)

Becky Normile is a policy associate at NASHP, where she focuses on issues related to children and youth with special health care needs, early childhood development, and children's behavioral health. Prior to joining NASHP, Becky served as a research associate for AcademyHealth's State Policy and Technical Assistance team. In this role, she supported a range of projects dedicated to advancing health care reform at the state level, including expanding coverage and access to care and transforming payment and delivery systems. Areas of expertise include:

- State health policy
- Children and youth with special health care needs
- Maternal and child health
- Medicaid

NALEO Education Fund

Dr. Rosita Ramirez is Director of Constituency Services for the Education Portfolio for the National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund. NALEO Educational Fund is a nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. In this capacity, she 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Governance
- English language learners
- Common Core State Standards
- Policy alignment between the early years, K-12, and postsecondary education

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Lauren Hogan is the Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In this role, she is focused on strengthening the connections between research, policy and practice, while developing and leading NAEYC's bi-partisan early childhood policy agenda with a focus on shared leadership, innovation, diversity and equity. Lauren previously served as Vice President of Program and Policy at the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) in Washington, DC, providing leadership for the organization's initiatives regarding early childhood education, family engagement and literacy, while working with members and

Affiliates to increase their voice and capacity around a robust local, state, national and federal policy agenda. Lauren 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. Her areas of expertise include:

- Implementing Power to the Profession
- Building advocacy capacity and engaging early childhood educators
- Supporting racial equity and cultural competence
- Strengthening connections between research, policy and practice

Rhian Allvin serves as Chief Executive Officer of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). She is responsible for guiding the strategic direction of the organization as well as overseeing the daily operations. With nearly 60,000 members across the United States, NAEYC serves as the leading voice on behalf of young children and early childhood educators. Under Rhian's leadership, NAEYC launched Power to the Profession, a national collaboration to establish a unified framework for the early childhood education profession. Before joining NAEYC, Rhian was a guiding force in Arizona's early childhood movement for more than 15 years. She co-wrote the citizen's ballot initiative that created First Things First (FTF), which set aside tobacco tax monies for children birth to five and created a state agency to ensure all Arizona children start kindergarten prepared to be successful in school and in life. Rhian later served as CEO of FTF where she represented FTF with state and national constituents and led its coordination with policy makers, state department heads, providers, and community stakeholders. Area of expertise:

- Implementing Power to the Profession
- Strategic planning
- Nonprofit management
- Coalition building

Katherine Kempe, Senior Director for Professional Recognition and Advancement at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), is the lead project manager for Power to the Profession, a national collaboration to establish a unified framework for the early childhood education profession. She facilitates coordination across multiple partnerships to ensure the framework is built on the expertise of the early childhood education field and leading to a policy and advocacy strategy for implementation. Prior to joining NAEYC, Katherine served as grassroots manager for a successful statewide campaign in Minnesota to increase public resources that support high quality early learning. Since the start of her career, Katherine has been focused on coalition building, community engagement, and elevating the voices of parents and early learning practitioners in the policymaking process. Areas of expertise include:

- Implementing Power to the Profession
- Engaging the voices of the field in building a unified profession
- Building Power to the Profession into state and federal advocacy agendas

National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

Cemeré James is Vice President of Policy at National Black Child Development Institute. Cemeré implements policy initiatives related to advancing racial equity in ECE policies with a focus on disparities in school discipline, strengthening a diverse workforce in ECE, and advocating for family engagement and supports. Cemeré leads NBCDI's National "Delivering on the Promise" Campaign related to addressing the suspension and expulsion crisis in ECE. NBCDI recently published a policy brief on opportunities to advance racial equity through implementation of Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Prior to joining NBCDI, Cemeré was deputy director of the Work Support Strategies project and senior policy analyst at CLASP where she focused on strategies to increase access to public work support programs. Before joining CLASP, Cemeré was Lead Operations Specialist at Illinois Department of Human Service and, from 2009-2011, Cemeré was an inaugural fellow in the Illinois Early Childhood Fellows Program where she worked as an advocate for access to quality early childhood education and supported their strategic planning initiatives.

