

## Monday, October 06, 2025

### Higher Education Faculty Institute: DC:0-5™

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 321-323

**PRECONFERENCE** **HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY INSTITUTE**

Dive into the only diagnostic classification system focused on mental health for infants and young children, birth to 5 years old. DC:0-5™: Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood is a multiaxial, culturally grounded, relationship-based, and developmentally appropriate classification system (or nosology) to guide the diagnostic process with infants, young children, and their families across diverse settings.

This session equips you to confidently introduce the fundamentals of the DC:0-5 nosology in your teaching. You'll gain practical resources, strategies, and hands-on practice to help your students understand the approach to diagnosis in the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) field. Learn how to introduce this empirically derived and clinically meaningful diagnostic system in a way that highlights its importance and application. Set your students up for success by deepening their understanding of DC:0-5 and its role in transforming IECMH practice.

**ADULT EDUCATOR** **CWSS** **EII** **IECMH**

#### Speaker



**Noelle Hause**

Sr. Manager, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | ZERO TO THREE

### Higher Education Faculty Institute: Critical Competencies

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 324-326

**PRECONFERENCE** **HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY INSTITUTE**

Transform teacher-child interactions with the essential skills needed to optimize social-emotional, cognitive, and language and literacy development—the ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™ (Critical Competencies). They address the knowledge-to-practice cycle gap that promotes high-quality care and education for infants and toddlers in group settings (center-based and family child care homes). The Critical Competencies also include considerations for dual-/multi-language learners and populations facing multiple risk factors. These specialized competencies build on and are aligned with other professional criteria for the early childhood education field (e.g., NAEYC, CDA, and more), are cross-walked with state core knowledge and competency areas, align with observation tools (e.g., ITERS and CLASS), and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Join this session to explore and gain the Critical Competencies' robust resources ready for your immediate use in planning and teaching higher education courses and programs of study—from course frameworks, to syllabi, presentations, activities, multi-media files, knowledge assessments, and textbooks available in English and Spanish.

**ADULT EDUCATOR** **ECE** **EII**

#### Speakers



**Katrina Macasaet**

Senior Professional Development Manager | ZERO TO THREE



**Sarah LeMoine**

Sr. Professional Innovations Director | ZERO TO THREE

## Tuesday, October 07, 2025

### Higher Education Faculty Institute: DC:0-5™

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 321-323

**PRECONFERENCE** **HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY INSTITUTE**

Dive into the only diagnostic classification system focused on mental health for infants and young children, birth to 5 years old. DC:0-5™: Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood is a multiaxial, culturally grounded, relationship-based, and developmentally appropriate classification system (or nosology) to guide the diagnostic process with infants, young children, and their families across diverse settings.

This session equips you to confidently introduce the fundamentals of the DC:0-5 nosology in your teaching. You'll gain practical resources, strategies, and hands-on practice to help your students understand the approach to diagnosis in the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) field. Learn how to introduce this empirically derived and clinically meaningful diagnostic system in a way that highlights its importance and application. Set your students up for success by deepening their understanding of DC:0-5 and its

role in transforming IECMH practice.

ADULT EDUCATOR CWSS EII IECMH

### Speaker



**Noelle Hause**

Sr. Manager, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health | ZERO TO THREE

## Higher Education Faculty Institute: Critical Competencies

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 324-326

PRECONFERENCE HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY INSTITUTE

Transform teacher-child interactions with the essential skills needed to optimize social-emotional, cognitive, and language and literacy development—the ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™ (Critical Competencies). They address the knowledge-to-practice cycle gaps that promote high-quality care and education for infants and toddlers in group settings (center-based and family child care homes). The Critical Competencies also include considerations for dual-/multi-language learners and populations facing multiple risk factors. These specialized competencies build on and are aligned with other professional criteria for the early childhood education field (e.g., NAEYC, CDA, and more), are cross-walked with state core knowledge and competency areas, align with observation tools (e.g., ITERS and CLASS), and the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework.

Join this session to explore and gain the Critical Competencies' robust resources ready for your immediate use in planning and teaching higher education courses and programs of study—from course frameworks, to syllabi, presentations, activities, multi-media files, knowledge assessments, and textbooks available in English and Spanish.

ADULT EDUCATOR ECE EII

### Speakers



**Katrina Macasaet**

Senior Professional Development Manager | ZERO TO THREE



**Sarah LeMoine**

Sr. Professional Innovations Director | ZERO TO THREE

## Leadership for Wellness: Supporting Early Childhood Educators and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Professionals

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 318-320

PRECONFERENCE PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Early Childhood (EC) educators and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) professionals play a vital role in supporting young children, their families, and their communities. However, they often face significant challenges, including demanding workloads, limited resources, and a lack of professional recognition. These difficulties have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with top stressors including effectively managing adult relationships and addressing children's challenging behaviors. These stressors heavily impact staff well-being, retention, and job performance—key factors in the success of EC programs and the sustainability of the EC workforce.

While these challenges can feel overwhelming, proven strategies exist to address them and create a healthy workplace culture. Are you looking for practical, actionable ways to support the wellness of EC educators, IECMH professionals, and the culture of your workplace? Join us for this engaging forum to explore the latest research and effective methods for supporting well-being. Together, we'll discuss strategies to:

- Foster collaboration, respect, and a positive workplace culture;
- Effectively support children with challenging behaviors; and
- Implement innovative, evidence-based wellness models.

Leave this forum equipped with actionable strategies to strengthen your team, improve workplace well-being, and contribute to the resilience and wellness of the broader EC community.

ADMINISTRATOR ECE EII IECMH

### Speakers



**Chris Amirault**

Writer/Coach | Independent



**Kyong-Ah Kwon**

Professor & Drusa B. Cable Endowed Chair | University of Oklahoma



**Holly Hatton**

Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Preconference Forum Speaker

## In this Together for Early Childhood, Family, and Community Well-being: A Shared Journey Toward Partnering With

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 327-329

PRECONFERENCE

PRE-CONFERENCE FORUMS

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This dynamic forum unites early childhood professionals—administrators, supervisors, direct service providers, policymakers, and more—to explore innovative strategies for fostering deep, meaningful, and equitable partnerships with families and communities. Emphasizing their inherent wisdom, commitment, and pathways to healing, this session features interactive activities, opportunities to connect with expert faculty and peers, and plenty of fun!

Gain valuable insights into building enduring, collaborative relationships that strengthen the well-being of children, families, communities, and yourself. Join us to exchange ideas, discover innovative practices, and develop plans to fortify these vital connections with your families and communities.

ALL EC ROLES

ECE

EII

IECMH

#### Speakers



**Janina E. Fariñas**

CEO&Founder | LaCocina



**Clinton Boyd, Jr.**

ExecutiveDirector | Fathers, Families, & Healthy Communities

### HealthySteps:PromotingEarlyRelational Health in Primary Care Pediatrics

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 301-303

PRECONFERENCE

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Early relational health (ERH) is a Priority Outcome for HS sites and they are well-positioned to promote ERH. But what exactly does ERH mean? And in what ways do primary care pediatric providers and HS Specialists advance ERH? In partnership with the AAP and Erikson Institute (FAN), our Annual Symposium will take a deep dive into ERH including a review of foundational concepts, how HS provides a continuum of care, and practical applications of effective strategies and interventions.

HEALTHYSTEPS

#### Speakers



**Dominique Charlot-Swilley**

Psychologist,AssistantProfessor | Georgetown University Medical Center, Thrive Center for Children, Families, and Communities



**Marie-Celeste Condon**

SeniorEarlyRelationalHealth Consultant | TBA



**Linda Gilkerson**

Professor | Erikson Institute

### Bonus Programming: Policy Under Pressure: Advancing Early Childhood Policy in Uncertain Times & Telling Stories that Drive Change for Babies

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Location: Ballroom I-IV

OTHER

#### Policy Under Pressure – Advancing Early Childhood Policy in Uncertain Times

Federal programs and policies play a pivotal role in supporting the health, development, and well-being of expectant parents, babies and young children. But the passing of recent legislation included historic cuts to programs that families rely on, such as Medicaid and SNAP.

Hear from national leaders as they discuss the impacts of these cuts, as well as recent federal policy developments in non-defense discretionary funding, Medicaid, and immigration.

Learn how organizations – and you – can come together to understand potential repercussions, ways to mitigate harm, as well as bear witness and build a new future for babies.

**Telling Stories that Drive Change for Babies** But what can you do? Join us immediately following the “Policy Under Pressure” discussion to learn how to use the power of YOUR voice to make change. HEAR from others about what advocacy means to them. LEARN what makes a powerful story. SHARE your own story in our StoryLab. ACT by contacting your Members of Congress. And stay engaged as a powerful voice for babies with ZERO TO THREE.

*Note: This session does not include CEU's.*

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Melissa Boteach**

ChiefPolicyOfficer | ZERO TO THREE



**Shiloh Salazar**  
None | FamilyAdvocate



**Javier Martínez**  
ManagingDirector of National Advocacy | AP-OD



**Amy Matsui**  
VicePresident for Income Security and Child Care | National Women's Law Center

## Opening Reception

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM | Location: Expo Hall AB

OTHER

### Speaker



**Karla Houghtalin**  
AssistantDirector | Southwest Human Development

## SponsorBabyTalk: Designing with Intention: ECBS and Construct as Catalysts for Change

5:45 PM – 6:15 PM

BABY TALKS (BT)

The Early Childhood Business Solutions (ECBS) program at Southwest Human Development empowers early childhood providers with tailored business management support, automation tools, and individualized coaching to streamline operations and enhance sustainability. The Construct Coaching model offers embedded, adaptive, and data-driven professional development for caregivers, teachers, and family support specialists, focusing on individualized interventions that improve quality outcomes for children and families. Together, ECBS and Construct provide a comprehensive approach to strengthening both the business and instructional practices of early childhood programs, fostering lasting positive impact across Arizona and beyond.

### Speakers



**Karla Houghtalin**  
AssistantDirector | Southwest Human Development



**Alexia Gallegos**  
ProfessionalDevelopment Coach | Southwest Human Development

## Wednesday, October 08, 2025

### Morning Laughter Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM | Location: East Mezzanine

OTHER

### Speaker



**Erica Buchholz**  
Coach&Speaker | Becoming Playful

### Morning Move: Guided Walk

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Location: Charles Street Lobby

OTHER

Join for a walking tour before launching into your sessions!

Meeting Point: Charles Street Lobby

Your tour guide, Chris, will lead the group to the Inner Harbor and back (roughly one mile). Sights include, but are not limited to:

- Old Otterbein Church
- Inner Harbor waterfront
- Federal Hill
- World Trade Center
- National Aquarium

### Speaker



**Chris Riehl**  
President | Rent-A-Tour

## Opening and Policy Plenary: A Bold Welcome: Leading the Way for Young Children and Families

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Ballroom I-IV

**PLENARY/KEYNOTE**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Open the 2025 LEARN Conference with a powerful message of recognition, responsibility, and momentum for the early childhood field.

This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from a state leader who understands that the path to a stronger future begins in the earliest years. From expanding child care access and investing in the workforce to reimagining systems that work for all families, let's highlight what it means to lead with vision, action, and purpose.

Whether you work in a classroom, clinic, program office, or policy setting, this plenary will leave you feeling seen, valued, and re-energized. Join in as we welcome you into a shared movement to give every child a strong start and every professional the support to lead with confidence.

### Speaker



**Wes Moore**  
Governor | State of Maryland

## Baby Talks Group A (BT-A) : Supporting Infant-Toddler Educators

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Role(s):** ECE; **Disciplines:** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Student; **Competencies:** P5-6&P5-8; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR ADULT EDUCATOR DIRECT SERVICE ECE

### Speakers



**Noelle Cook**  
Continuous Quality Improvement Analyst | Child Care Resource Center



**Elizabeth Zinter**  
Infant Toddler Specialist | Department of Early Learning and Care



**Maidie Rosengarden**  
Policy Analyst/Program Manager | Department of Early Learning and Care Oregon

## BT-A1: AI for Planning Individualized Infant and Toddler Care

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

This Baby Talk explores how educators can use AI-driven strategies to individualize planning and support for infants and toddlers. Attendees will learn how tailored chat prompts and data insights can enhance personalized care, promoting responsive practices that meet each child's unique needs.

DIRECT SERVICE ECE STUDENT

### Speaker



**Noelle Cook**  
Continuous Quality Improvement Analyst | Child Care Resource Center

## BT-A2: ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators: Oregon's Journey

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

Hear how Oregon implemented ZERO TO THREE's Critical Competencies as the state's primary infant/toddler curriculum. Learn about strategies for evaluating competency-based learning versus training hours and discuss methods for measuring training effectiveness and professional growth. Participants will gain insights into how Oregon's approach can inform broader efforts to strengthen professional development in early childhood education.

ADMINISTRATOR

ADULT EDUCATOR

ECE

### Speakers



**Elizabeth Zinter**

Infant Toddler Specialist | Department of Early Learning and Care



**Maidie Rosengarden**

Policy Analyst/Program Manager | Department of Early Learning and Care Oregon

## Synergy Circles Group A (SC-A): Engaging With Families

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room314-315

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Engaging With Families. It explores strategies for fostering meaningful, responsive family partnerships in early childhood. Participants will examine literacy coaching to strengthen the home learning environment, discuss parent-centered approaches to building community and trust, and consider actionable plans to amplify family voices in support systems. Through rotating discussions, attendees will gain practical insights to enhance family engagement and well-being.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH, EI, CW; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-2; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Wilmarie Cintron-Tyson**

Books from Birth Implementation Specialist | Book Harvest



**Daniela Rangel**

Bilingual Literacy Coach | Book Babies, Book Harvest



**Mary Oster**

Early Childhood Coordinator | Norwalk Public Schools



**Carol Carrozelli**

Early Start Ct Director | Norwalk Public Schools



**MJ Chironna**

Early Childhood Development Manager | Norwalk Public Schools



**Daphne Harris**

CEO | Daffy Duck Learning Akademy, Global Children Services, and Global Preschool Academy

## SC-A1: La Cultura Cura: Embracing and Engaging Families Using a Culturally Responsive Lens

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores research on the impact of Book Babies, a home literacy coaching program by Book Harvest, in strengthening the home learning environment. Participants will gain valuable coaching insights and practical strategies to build reciprocal, resourceful, and respectful relationships with families, promoting child and family well-being.

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Wilmarie Cintron-Tyson**

Books from Birth Implementation Specialist | Book Harvest



**Daniela Rangel**

Bilingual Literacy Coach | Book Babies, Book Harvest

## SC-A2: Building Early Childhood Connections: Parent by Parent

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores how consistent and meaningful engagement elevates parents' lived experiences, fosters community, and strengthens relationships. Faculty will spark dialogue on strategies for deepening knowledge of early childhood developmental domains and creating supportive partnerships with families. In group discussions, participants will consider practical applications and activities that build trust and belonging by recognizing and valuing their own and others' strengths.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE** **POLICYMAKER** **RESEARCHER**

### Speakers



**Mary Oster**

Early Childhood Coordinator | Norwalk Public Schools



**Carol Carrozelli**

Early Start Ct Director | Norwalk Public Schools



**MJ Chironna**

Early Childhood Development Manager | Norwalk Public Schools

## SC-A3: Engage, Empower, Evolve: Transforming Family Support in Early Childhood

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle examines fostering meaningful family engagement by exploring culturally responsive strategies in early childhood programs. Participants will discuss case studies and practical tools to help them develop actionable plans to create support systems that honor and amplify family voices and experiences.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE** **POLICYMAKER** **RESEARCHER**

### Speaker



**Daphene Harris**

CEO | Daffy Duck Learning Akademy, Global Children Services, and Global Preschool Academy

## LS-A1: Promoting Child Development and Mental Health Outcomes Among Dual-Language Refugee and Immigrant Families Through Home Visiting

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room308

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) This session explores key social supports and engagement strategies for working with dual-language refugee and immigrant families.

Drawing on home visiting data from Illinois—including insights from families themselves, this session examines effective approaches to promoting child development and mental health outcomes in culturally diverse communities. Early childhood practitioners, researchers, and advocates will gain a deeper understanding of how home visiting programs can support and empower these families.

**Discipline(s):** Multi + IECMH + CW;

**Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Introductory

**ALL EC ROLES** **CWSS** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE** **POLICYMAKER**

### Speakers



**Aimee Hilado**

Assistant Professor, ZTT Board Member | University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice



**Reiko Kakuyama-Villaber**

Researcher | Chapin Hall

## LS-A2: Protecting Our Future: Low-Cost, No-Cost Tips to Prevent Chemical Exposures and Environmental Hazards in Early Care and Learning Settings

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room309

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Young children are especially vulnerable to environmental hazards due to their developing bodies and natural exploratory behaviors, such as mouthing objects. Exposure to harmful chemicals and poor indoor air quality can contribute to long-term health concerns, including asthma, developmental challenges, and other serious conditions. This session will explore common environmental risks in early childhood settings and their impact on both children and child care professionals. Presenters will discuss strategies for creating healthier environments and provide practical steps to reduce exposure and promote well-being.

**Discipline(s):** ECE+EI; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-4; **Level:** Introductory

DIRECT SERVICE ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Hester Paul**

Eco-HealthyChildCare® National Director | Children's Environmental Health Network



**Nsedu Obot Witherspoon**

ExecutiveDirector | Children's Environmental Health Network

### LS-A3: Mindfulness in Early Childhood Education Settings--For You, Your Students, and Their Families

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 307

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Learn how mindfulness practices can strengthen early education settings by boosting staff morale, helping teachers manage stress, and supporting children's social-emotional development. This lecture introduces a simple framework for implementing mindfulness and shares practical insights from educators who have successfully integrated these strategies into their work.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Student; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR DIRECT SERVICE ECE STUDENT

#### Speaker



**Marnie Aylesworth**

ExecutiveDirector | The Pennsylvania Key

### LS-A4: Elevating Community Wisdom to Improve Pediatric Care: Redefining Power Dynamics Through Co-creation with Families and System Partners

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 310

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Explore how communities partnered with families to transform pediatric care, strengthen early relational health, and support children's social-emotional development. This lecture highlights successes and challenges faced by pediatricians, clinicians, families, administrators, and other partners, offering insights into overcoming barriers to power-sharing and systems change.