Ameshia Cross joined the leadership team of the National Black Child Development Institute as Director of Policy and External Affairs in August 2017. Previously she was the Manager of Government Affairs for the Noble Network of Charter Schools, the largest charter school network in Illinois and Communications Director for Caldwell Strategic Consulting, a DC based consulting/lobbying firm. She has deep-rooted political ties to Chicago having worked as campaign consultant and chief communications lead for several elected offices at the city and state level. Having worked as a White House fellow, editorial staffer for former VP Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" and communications manager for Gore, she has a passion for progressive policy and devotes her time advancing those ideals.

National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP)

Sheila Smith, Ph.D., Director of Early Childhood at National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), has extensive knowledge about policies that can benefit low-income children. Sheila has led work at NCCP to track state policies that affect young children in the areas of early care and education, health, and family support/economic well-being. Her team partners with states to strengthen policies in the areas early care and education; parent/family engagement, early childhood mental health; and two-generation programs for families in deep poverty. Areas of expertise include:

- Early childhood mental health
- Family engagement in early care and education
- Two-generation policies for families in deep poverty
- Policies that support high quality early care and education

Sophie Nguyen, M.A., is a Research Associate at the National Center for Children in Poverty. Sophie provides research support across NCCP, using her experience in collecting and analyzing data, conducting research reviews, and coordinating projects to support several projects in the Early Childhood unit, along with the Health and Mental Health unit. She also manages ongoing updates to the center's 50-state Two-Generation Early Childhood Policy Profiles. Areas of expertise include:

- Early childhood mental health

- Family engagement in early care and education
- Two-generation policies for families in deep poverty
- Policies that support high quality early care and education

National Conference of State Legislatures

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 in Denver, Colo. 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. Areas of expertise include:

- Early care and education legislative policy
- Financing strategies
- Infant and toddler
- Pre-kindergarten
- Governance
- Child care subsidy and quality

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA)

Aaliyah Samuel is Director of the Education Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where she works on early childhood and K12 policies. Most recently, Dr. Samuel’s 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 Center, Dr. Samuel was the Senior Director of Family Support and Literacy with First Things First in Arizona, where she coauthored 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.

Mandy Sorge is a Policy Analyst for Early Care and Education in the Education Division of the National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices, where she works on early care and education issues for children birth through age eight. Prior to joining NGA, she worked in training and technical assistance at the national level for the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grants. Mandy began her career teaching at-risk infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at Educare, D.C. and Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center. Areas of expertise include:

- Infant and Toddler policy
- Early Childhood Workforce
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships

- Head Start and child care policy

National Women's Law Center

Helen Blank is the Director of Child Care and Early Learning at the National Women's Law Center. She led the campaign to enact the Child Care and Development Block Grant and works on federal and state funding and policy issues affecting early childhood and school-age care, and has co-authored numerous studies on these issues both at the Children's Defense Fund and NWLC. She also coordinates a state early care and education advocates' network.

Areas of expertise include:

- Governance
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)
- Child care subsidy policies and data
- Prekindergarten
- Federal and State Early Learning Advocacy

Karen Schulman is the Child Care and Early Learning Research Director at the National Women's Law Center. At NWLC, she conducts research, provides budgetary and policy analysis, and writes on child care and early education issues. She is the author of an annual report on state child care assistance policies, including the recent update, *Red Light Green Lights: State Child Care Assistance Policies 2016*. She has also co-authored several other NWLC reports, including *Set Up To Fail: When Low-Wage Work Jeopardizes Parents' and Children's Success*; *A Center Piece of the Child Care Puzzle: Providing State Prekindergarten in Child Care Centers*; and *A Count for Quality: Child Care Center Directors on Rating and Improvement Systems*. In addition, she co-authored joint NWLC and CLASP state guides on implementing the Child Care and Development Block Grant reauthorization law. Her areas of expertise include:

- Child care subsidy policies and data
- Prekindergarten policies
- Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)
- Federal and state early learning spending policies

New America

Lisa Guernsey is deputy director of the Education Policy program at New America where she also runs the Learning Technologies Project and advises the Early and Elementary Education Policy team. She is the author of two books on technology and learning; her most recent is *Tap, Click, Read: Growing Readers in a World of Screens* with Michael H. Levine. Prior to joining New America, Lisa was a writer for the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Areas of expertise include:

- Technology
- PreK-3rd Alignment
- Early Literacy
- STEM in Early Learning

- Transforming the 0-8 Workforce
- Family Engagement

Abbie Lieberman is a policy analyst with the Education Policy program at New America. As a member of the Early & Elementary Education team she provides research and analysis on policies that impact children from birth through third grade. Prior to joining New America, she 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. Areas of expertise include:

- State preK-3rd grade alignment
- Early childhood workforce, specifically leaders
- Head Start
- Pre-K funding and strategies

Ounce of Prevention Fund

Elliot Regenstein is the Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Policy, coordinating the Ounce's state and national policy efforts and leading the national policy consultation practice. He served as Illinois' Director of Education Reform from 2004 to 2006. From 2004 to 2009 he was the co-chair of Illinois' Early Learning Council, and he currently serves as a co-chair of the Council's Data, Research, and Evaluation Committee. Areas of expertise include:

- Connecting federal and state policy
- Connecting early learning policy with K-12 in a birth to third grade continuum
- The role of state advisory councils
- Policy issues relating to unified early learning data systems

Margie Wallen is the Director of Policy Partnerships with the National Policy Team, which supports early childhood leaders in states to protect, improve and grow public and private investment, policies, and services targeted to at-risk infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Margie coordinated the work of the Illinois Early Learning Council that designed Illinois' Birth to Five Preschool for All program, has managed a variety of state initiatives to enhance access to high-quality early care and education, and worked for a decade in Illinois to advance early childhood policies that benefit at-risk children from birth to age five and their families. Areas of expertise include:

- Financing; Blending and Braiding Funding Streams
- Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships; Child Care policies
- PreK; diverse delivery
- Policy advocacy strategies and tactics
- Governance; Public Private Partnerships

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

Elizabeth Burke Bryant is Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, a children's policy organization that works to improve children's outcomes through policy, advocacy,

communications, and data strategies. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT coordinates the Alliance's Pre-K Advocacy Learning Community that is focused on scaling up high-quality Pre-K. Elizabeth also co-coordinates with Ceil Zalkind (NJ) the Alliance's State-Based Advocates for Early Learning, a group of 35 state-based advocates that share peer-to-peer strategies and inform the development of federal to state initiatives.

Areas of expertise include:

- State linkage policies that link early learning to K-3 and K-12
- Facilitating leadership/communications strategies at state level to promote full birth through 8 policy agenda across health, early learning and family support
- Using birth through 8 policies to improve reading proficiency and using 3rd grade reading as a policy lever
- Positioning Early Learning Councils as leadership body that cuts across state departments and uses a birth-8 framework
- Strategies to have all early learning programs (across all settings) in TQRIS
- Using school funding formulas as a financing strategy for funding state Pre-K
- Children's health insurance coverage and primary health care

Leanne Barrett is Senior Policy Analyst at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is coordination the Alliance's peer-to-peer learning community focused on scaling up high-quality Pre-K using mixed delivery systems. Areas of expertise include:

- Strategies to ensure high quality state Pre-K using mixed delivery systems (child care, Head Start, and public schools)
- Improving coordination and collaboration across state early learning system(s)
- Connecting birth through 8 policies to 3rd grade reading goal
- Cross-sector QRIS
- Integrating home visiting programs into state early learning systems
- Developmental screening and IDEA Part C and Part B, Section 619
- Paid family leave and child care

Philanthropy Engagement Project

Jennifer Esterline is the Executive Director of the Texas Education Grantmakers Advocacy Consortium (TEGAC), a Texas-based collaborative of 40 Texas grantmakers working to protect and improve public education through state level policy and advocacy. Jennifer brings a background in public policy, philanthropy, and nonprofit management to her work. Jennifer 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. Jennifer has served as the head of a private foundation and built the largest consortium of Texas foundations to ever work together on public policy. Jennifer leads the Philanthropy Engagement Project in collaboration with the Alliance for Early Success.

Areas of expertise include:

- Resource development and fundraising
- Grantmaker collaboration/strategic grantmaking for effective advocacy campaigns
- Coalition building and coalition support

- Early education and K-12 education policy
- Legislative advocacy

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

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-seven years of experience in the early childhood profession, most recently as the President of Child Care Services Association. Areas of expertise include:

- Development of successful state and national workforce and QRIS initiatives,
- Effective policies and systems to improve access to high quality programs for all children and to strengthen and support the early childhood workforce,
- Professional development and higher education systems, and
- State advocacy for better public policies, systems and investments for young children and their teachers.