**Discipline(s):** EI + Multi ; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Rachel Lettieri**

Director of Care Transformation | Pediatrics Northwest



**Danielle Little**

MCH Consultant | Pediatrics Supporting Parents



**Hope Williams-Burt**

PSP Bay Area Family Lead | Benioff Oakland Children's Hospital

### LS-A5: Empowering Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers through Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 324-326

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) consultation is an innovative, indirect infant and early childhood mental health service for FFN caregivers. The IECMHC Network will describe the vital role FFNs play in the caregiving ecosystem, introduce a tailored FFN consultation model, and reflect on descriptive data from their FFN consultation pilot.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE, Mult; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate ; **Competency** : P5-8; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR

DIRECT SERVICE

ECE

IECMH

### Speakers



**Silvia Velarde**

InfantandEarlyChildhoodMental Health Consultation Associate | WestEd



**Lilla Pivnick**

ResearchAssociate II | WestEd

## II-A1,Part1:HealingtheHealers:Rethinking Self-Care and Addressing Burnout

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 327-329

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Issue Intensive reexamines the concept of self-care, moving beyond traditional models to focus on sustainable strategies for individual and collective well-being. Using the Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children, and Families as a framework, participants will reflect, discuss, and develop practical approaches to prevent burnout and support long-term resilience. Through guided exploration, attendees will consider how self-care can be integrated into their professional and personal lives in meaningful, lasting ways.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

### Speakers



**Nucha Isarowong**

Director,AdvancedClinicalTraining Program | Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



**Carmen Rosa Norona**

ChildTraumaClinicalServices and Training Lead- Program Director | Boston Medical Center



**Haruko Watanabe**

ClinicalDirector | Cooper House

## II-A2,Part1:APathwaytoIndividualizing Lesson Plans to Ensure Responsive Teaching

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 318-320

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Do your lesson plans often take unexpected turns based on children's interests and needs? This Issue Intensive explores how embracing Developmentally Appropriate Practices' key considerations of Individuality and Context can help educators create truly personalized and meaningful learning experiences while maintaining curricular fidelity. Participants will examine strategies for adapting lesson plans in responsive ways that honor each child's unique development, background, and strengths, ensuring both engagement and intentional teaching.

**Discipline(s):** ECE; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional; **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Advanced

DIRECT SERVICE

ECE

### Speakers



**Laura Pearce**

EHSAssistantDirector, Child Development | Maryland Family Network



**Karen Thomas**

EHSChildCareSpecialist | Maryland Family Network

## II-A3, Part 1: When in Doubt, Wonder it Out: Systematically Integrating Reflectivity Into Coaching, Consultation and Leadership

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 321-323

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) Relationship-based work in early childhood settings is emotionally complex and often presents relational challenges that can impact outcomes for children and families. Designed for coaches, consultants, and leaders, this Issue Intensive explores how to systematically

integrate interpersonal and intrapersonal reflective practice to navigate these challenges effectively. Through case study analysis and guided discussion, participants will evaluate their own use of reflection in professional interactions and develop strategies to enhance their coaching, consultation, and leadership approaches.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Student ; **Competency:**P5-3; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES ECE IECMH

#### Speakers



**Lindsay Pearson**

Assistant Director of Early Childhood Educational Programming | Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhoo...



**Katelyn Cappello**

Supervisor of Coaching Practice | Montclair State University, Center for Autism & Early Childhood Mental Health

### HS-A1: Identifying and Treating Postpartum Depression in Mothers of Young Children: HealthySteps in Miami Partnerswiththe Healthy Start'sMoving Beyond Depression Program to Better Serve Mothers

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 302-303

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here for Session Eval and CEUs.](#)

This session focuses on the partnership between the University of Miami's HealthySteps and Healthy Start/Moving Beyond Depression Programs. HealthySteps Specialists identify mothers experiencing depression, many of whom face barriers which impede their ability to access services. The evidence-based/grant funded program, Moving Beyond Depression, provides access to quality care.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Intermediate

HEALTHYSTEPS

#### Speakers



**Maite Schenker**

Healthysteps Clinical Supervisor | Healthysteps at University of Miami



**Connie Morrow**

Research Associate Professor | University of Miami



**Isa Piloto-Baker**

Director of Case Management | University of Miami Healthy Start Program

### HS-A2: ImplementingSafeBabyEducation Into Your HealthySteps Program; Preventing Infant Death

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 301

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session describes how the HealthySteps site has incorporated strategies to reduce the three leading causes of preventable infant death within our community. HealthySteps specialists and practices will learn how to integrate additional education with their families during well child visits.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-4; **Level:** Introductory

HEALTHYSTEPS

#### Speakers



**Melissa Asencio**

Program Manager | Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County



**Ligia Vigo-Patron**

HealthySteps Supervisor | Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County



**Rilee Wagner**

Lead HealthySteps Specialist at 17Davis Pediatrics | Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

### LL-A-Part1:ExecutiveLeadership:Leading Through Complexity with Adaptive Leadership

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 316-317

LEADERSHIP LAB

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) Effective leadership in times of uncertainty requires adaptability, vision, and resilience. This Leadership Lab is designed for Executive

Leaders, including Chief Officers, Executive Directors, and Business Owners, who are navigating change while striving to create meaningful and lasting impact within their organizations and communities.

Faculty will guide participants through adaptive leadership principles and practical strategies for leading through complexity.

Participants will reflect on their leadership approach, explore ways to strengthen team and Board engagement, and develop tools to foster innovation and stability within their organizations. This Leadership Lab will also address burnout, workforce challenges, and the emotional toll of leadership, offering reflective practices to build resilience and lead with clarity.

Through discussions and interactive exercises, participants will gain insights from one another while developing tangible action steps to strengthen their leadership. Walk away with fresh strategies, an expanded professional network, and renewed inspiration to drive positive transformation in your organization and community.

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a "stand-alone" session.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Administrator (Chief Officer, Executive, Owner); **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Advanced

ADMINISTRATOR

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker



**Natalie Burke**

President and CEO | CommonHealth ACTION

### LunchBreak+Exhibitsw/PosterPresentations Live Q&A

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: Expo Hall AB

OTHER

#### PosterPresentations Live Q&A

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM

OTHER

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned.

[Browse a list of posters here.](#)

### BabyTalksGroupB(BT-B):Families/Parents & Play

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

BABY TALKS (BT)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Discipline(s):** ECE, CW, IECMH; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-1 & 2; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR

CWSS

DIRECT SERVICE

ECE

#### Speakers



**Laurie Ford**

Director, Early Childhood Education Program | UBC



**Ana Lorena Carrasco**

Executive Director | Avance

#### BT-B1:ParentalTime in Play

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT)

How does early parental play shape academic achievement in under-resourced communities? This Baby Talk examines the latest research on the impact of early play interactions, highlights knowledge gaps, and considers socio-economic factors' role in shaping educational outcomes. Join us for a thought-provoking look at this essential topic, leave with key insights and critical questions to explore further.

ADMINISTRATOR

CWSS

DIRECT SERVICE

POLICYMAKER

#### Speaker



**Laurie Ford**

Director, Early Childhood Education Program | UBC

## BT-B2: Play and Learning: Toy-making Promotes Parent-Child Interaction and School Readiness

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

### BABY TALKS (BT)

How can a strength-based, two-generation approach empower families for school readiness and lifelong success? This Baby Talk explores how AVANCE's 2Gen programs engage families by enhancing learning, building essential skills, and fostering confidence. Discover how social-emotional learning (SEL) and emotional intelligence (EQ) play a key role in preparing children for school while strengthening adults' social capital. Leave with key insights and new wonderings on maximizing family engagement for meaningful, lasting impact.

ADULT EDUCATOR DIRECT SERVICE ECE IECMH

#### Speakers



**Ana Lorena Carrasco**

Executive Director | Avance



**Norma Vargas**

Director of Avance - Parent Child Program | Avance inc

## Synergy Circles Group B (SC-B): All About Play

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:Room314-315

### SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: All About Play. It explores the power of play in early childhood development across varied settings. Participants will examine how play supports infants and toddlers, enhances social-emotional growth through outdoor experiences, and transforms shelter environments into playful learning spaces. Through rotating discussions, participants will gain practical strategies to create meaningful, developmentally enriching play opportunities for all children.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH, CW; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Student; **Competency:** P5-1; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Bonnie Spencer**

Early Childhood Consultant | EIC Training



**Victoria Arroyo**

Early Childhood Specialist | University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus



**Rachel Schwartzman**

Program Manager | Playful Learning Landscapes



**Julia Miller**

Program Manager | Playful Learning Landscapes (PLLAN)



**Eburn Guzowski**

Everyday Learning Play Spaces Manager | HopePHL



**Sierra Austin**

Program Manager, The BELL Project | HopePHL

## SC-B1: Understanding Play Through the Lens of Infants and Toddlers

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

### SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle explores how play supports early development through observation, self-reflection, and hands-on activities. Faculty will guide discussions using the ThinkingLens tool to help educators gain inclusive strategies that nurture creativity, exploration, and relationships. Participants will discuss and develop approaches that support meaningful, developmentally appropriate play experiences for every infant and toddler.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speaker



**Bonnie Spencer**

Early Childhood Consultant | EIC Training

## SC-B2: Let's Play Outdoors!

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores the vital role of outdoor play in supporting children's socio-emotional development. Faculty will spark discussions on current research, highlighting how outdoor play builds resilience and social skills. Participants will discuss and co-develop strategies to expand access to outdoor play opportunities in early childhood settings.

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

### Speaker



**Victoria Arroyo**

Early Childhood Specialist | University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus

## SC-B3: Everyday Learning Play Spaces: Transforming Shelter Environments through Playful Learning

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle highlights the Everyday Learning Play Spaces initiative, a collaboration between HopePHL and Playful Learning Landscapes. Faculty will lead discussions on transforming shelter environments into high-quality playful learning spaces. Participants will explore trauma-informed design, community engagement, and site-specific installation

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

### Speakers



**Rachel Schwartzman**

Program Manager | Playful Learning Landscapes



**Julia Miller**

Program Manager | Playful Learning Landscapes (PLLAN)



**Ebon Guzowski**

Everyday Learning Play Spaces Manager | HopePHL



**Sierra Austin**

Program Manager, The BELL Project | HopePHL

## LS-B1: Fathers Matter - One Statewide Approach to Systemic Change

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:Room310

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

The Washington Fatherhood Council was established in 2018 as a collaborative effort bringing together academics, advocates, providers, and fathers to strengthen support systems for fathers and father figures. This session will highlight the council's progress, including current services, ongoing initiatives such as mental health screenings and policy development, and lessons learned in advancing systemic change. Presenters will provide an overview of strategies used to engage fathers effectively, followed by a Q&A to explore practical applications in other communities.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Nicholas Kasovac**

Pediatric occupational therapist | WA Interagency Fatherhood Council



**Anne Stone**

Fatherhood Council Director | DSHS Washington State Fatherhood Council

## LS-B2: Navigating Early Childhood Media Use with the 5 Cs Framework

1:00PM–2:00PM | Location:Room309

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) This session introduces the 5 Cs of Media Use, an evidence-informed,

strengths-based framework for promoting healthy media habits

in early childhood settings. Presenters will provide an overview of the framework and discuss practical strategies for implementation. Case studies will illustrate real-world applications, and a Q&A will offer additional insights and resources for integrating the 5 Cs into daily practice.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-2; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES ECE IECMH RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Ericka Williams**

ResearchSpecialist | University of Michigan Medical School, American Academy of Pediatrics Center of Excellence on Social M...



**Jenny Radesky**

AssociateProfessor of Pediatrics | University of Michigan Medical School

### LS-B3: Fostering Infant Toddler Brain Development: Developmentally Appropriate Practice as a Guide to Create Joyful, Effective, Caring Learning Environments

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 307

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) emphasizes the educator's role in fostering joyful, effective learning environments that support children's growth and development. This session will outline key DAP concepts, highlight the research foundation behind them, and provide examples of how educators can apply these principles to support infant and toddler brain development. Attendees will gain insights into creating responsive, engaging experiences that nurture young children's potential.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** DirectService Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Policymaker/Advocate, Student; **Competency:**P5-1; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speaker



**Alissa Mwenelupembe**

ChiefEarlyLearningQuality&Research Officer | NAEYC

### LS-B4: It's a Kākou Thing - A Systems Development Approach

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 324-326

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Hawai'i is leveraging cross-sector partnerships to strengthen its Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) system. This session will explore coordinated efforts to expand capacity and enhance support for infants, young children, and their families. Presenters will highlight key accomplishments, share lessons learned, and discuss strategies for sustaining and growing a comprehensive system of care. Attendees will gain insights into collaborative approaches that can inform similar initiatives in their own communities.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Erin Henderson Lacerdo**

ExecutiveDirector | Associationfor Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i



**Renzymeir Baloran**

PMHCACoordinator | Department of Health, Family Health Services Division



**Eden Sun**

PMHCASpecialist | Hawaii State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division

### LS-B5: Global Lessons in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: Highlights from the WAIMH Handbook

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 308

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This lecture features internationally recognized infant mental health leaders Dr. Joy Osofsky and Dr. Miri Keren, co-editors of the newly released *WAIMH Handbook of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (2024)*. Representing contributors from 16 countries, the Handbook offers a comprehensive view of IECMH integrating developmental science, cultural context, clinical practices, and policy insights.

Dr. Osofsky, past president of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) and a clinical consultant for ZERO TO THREE's Safe Babies Court Program, and Dr. Keren, a child psychiatrist and former WAIMH president based in Israel, will highlight global trends and shared challenges across early childhood systems. Together, they will explore how international collaboration continues to shape inclusive, responsive practices in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and other large-scale disruptions.

This session also reflects the deep alignment between WAIMH and ZERO TO THREE in advancing relationship-based approaches to IECMH. Drawing on decades of leadership in both global and community-based settings, the presenters will share practical insights on integrating scientific and cultural perspectives to better serve young children, families, and caregivers around the world.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES EII IECMH MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker



**Joy Osofsky**  
Professor | LSU Health Sciences Center

### II-A1, Part 2: Healing the Healers: Rethinking Self-Care and Addressing Burnout

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 327-329

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Issue Intensive reexamines the concept of self-care, moving beyond traditional models to focus on sustainable strategies for individual and collective well-being. Using the Diversity-Informed Tenets for Work with Infants, Children, and Families as a framework, participants will reflect, discuss, and develop practical approaches to prevent burnout and support long-term resilience. Through guided exploration, attendees will consider how self-care can be integrated into their professional and personal lives in meaningful, lasting ways.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Nucha Isarowong**  
Director, Advanced Clinical Training Program | Barnard Center for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



**Carmen Rosa Norona**  
Child Trauma Clinical Services and Training Lead- Program Director | Boston Medical Center



**Haruko Watanabe**  
Clinical Director | Cooper House

### II-A2, Part 2: A Pathway to Individualizing Lesson Plans to Ensure Responsive Teaching

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 318-320

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Do your lesson plans often take unexpected turns based on children's interests and needs? This Issue Intensive explores how embracing Developmentally Appropriate Practices' key considerations of Individuality and Context can help educators create truly personalized and meaningful learning experiences while maintaining curricular fidelity. Participants will examine strategies for adapting lesson plans in responsive ways that honor each child's unique development, background, and strengths, ensuring both engagement and intentional teaching.

**Discipline(s):** ECE; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional; **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Advanced

DIRECT SERVICE ECE

#### Speakers



**Laura Pearce**  
EHS Assistant Director, Child Development | Maryland Family Network



**Karen Thomas**  
EHS Child Care Specialist | Maryland Family Network

### II-A3, Part 2: When in Doubt, Wonder it Out: Systematically Integrating Reflectivity Into Coaching, Consultation and Leadership

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 321-323

**ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Relationship-based work in early childhood settings is emotionally complex and often presents relational challenges that can impact outcomes for children and families. Designed for coaches, consultants, and leaders, this Issue Intensive explores how to systematically integrate interpersonal and intrapersonal reflective practice to navigate these challenges effectively. Through case study analysis and guided discussion, participants will evaluate their own use of reflection in professional interactions and develop strategies to enhance their coaching, consultation, and leadership approaches.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Student ; **Competency:**P5-3; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES ECE

ECMH

**Speakers**



**Lindsay Pearson**

Assistant Director of Early Childhood Educational Programming | Montclair State University Center for Autism and Early Childhoo...



**Katelyn Cappello**

Supervisor of Coaching Practice | Montclair State University, Center for Autism & Early Childhood Mental Health

**HS-B1: Building a Healthier Future: A Three-Pronged Approach to HealthySteps Implementation, Evaluation, and Sustainability in Philadelphia**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 302-303

**HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION**

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session will highlight a three-pronged approach to implementing, evaluating, and sustaining the HealthySteps program in Philadelphia. By integrating implementation science, a mixed-methods evaluation, and advocacy for policy reform, the initiative aims to improve early childhood development, provider well-being, and family health, with promising early results.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-2; **Level:** Intermediate

HEALTHYSTEPS

**Speakers**



**Kali Hackett**

Senior Project Manager | PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



**Emma Golub**

Policy Analyst | PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



**Nora Ahern**

HealthySteps Specialist | Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

**HS-B2: Part 1: Continuous Quality Improvement as a Critical Lever in Establishing HealthySteps at the Chickasaw Nation**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 301

**HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION**

**ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

The proposed session will describe the evolution of continuous quality improvement (CQI) practices in implementation of HealthySteps across multiple sites. Learners will be engaged through the use of examples from the perspectives of each clinic role and families.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Intermediate

HEALTHYSTEPS

**Speakers**



**Jennifer Jesse**

Hofanti Chokma Program Manager | Chickasaw Nation Public Health/Hofanti Chokma



**Misty Boyd**

Director of Community Health | Chickasaw Nation

**LL-A-Part2: Executive Leadership: Strengthening Organizational Engagement and Innovation**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 316-317

**LEADERSHIP LAB**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Effective leadership in times of uncertainty requires adaptability, vision, and resilience. This Leadership Lab is designed for Executive Leaders, including Chief Officers, Executive Directors, and Business Owners, who are navigating change while striving to create meaningful and lasting impact within their organizations and communities.

Faculty will guide participants through adaptive leadership principles and practical strategies for leading through complexity.

Participants will reflect on their leadership approach, explore ways to strengthen team and Board engagement, and develop tools to foster innovation and stability within their organizations. This Leadership Lab will also address burnout, workforce challenges, and the emotional toll of leadership, offering reflective practices to build resilience and lead with clarity.

Through discussions and interactive exercises, participants will gain insights from one another while developing tangible action steps to strengthen their leadership. Walk away with fresh strategies, an expanded professional network, and renewed inspiration to drive positive transformation in your organization and community.