ZERO TO THREE

Matthew Melmed has been the Executive Director of ZERO TO THREE since 1995, leading all aspects of the national organization's work. He previously served as Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Human Services and Managing Attorney for Connecticut Legal Services. His areas of expertise include:

- Infants and toddlers
- Strategic thinking
- Advocacy and policy strategies

Myra Jones-Taylor is the new Chief Policy Officer at ZERO TO THREE. She leads the development and implementation of ZERO TO THREE's policy agenda and strategies, and serves as the principal spokesperson for the organization on public policy matters. She was previously founding commissioner of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and entrepreneur in residence at the Dalio Foundation. Areas of expertise include:

- Infant and toddler policy and advocacy strategies
- Early childhood governance structures in states
- New approaches to bring research, innovation, and communities together to improve outcomes for young children

Elizabeth DiLauro is the Director of Advocacy at ZERO TO THREE where she leads ZERO TO THREE's advocacy strategy, including the development of grassroots and communications campaigns, such as *Think Babies*, to improve public policy for infants, toddlers, and their families. Prior to her current role at ZERO TO THREE, she worked with the Pew Charitable Trusts, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and HIPPIY USA. Areas of expertise include:

- Infants and toddlers
- Mobilization strategies, including grassroots, grasstops, and social media
- Advocacy and communications campaign development and execution

Barbara Gebhard is the Assistant Director of Public Policy at ZERO TO THREE where she works to support states in the development of policies and systems to meet the needs of infants and toddlers. Among Barbara's former positions are Director of the BUILD Initiative, Deputy Director of the WV Governor's Cabinet on Children and Families, and a variety of early childhood positions in Part C, child care, and parenting education in the WV Department of Health and Human Resources. Areas of expertise include:

- Governance: state and local planning and coordinating structures, including building high-performing advisory councils
- Infant-toddler policy priorities
- Comprehensive early childhood systems
- Home visiting system and integration into the broader early childhood system

Consultants

Harriet Dichter provides policy and strategy services to federal, state and local governments; national, state and local non-profit policy and service organizations; and foundations. She is known for her capacity to conceptualize and execute at a systems level. Prior to her current consulting work, she had extensive multi-sector experience including public sector at the state and local levels (e.g., STATE- founded and ran the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning; Secretary, PA Department of Human Services; Executive Director, DE Office of Early Learning; LOCAL- Director, Maternal and Child Health, PHL Department of Public Health; Deputy Managing Director for Child Policy, City of PHL); the foundation sector (Pew Charitable Trusts); and the non-profit sector (Director, Policy, Planning and Community Engagement, United Way/SEPA; Deputy Director, PHL Citizens for Children and Youth; Attorney, Community Legal Services).

Areas of expertise include:

- Advocacy and organizing strategies
- ECE policy, systems and services (the gamut, pre-K, QRIS, etc.)
- Financing and sustaining systems/programs for children and families
- Governance
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Strategic thinking

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. Louise has written extensively on ECE policy and finance 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). Areas of expertise include

- Early Care and Education (ECE) Finance and Sustainability
- ECE tax credits
- ECE cost-modeling
- The business side of ECE: effective supports, training, TA for providers (Note new series for Exchange magazine on Business Metrics)
- ECE Policy
- Shared Service Strategies
- QRIS finance, policy and implementation

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. Marci 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, through careful development and application of messaging research to identify key messages. She has designed and implemented several social media campaigns for early childhood issues, most recently the Early Success #Bthru8 campaign, hosted by the Alliance. In addition, Marci leads a national child welfare project to implement a data exchange across states to speed up the time it takes to place children across state lines (the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise), and has a solid background in government security standards and liability issues. She is also working on connecting disparate data systems (child welfare with medical information, for example.) Before joining TNG, Marci was the Senior Public Policy and Communications Director at Child Trends where she led strategic communication efforts for sharing research and policy with diverse audiences. At Child Trends, she directed a communication contract for the Office of Adolescent Health, in the Health and Human Services Department. Marci has also worked as a research and policy analyst in state government, and has published articles on health and policy issues. Areas of expertise include:

- Media: using traditional and social media tools to share research and policy information
- Research translation for broader audiences (fact sheets, briefs)
- Message development
- Advocacy
- Early childhood research and policy
- Child welfare and adolescent health policy
- Knowledge sharing