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a "stand-alone" session.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Administrator (Chief Officer, Executive, Owner); **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Advanced

ADMINISTRATOR

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker



**Natalie Burke**

President and CEO | CommonHealth ACTION

### BabyTalksGroupC(BT-C):Families&Social-Emotional Development

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

BABY TALKS (BT)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Discipline(s):** IECMH; EI; CW ; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator,

Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency**P5-2& 4 ; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES

IECMH

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Amy Korsch-Williams**

Senior Instructor and Faculty Affiliate of the Center on Trauma and Adversity | Case Western Reserve University



**Hunter Crespo**

Clinical Extern | Montefiore Medical Center



**Yikai Xu**

Doctoral Candidate | Montefiore Hospital; New York University



**Talea Mccalman**

Clinical Psychology PhD Student | The New School

### BT-C1: Prevention of Intergenerational Trauma Transmission in Infancy and Early Childhood: The Importance of Fostering Positive Early Social-Emotional Outcomes

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT)

How is trauma passed from generation to generation, and how can we disrupt the cycle? This Baby Talk will provide a fast-paced overview of key mechanisms of intergenerational trauma transmission between parents and young children. It will also highlight protective factors that can help mitigate these effects and promote positive social-emotional outcomes in infancy and early childhood. Participants will leave with key considerations for fostering resilience and strengthening early caregiver-child relationships.

ALL EC ROLES

IECMH

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

#### Speaker



**Amy Korsch-Williams**

Senior Instructor and Faculty Affiliate of the Center on Trauma and Adversity | Case Western Reserve University

## BT-C2: Breaking the Cycle: How Maternal Mental Health and Social Support Foster Children's Social Development

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

How can supporting maternal mental health break cycles of adversity and strengthen child development? This Baby Talk will explore trauma-informed interventions that help parents with histories of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) foster their children's social-emotional growth. Participants will gain insights from key findings of a program and consider strategies to reduce maternal depression and social isolation, two critical factors influencing early childhood outcomes.

**ALL EC ROLES** **IECMH** **POLICYMAKER** **RESEARCHER**

### Speakers



**Hunter Crespo**

Clinical Extern | Montefiore Medical Center



**Yikai Xu**

Doctoral Candidate | Montefiore Hospital; New York University



**Talea Mccalman**

Clinical Psychology PhD Student | The New School

## Synergy Circles Group C (SC-C): Talking About Language Development

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location: Room 314-315

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Talking About Language Development. It explores effective ways to nurture early language and literacy skills. Participants will discuss how music and stories enhance social-emotional learning, discover mindful communication strategies to support language development while easing educator stress, and explore the importance of book access and shared reading from birth. Through rotating discussions, educators will gain practical tools to create rich language experiences for young children.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH, CW; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Student; **Competency:** P5-1; **Level:** Introductory

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE**

### Speakers



**Amy Kronberg**

Manager, Early Learning Initiatives | Montgomery County Preschool Promise



**Erica Bohannon**

Early Childhood Education Career Tech Instructor | Preschool Promise



**Mary Mathew**

Senior Director of Advocacy | Book Harvest



**Cheri Coleman**

Director of Book Babies | Book Harvest

## SC-C2: We Need to Talk: Simple Strategies to Promote Language Development and Ease the Mental Load

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores mindful communication strategies that support early language and literacy development while reducing educator stress. Faculty will lead discussions and share real-world examples from coaches and educators, highlighting techniques to foster language skills, improve adult well-being, and create supportive learning environments. Through interactive conversations, participants will gain practical tools to be more present, attentive, and intentional in their interactions with young children.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE**

### Speakers



**Amy Kronberg**

Manager, Early Learning Initiatives | Montgomery County Preschool Promise



**Erica Bohannon**

Early Childhood Education Career Tech Instructor | Preschool Promise

### SC-C3: Babies Need Books: Ensuring Every Child's Right to Literacy with Abundant Home Libraries and Shared Reading from Birth

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle highlights literacy as a civil right that begins at birth, nurtured by parents, caregivers, and access to books. Faculty will lead discussions on advocating book ownership and promoting shared reading as key strategies to support the well-being and literacy development of children from birth to age three. Participants will gain inspiration and practical skills to expand book access and foster early literacy.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Mary Mathew**

Senior Director of Advocacy | Book Harvest



**Cheri Coleman**

Director of Book Babies | Book Harvest

### LS-C1: Cultivating a Resilient Clinical Workforce: Balancing Self-Compassion and Distress Tolerance

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:Room310

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Self-compassion is essential for sustaining a healthy and effective clinical workforce, particularly in early childhood settings where burnout and vicarious trauma are prevalent. This session will explore the role of self-compassion in professional well-being, examine common barriers clinicians face in practicing it, and discuss the impact of self-neglect on both providers and the families they serve. Attendees will gain insights into fostering resilience and maintaining balance in their work.

**Discipline(s):** Multi, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Intermediate

DIRECT SERVICE MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Lili Gray**

National Trainer | Child Parent Psychotherapy



**Michelle Roy**

Program Manager | WellPower

### LS-C2: Digging Deeper In Reflective Supervision

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:Room327-329

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores a reflective supervision framework informed by findings from the Digging Deeper Study. Presenters will discuss strategies to strengthen reflective supervision practices, enhance relational skills, and support professionals in the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) field. Attendees will engage in discussions and exercises to deepen their knowledge and apply key concepts in their work.

**Discipline(s):**

IECMH, Multi**Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator; **Competency:** P5-3;

**Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR DIRECT SERVICE MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Eva Marie Shivers**

Executive Director | Indigo Cultural Center



**Joaniko Kohchi**

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor - Clinical

### LS-C3: Bridging Support Systems: A Holistic Approach to Working with Children and Families Using CPP and ECMHC

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:Room324-326

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

The Sana Sana program integrates Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) and Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) to foster a shared understanding of a child's experiences, enhance coordinated care, and strengthen community connections. This model helps reduce fragmented services, supports provider well-being, and promotes a sense of belonging for families. Presenters will discuss key program components and benefits for children, families, and care providers.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH,EI;

**Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Student; **Competency:**P5-3; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR DIRECT SERVICE EII IECMH

#### Speakers



**Linda Mora**

Program Manager | Instituto Familiar de la Raza



**Cassandra Coe**

Clinical Supervisor Sana Sana Program/ Consultant | Instituto Familiar de la Raza



**Latille Phillips**

LMFT 136965| Mental Health Clinician| Child-Parent Psychotherapist | Instituto Familiar de la Raza

### LS-C4: California's Blueprint to Success: Implementing an Innovative Statewide Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Training Program

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 318-320

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session examines the development and implementation of California's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Consultant Training Program. Presenters will outline key stages of the program, share strategies for effective training and workforce development, and discuss lessons learned from the field. Data-driven insights will highlight the program's impact, and attendees will gain practical considerations for applying similar approaches in their own contexts. A Q&A will provide additional opportunities for discussion, with post-session resources available for further exploration.

**Discipline(s):**

IECMH, ECE; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:**P5-8; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR DIRECT SERVICE IECMH POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Jennifer Miller**

Program Director | WestEd



**Debbie Reno-Smith**

IECMH Specialist | West Ed/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Network

### LS-C5: And Baby Makes Three: The Development of a Perinatal Intensive Psychiatric Program that Centers the Mother, Baby, and Mother-Baby Relationship

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 321-323

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to access CEU Evaluation and Quiz](#)

Perinatal Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOPs) play a vital role in treating perinatal mental health challenges, yet many focus solely on the mother. This session examines an innovative approach that integrates dyadic treatments, centering both the mother and the mother-baby relationship. Presenters will discuss how research and clinical innovation shaped the development of a new mother-baby IOP in Washington, DC, highlighting key considerations for program design and implementation. Attendees will gain insights into the benefits of a relational approach to perinatal mental health care.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Intermediate

ADULT EDUCATOR DIRECT SERVICE

#### Speakers



**Aimee Danielson**

Clinical Psychologist; Director, Women's Mental Health Program; Professor of Psychiatry & OBGYN | MedStar Georgetown Unive...



**U'nek Clarke**

Perinatal Mental Health Therapist | MedStar Georgetown University Hospital



**Ruthie Arbit**

Perinatal and Pediatric Psychotherapy | Medstar Georgetown University Hospital Department of Psychiatry



**Shannon Pope**

MedstarGeorgetown Women's Mental Health Program

### LS-C6: Using Self-Regulation Strategies, Mindfulness Practices, and Communication Tools to Prevent Burnout and Improve Parenting Outcomes

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 309

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session provides early childhood professionals with practical strategies to enhance self-regulation for themselves and the caregivers they support. Presenters will introduce mindfulness practices, breathwork techniques, and communication tools designed to promote emotional regulation, reduce burnout, and strengthen parenting outcomes. Attendees will gain insights into integrating these approaches into their work to foster resilience and well-being for both professionals and families.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Student; **Competency:** P5-2; **Level:** Introductory

ADULT EDUCATOR CWSS

DIRECT SERVICE

IECMH

#### Speakers



**Sarah MacLaughlin**

Senior Training & Technical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO THREE



**Katherine Endy**

Founder | The Family Life Coach, LLC

### LS-C7: Sparking STEM Discovery: Using a Play-Based Approach to Support STEM Learning for Preschoolers

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 307

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here for session evaluation and CEU Quiz](#)

For toddlers and preschoolers, STEM instruction means offering learning experiences that challenge and delight. Discover how to embed this playful learning thoughtfully across the curriculum. Explore STEM activities that spark curiosity, joy and mastery, and explore ten instructional practices that honor early development and nurture early learning.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator; **Competency:** P5-1; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR

DIRECT SERVICE

ECE

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker



**Rebecca Parlakian**

Senior Director of Programs | ZERO TO THREE

### LL-A-Part3: Executive Leadership: Building Executive Resilience and Navigating Workforce Challenges

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 316-317

**LEADERSHIP LAB**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Effective leadership in times of uncertainty requires adaptability, vision, and resilience. This Leadership Lab is designed for Executive Leaders, including Chief Officers, Executive Directors, and Business Owners, who are navigating change while striving to create meaningful and lasting impact within their organizations and communities.

Faculty will guide participants through adaptive leadership principles and practical strategies for leading through complexity.

Participants will reflect on their leadership approach, explore ways to strengthen team and Board engagement, and develop tools to foster innovation and stability within their organizations. This Leadership Lab will also address burnout, workforce challenges, and the emotional toll of leadership, offering reflective practices to build resilience and lead with clarity.

Through discussions and interactive exercises, participants will gain insights from one another while developing tangible action steps to strengthen their leadership. Walk away with fresh strategies, an expanded professional network, and renewed inspiration to drive positive transformation in your organization and community.

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a "stand-alone" session.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Administrator (Chief Officer, Executive, Owner); **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Advanced

ADMINISTRATOR

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker



**Natalie Burke**

PresidentandCEO | CommonHealth ACTION

### HS-C1: Looking at the Parallel Process Through the Lens of HealthySteps

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 302-303

HEALTHY STEPS SESSION

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session focuses on identifying one’s social location and the implementation of parallel process. Participants will list their relationship building skills that best serve historically marginalized families with young children. Participants will understand how the parallel process empowers oneself to encourage individuals and families to creatively solve their own problems. Group discussion will help participants identify biases that can perpetuate racism, oppression, and power over models that traditionally marginalized children and families experience.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-2*; **Level:** *Intermediate*

HEALTHY STEPS

#### Speakers



**Sara Kiehn**

HealthySteps Specialist | Children’s Home Society of NC



**Margaret McGaw**

HealthySteps Specialist | Children’s Home Society of North Carolina

### HS-C2: Part 2: Continuous Quality Improvement as a Critical Lever in Establishing HealthySteps at the Chickasaw Nation

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 301

HEALTHY STEPS SESSION

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

The proposed session will describe the evolution of continuous quality improvement (CQI) practices in implementation of HealthySteps across multiple sites. Learners will be engaged through the use of examples from the perspectives of each clinic role and families.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-8*; **Level:** *Intermediate*

HEALTHY STEPS

#### Speakers



**Jennifer Jesse**

HofantiChokma Program Manager | Chickasaw Nation Public Health/Hofanti Chokma



**Misty Boyd**

Director of Community Health | Chickasaw Nation

### Keynote Address: Put Yourself Back on the List: Reclaiming Joy, Identity, and Wellbeing in Service of Others

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Location: Ballroom I-IV

PLENARY/KEYNOTE

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Get ready to laugh, reflect, and refuel with Dr. Adolph “Doc” Brown III in this energizing and heartfelt Keynote designed just for early childhood professionals. This high-energy experience is a celebration of your passion and commitment to young children and families. At the same time, it is a playful and powerful reminder that your own wellbeing deserves a place at the top of your priorities.

Doc Brown brings the music, the movement, the props, and the real talk. With humor and honesty, he helps us take a closer look at how easy it is to lose ourselves in the daily grind of supporting others. The skipped meals, the late nights, the back-to-back-to-back giving... it all adds up. And before we know it, we’ve forgotten to check in with the one person who makes it all possible: ourselves.

This session is an invitation to press pause, recharge your joy, and reconnect with your identity as a whole person, not just someone who supports others. Through laughter, story, and surprise, Doc shares practical ways to care for your mind, body, and spirit. Walk away feeling refreshed and more equipped to sustain the incredible work you do each day.

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speaker





**Dr. Adolph Brown III**

InternationallyRenowned Master Educator, Servant Leadership Consultant & Author | Keynote Address

## Exhibit Hall Reception

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Location: Expo Hall AB

OTHER

### SponsoredBabyTalk: Equitable Strategies for Workforce Compensation

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

BABY TALKS (BT)

Focusing on workforce compensation is a key component towards stabilizing high quality early learning environments. Our Thrive by 5 QIS seeks to provide salary supplement supports in a manner that does not perpetuate structural inequities experienced by educators from diverse communities. To accomplish this, we must be willing to acknowledge the existing barriers for educators and overcome them by challenging the way we look at formal education and the attributes we perceive makes a high-quality educator. There is varying evidence that degree's matter for quality or child outcomes. Therefore, requiring formal education as the only legitimate means of being qualified in early care and education ignores structural inequities in higher education and the financial risk and burden educators experience. However, we cannot negate the importance of professionally trained educators and benefits of increased early educator skills and knowledge to ensure quality teacher child interactions and practice.

Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their practice and reimagine what an equitable approach to workforce compensation would look like in their state, region, or locale.

#### Speaker



**Liz Lauren**

AssociateDirector of Programs | The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County

### SponsoredBabyTalk: Caring for You, Caring for Them

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

BABY TALKS (BT)

Do you sometimes feel challenged to stay present in stressful situations with kids? This session is designed for participants who are new to personal emotional health practices in the caregiving context, and who are interested in exploring accessible, science-informed tools to support their own regulation and connection. Learn a simple mindfulness-based practice to support adult emotional regulation in caregiving moments.

#### Speakers



**Kathleen O'Brien, Ph.D**

CEO | WaldenWise



**Tracey Myers-Preston**

PrincipalStrategy&Operations Consultant | Walden Wise

## Thursday, October 09, 2025

### Morning Yoga

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM | Location: East Mezzanine

OTHER

### Morning Move: Guided Walk

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Location: Charles Street Lobby

OTHER

Join for a walking tour before launching into your sessions!

Your tour guide, Chris, will lead the group to the Inner Harbor and back (roughly one mile). Sights include, but are not limited to:

- Old Otterbein Church
- Inner Harbor waterfront
- Federal Hill
- World Trade Center
- National Aquarium

See you in Baltimore!

- Meeting Point: Charles Street Lobby
- Time: 7:00–8:00 AM

## Speaker



**Chris Riehl**  
President | Rent-A-Tour

### Practice Plenary: Things I Wish I Had Known: Chandra Ghosh Ippen's Reflections for Her Younger Self and the Field

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Ballroom I-IV

**PLENARY/KEYNOTE**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Kick off day two of the 2025 LEARN Conference with an inspiring and deeply personal Practice Plenary from Dr. Chandra Ghosh Ippen—renowned early childhood trauma therapist, researcher, and co-developer of Child-Parent Psychotherapy.

If you could go back in time, what wisdom would you share with your younger self to better support young children and families? What hard-earned lessons have shaped your work the most? Imagine having just one hour to distill decades of learnings.

Join Dr. Ghosh Ippen on a powerful journey of reflection, where she will weave together key concepts from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) field, and her own experiences from 30+ years as an early childhood trauma therapist. With warmth and candor, she will share lessons learned, challenges faced, and guidance that has stood the test of time.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to gain relatable, practical takeaways from a leader whose work has transformed the field. Leave inspired, equipped with new perspectives, and ready to carry this model of reflection into your own LEARNING journey—and beyond.

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

## Speaker



**Chandra Ippen**  
Associate Director CTRP | Child Trauma Research Program

### LL-B- Part 1: Program and Service Leadership: Transformative Leadership—Strengthening Teams, Programs, and Outcomes

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 316-317

**LEADERSHIP LAB**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Transformative leadership isn't a solo endeavor—it's about cultivating the collective capacity to inspire, guide, and drive meaningful change. This Leadership Lab is designed for Program and Service Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors seeking to deepen their shared leadership skills and strengthen collaboration across Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) systems.

Grounded in the Whole Leadership Framework from the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and insights from ZERO TO THREE's Leadership Development Institute, this session will explore evidence-based strategies to enhance team dynamics, foster cross-sector partnerships, and lead with clarity and intention.

Through reflective exercises, case studies, leadership scenarios, and facilitated discussions, participants will engage with innovative approaches to effective collaboration, gaining actionable strategies to elevate their leadership and impact.

This dynamic and interactive session will help leaders assess their current approaches, identify growth opportunities, and develop strategies to strengthen their programs and partnerships. Whether you're leading a team, coordinating services, or managing a program, you'll leave with practical tools and fresh perspectives to elevate your leadership and impact.

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a "stand-alone" session.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrators (Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors) and Direct Service Professionals (Early Childhood Educators, Clinicians); **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR

ECE

IECMH

## Speakers



**Kimberlee J. Hendricks**



**Lynette Aytch**  
Director | ZERO TO THREE

### BabyTalks Group D (BT-D): Expanding IECMH Approaches

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH, Multi ; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher ; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Erika Gonzalez**

PhDCandidate | TheUniversityof Wisconsin-Madison



**Rebecca Miller**

DirectorofMental Health and Wellnes | Reach Dane



**Maya Matalon**

NYUGrossmanSchool Of Medicine



**Xochitl Arechiga**

DirectorofTraining and Programs | NYU Grossman School of Medicine



**Sarah Clark**

TherapeuticEducation Leader | Reach Dane

### BT-D1: Evaluation Results from an Innovative Early Childhood Therapeutic School Model

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

#### BABY TALKS (BT)

How can early childhood programs integrate transformative mental health principles while maximizing available resources? This Baby Talk will provide an overview of the innovative Sprouts therapeutic school model, highlighting recent evaluation results. Participants will reflect on key findings and explore ways to incorporate mental health-informed practices into early learning settings, including strategies for strengthening support systems when access to licensed clinicians is limited.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Erika Gonzalez**

PhDCandidate | TheUniversityof Wisconsin-Madison



**Rebecca Miller**

DirectorofMental Health and Wellnes | Reach Dane



**Sarah Clark**

TherapeuticEducation Leader | Reach Dane

### BT-D2: Training Non-Clinical Providers to Deliver Relationship-Based Video Feedback in an Early Relational Health Program

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

#### BABY TALKS (BT)

How can early childhood professionals use relationship-based video feedback to support early relational health? This Baby Talk will highlight PlayReadVIP's strength-based coaching model, which prepares non-clinical providers to guide caregivers in fostering strong early relationships. Participants will explore key elements of the training approach and consider how to apply these strategies to support families and programs in their communities.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Maya Matalon**

NYU Grossman School Of Medicine



**Xochitl Arechiga**

DirectorofTraining and Programs | NYU Grossman School of Medicine

### SynergyCirclesGroupD(SC-D): Early Childhood Education (ECE) Coaching

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 314-315

#### SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: ECE Coaching. It explores innovative strategies to support and empower educators through coaching. Participants will discuss relationship-based coaching for infant-toddler educators, examine the role of reflective practice in professional growth, and explore how technology enhances access to coaching and its effectiveness. Through rotating conversations, attendees will gain practical tools to strengthen teaching practices, leadership, and collaboration in early childhood settings.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, EI; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Student; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES ECE

#### Speakers



**Kimberly Blitch**

AssociateProfessor | The University of Alabama



**Stephanie Waters**

ProgramDirector | Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network



**Shanice Campbell**

AssistantDirector | Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network



**Dena-Ann Febus**

SupervisorofEarlyChildhood Education | Public School



**Stephanie Mitchell**

PreKInstructionalCoach | Franklin Township Board of Education



**Therese Snyder**

ProfessionalLearning Director | CalBloom Early Learning, Napa County Office of Education

### SC-D1: Coaching Infant-Toddler Educators Through Relationship-Based Practices

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle explores strategies for supporting educators in providing high-quality learning experiences for infants and toddlers. Faculty will lead discussions on a statewide professional development network that uses a multi-layered approach, including coaching, training, and technical assistance. Participants will engage in reflective discussions and explore coaching tools that promote strengths-based support, shared goal setting, and responsive teaching practices. Attendees will gain insights into effective coaching strategies that enhance teacher confidence, improve caregiving interactions, and foster collaborative learning environments.

ALL EC ROLES ECE

#### Speakers



**Kimberly Blitch**

AssociateProfessor | The University of Alabama



**Stephanie Waters**

ProgramDirector | Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network



**Shanice Campbell**

AssistantDirector | Alabama Infant Toddler Specialist Network

### SC-D2: Guiding Reflective Practice: Empowering Coaches and Teachers in Early Childhood Education

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle highlights the importance of reflective practice in early childhood education. Faculty will facilitate discussions on how leaders can foster reflection, introduce three steps of the reflection process, and share strategies for guiding teachers in self-reflection. Through interactive conversations, participants will gain practical tools to enhance leadership and strengthen community relationships.

ALL EC ROLES ECE

#### Speakers



**Dena-Ann Febus**

SupervisorofEarlyChildhood Education | Public School



**Stephanie Mitchell**

PreKInstructionalCoach | Franklin Township Board of Education

### SC-D3: Confidence, Competence, and Collaboration: Transforming Early Childhood Coaching with Technology

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

This Synergy Circle explores how hybrid and remote coaching technology strengthens professional development, reduces time and travel costs, and expands access to coaching. Faculty will lead discussions on applying the Practice-Based Coaching framework across various formats. Through real-world examples and group conversations, participants will examine strategies to enhance coaching effectiveness and improve outcomes for young children.

ALL EC ROLES ECE

#### Speakers



**Therese Snyder**

Professional Learning Director | CalBloom Early Learning, Napa County Office of Education



**Caycee Allen**

Business Development Manager | TORSH

### LS-D1: Undeniable Rights of Infants & Toddlers

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location: Room 307

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores three essential components of early development—play, movement, and nature—and offers practical strategies to support them in infant and toddler settings. Presenters will share ideas for using free and low-cost materials, creating engaging environments, and fostering meaningful early experiences that promote growth and learning. Attendees will gain actionable insights to enhance their work with young children.

#### Discipline(s):

*ECE, Multi; Roles(s): Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Student;*

*Competency: P5-1; Level: Introductory*

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Sandra Duncan, EdD**

Nova Southeastern University



**Susan Penix**

Early Childhood Trainer and Nature Educator Consultant | BCCRC at the Family Tree



**Sally Haughey**

CEO & Founder | Wunderled

### LS-D2: Cultivating System Leadership Skills and Strategies for Early Childhood Leaders

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location: Room 308

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here for session evaluation and CEU Quiz](#)

In collaboration with the Collective Impact Forum and Childhood Prosperity Lab, the Help Me Grow National Center piloted a learning community to strengthen system leadership skills among early childhood leaders. This lecture examines the pilot's approach and key insights, offering practical strategies participants can apply to drive system-level change in their own work.

#### Discipline(s):

*, Multi; Roles(s): Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; Competency: P5-6;*

*Level: Intermediate*

ADMINISTRATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speaker



**Melissa Passarelli**

Associate Director of Implementation & Systems Building | Help Me Grow National Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

### LS-D3: Deploying a Community Assets Approach to Serving Rural Families

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location: Room 324-326

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) This session explores how community asset-based service delivery can strengthen support for families in rural and underserved areas.

Presenters will discuss strategies for identifying and leveraging local resources, strengths, and cultural practices to improve outcomes for children and families. Attendees will gain practical insights into building on existing community assets to enhance service accessibility and effectiveness.

**Discipline(s):** Multi, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**A.J. Griffin**

CEO | Potts Family Foundation



**Lacey Holt**

Executive Director | LEGACY PARENTING CENTER

### LS-D4: Mind the Gap: Bridging Training Shortfalls and Boosting Practitioner Wellbeing in Early Childhood Mental Health

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 309

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores how an infant and early childhood mental health certificate program helps address training gaps, supports practitioner well-being, and enhances service delivery for diverse families. Presenters will share case studies, data, and practical strategies to connect professional development with effective, sustainable early childhood mental health practices. Attendees will gain insights into strengthening workforce support and improving outcomes for young children and families.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Emily Aron**

Medical Director, Infant and Early Childhood Clinic | Medstar Georgetown University Hospital



**Amy Hunter**

Assistant Professor | Georgetown University



**Hillary Robertson**

Assistant Professor | Georgetown University

### LS-D5: Aligning Federal Initiatives to Advance Early Childhood Systems and Services Across States and Communities

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 310

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here for session evaluation and CEU Quiz](#)

Strong early childhood systems rely on coordination across government agencies, communities, and service providers to ensure young children and their families receive essential support. This session will highlight two federally funded initiatives—the Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems: Evidence to Impact Center and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs—that help strengthen early childhood services. Presenters will outline program objectives, strategies for improving service coordination, and ways early childhood professionals can engage with state and community initiatives. Attendees will gain insights into enhancing collaboration, improving access to services, and utilizing public resources to support children and families.

**Discipline(s):** Multi, EI; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Dawn Stehle**

Director, Early Childhood Systems, Policy, and Planning | ZERO TO THREE



**Anna Corona-Romero**

Sr. Specialist, Child & Adolescent Health Systems Initiatives | Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)



**Hannah Johnson**

Director, Early Childhood Developmental Health Systems: Evidence to Impact Center | ZERO TO THREE



**Paige Bussanich**

Associate Director, Child Health & CYSHCN | Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

## II-B1, Part 1: Building For Babies: A State Policy Self-Assessment Tool

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room318-320

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

A strong prenatal-to-three system ensures that every family has access to the services and supports they need while being guided by effective state policies. This Issue Intensive introduces Building for Babies: A State Policy Self-Assessment Suite, a comprehensive tool designed to help states evaluate and strengthen infant and toddler policies across health, family support, early learning, and system collaboration. The suite includes a self-assessment with over 100 policy recommendations, a Baby Book with national resources and state examples, and strategies for fostering cross-sector collaboration. Participants will explore how this tool can be used to facilitate critical discussions, prioritize policies, and create actionable plans tailored to their state, territory, or community. Drawing from a real-world pilot experience, this session will demonstrate how cross-sector teams including policymakers, providers, and parents, used the tool to identify shared priorities and drive system change. Through guided exercises, attendees will practice using the self-assessment suite and strategize its application within their own policy contexts.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Advanced

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

### Speakers



**Christy Stanton**

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO THREE



**Katrina Coburn**

Senior Manager of State Policy | ZERO TO THREE

## II-B2, Part 1: Centering Relationships for Systems Change: Practices for Early Childhood Educators to Transform Relationships with Each Other, Families, and Children

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room321-323

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) Early childhood educators prioritize relationships in their programs, but how often

do they extend the same relationship-based approach to themselves and their colleagues? This interactive Issue Intensive explores the power of authentic connection in fostering personal and systemic transformation. Participants will examine the barriers that create division, reflect on the emotional impact of disconnection, and engage in practices that promote trust, understanding, and mutual support. Through guided reflection and discussion, early education and allied professionals will gain strategies to strengthen their relationships with colleagues, families, and the broader early learning community. Learn simple and instantly implementable practices that lay the groundwork for meaningful and lasting change in the field.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

### Speaker



**Nanci Luna Jimenez**

President and Founder | Luna Jiménez Institute for Social Transformation

## II-B3, Part 1: The ROI of RSC: Considering the Fiscal and Emotional Impact of RSC on the IECMH Workforce

10:30AM–11:30AM | Location:Room327-329

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

How can we effectively demonstrate the return on investment (ROI) of Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC) in the infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) workforce? This Issue Intensive explores Tennessee's statewide, cross-sector, longitudinal evaluation of RSC, which has grown from an initial pilot in 2018 to a robust initiative supporting over 300 professionals across home visiting, child care, and clinical IECMH sectors. Presenters will share key findings on RSC's impact on workforce well-being, retention, and efficacy, along with the methods, measures, and advocacy strategies used to sustain and expand the initiative. Participants will engage in small group discussions to explore how evaluation data can support funding efforts, ongoing assessment, and policy advocacy to strengthen the IECMH workforce. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using data to advocate for the integration and expansion of RSC in their own communities.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Advanced

ADMINISTRATOR

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

POLICYMAKER

RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Alison Peak**

Chief Executive Officer | Allied Behavioral Health Solutions



**Diana Morelen**

AssociateProfessor | East Tennessee State University

### HS-D1: Supporting Fathers at Their Children's Primary Care Visits

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 302-303

HEALTHY STEPS SESSION

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

A father's health status has implications for himself and also for the health and well-being of his children. This session will focus on engaging fathers during pediatric primary care visits both to support their children's health and development and to prioritize their own health and connection with the healthcare system.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-2*; **Level:** *Introductory*

HEALTHY STEPS

#### Speakers



**Eva Johnson**

AssistantProfessor | Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital



**Holly Pangrace**

HealthyStepsSpecialist | University Hospitals, Cleveland



**Kristin Cipolla**

HealthyStepsSpecialist | University Hospitals

### HS-D2: HealthySteps and the FAST approach

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Location: Room 301

HEALTHY STEPS SESSION

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Distilling principles and strategies of specialized evidence-based programs (Parent Child Interaction Therapy, Promoting First Relationships), the FAST-Early Childhood (FAST-E) program was developed by child clinical psychologists at Seattle Children's Hospital to support early childhood mental health, in the context of family, community, and culture.

This session will share and reflect on how our HS team incorporates FAST concepts and strategies into our HS program to help break a caregiver's cycle of low mood and inactivity, or worries and fear, that may get in the way of responsive parenting.

We will relate our experience with this approach, including the successes and challenges of initial engagement, motivation (setting aside time and space), and sustainability.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-2*; **Level:** *Intermediate*

HEALTHY STEPS

#### Speakers



**Mary Beth Callie**

DirectorofIntegrated & Whole Person Care | Callie Pediatrics



**Liz Denogean**

HealthyStepsSpecialist/CoCM | Callie Pediatrics

### LunchBreak+Exhibitsw/PosterPresentations Live Q&A

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Location: Expo Hall AB

OTHER

#### PosterPresentations Live Q&A

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM

OTHER

Poster Presentations are a vibrant showcase of the latest insights and research in the early childhood field. Designed for and by professionals, posters offer a unique opportunity to dive deep into the nuances of emerging concepts, stories from the field, implementation models and lessons learned.

[Browse a list of posters here.](#)

### SponsorBabyTalk: Designing with Intention: ECBS and Construct as Catalysts for Change

11:45 AM – 12:15 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

The Early Childhood Business Solutions (ECBS) program at Southwest Human Development empowers early childhood providers with tailored business management support, automation tools, and individualized coaching to streamline operations and enhance sustainability. The Construct Coaching model offers embedded, adaptive, and data-driven professional development for caregivers, teachers, and family support specialists, focusing on individualized interventions that improve quality outcomes for children and families. Together, ECBS and Construct provide a comprehensive approach to strengthening both the business and instructional practices of early childhood programs, fostering lasting positive impact across Arizona and beyond.

#### Speakers



**Karla Houghtalin**  
Assistant Director | Southwest Human Development



**Alexia Gallegos**  
Professional Development Coach | Southwest Human Development

### Sponsored Baby Talk: Understanding Young Children's Behavior Movements Aligning Theory with Design

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

This session offers ways to align children's physical development with classroom design using empathic strategies: (1) movement behaviors, (2) patterns of play, (3) axioms of sensorimotor play, and (4) affordances.

#### Speaker



**Sandra Duncan, EdD**  
Nova Southeastern University

### LL-B- Part 2: Program and Service Leadership: Transformative Leadership—Strengthening Teams, Programs, and Outcomes

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 316-317

#### LEADERSHIP LAB

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Transformative leadership isn't a solo endeavor—it's about cultivating the collective capacity to inspire, guide, and drive meaningful change. This Leadership Lab is designed for Program and Service Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors seeking to deepen their shared leadership skills and strengthen collaboration across Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) systems.

Grounded in the Whole Leadership Framework from the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and insights from ZERO TO THREE's Leadership Development Institute, this session will explore evidence-based strategies to enhance team dynamics, foster cross-sector partnerships, and lead with clarity and intention.

Through reflective exercises, case studies, leadership scenarios, and facilitated discussions, participants will engage with innovative approaches to effective collaboration, gaining actionable strategies to elevate their leadership and impact.

This dynamic and interactive session will help leaders assess their current approaches, identify growth opportunities, and develop strategies to strengthen their programs and partnerships. Whether you're leading a team, coordinating services, or managing a program, you'll leave with practical tools and fresh perspectives to elevate your leadership and impact.

Ideally, learners participate in all 3 parts of a Leadership Lab, but each part may be taken as a "stand-alone" session.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrators (Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors) and Direct Service Professionals (Early Childhood Educators, Clinicians); **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR

ECE

ECMH

#### Speakers



**Kimberlee J. Hendricks**



**Lynette Aytch**  
Director | ZERO TO THREE

### Baby Talks Group E (BT-E): Maternal Agency

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

#### BABY TALKS (BT)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Discipline(s):** Multi, CW; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Policymaker/Advocate, Student, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-4; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

Speakers



**Joy Thomas Moore, MA**  
President and CEO | JWS Media Consulting



**Madalyn Osbourne**  
PhD Student in Clinical Psychology | Long Island University, Brooklyn



**Sara Chiara Haden**  
Associate Professor | Long Island University

**BT-E1: The Power of Presence: Making a Lifetime of Difference**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

How can caregivers create deep, lasting connections with children while juggling today's countless demands—career pressures, financial concerns, and digital distraction? Drawing from her book *The Power of Presence*, acclaimed author and mother Joy Thomas Moore shares moving stories of triumph and key takeaways on how small, intentional moments of connection can transform a child's life trajectory, offering practical wisdom for today's busy caregivers. Discover simple shifts that can help you stay grounded and responsive, even in chaos. This transformative Baby Talk provides inspiration and actionable strategies for creating meaningful connections that withstand the test of time, regardless of your circumstances or resources.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

Speaker



**Joy Thomas Moore, MA**  
President and CEO | JWS Media Consulting

**BT-E2: The Effect of Poverty Reduction on Home Chaos and Maternal Agency: Evidence from the Baby's First Years Study**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

How does reducing poverty impact a mother's sense of control and the overall stability of her home? This Baby Talk will explore findings from the Baby's First Years study, which examined the effects of a poverty reduction program on maternal well-being using the Family Stress Model. Participants will consider how financial support influences household chaos and maternal agency in the early years of parenting.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

Speakers



**Madalyn Osbourne**  
PhD Student in Clinical Psychology | Long Island University, Brooklyn



**Sara Chiara Haden**  
Associate Professor | Long Island University

**Synergy Circles Group E (SC-E): Early Childhood Education (ECE) Workforce Development**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 314-315

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: ECE Workforce Development. It explores strategies to strengthen and support early childhood educators. Participants will discuss building responsive career pathways, implementing professional development systems, and staying informed on national efforts to unify the profession. Through rotating discussions, attendees will gain insights, resources, and practical tools to advance their careers and enhance the early learning workforce.

**Discipline(s): ECE; Role(s): Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; Competency: P5-7; Level: Intermediate**

ALL EC ROLES ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

Speakers



**Rachel Spector**  
Director of Programs | The Children's Trust



**Liz Lauren**  
Associate Director of Programs | The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County



**Pamela Tuttle-Hollingsworth**

SeniorVicePresidentforStrategic Initiatives and Program Development | Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe



**Flora Gomez**

PrincipalConsultant | Teach for Teachers, Inc.



**Shyrelle Eubanks**

SeniorPolicyAnalyst | National Education Association

### SC-E1: Community Collaboration for Responsive Early Learning Career Pathways

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores the development of career pathways that reflect the experiences and needs of early childhood educators. Faculty will lead a systems-building discussion on professional development, collaboration, financial supports, and career advancement. Participants will engage with servant leaders from Miami to explore strategies that strengthen connections between professional development, practice, and long-term career growth in early childhood education.

ALL EC ROLES ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Rachel Spector**

Director of Programs | The Children's Trust



**Liz Lauren**

Associate Director of Programs | The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County



**Pamela Tuttle-Hollingsworth**

SeniorVicePresidentforStrategic Initiatives and Program Development | Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

### SC-E2: Cultivating Competence: 5 Must-Have Systems to Support Professional Development for P-5 Educators

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores practical strategies for strengthening professional development to better support educators working with children from prenatal to age five. Faculty will lead discussions on essential systems that empower educators, enhance cultural competence, and address disparities in early learning. Participants will gain actionable insights to improve professional growth, strengthen teaching practices, and create lasting positive impacts for children and families.

ALL EC ROLES ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speaker



**Flora Gomez**

Principal Consultant | Teach for Teachers, Inc.

### SC-E3: What's Happening: An Update from the Commission on Professional Excellence in Early Childhood Education

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle provides an update on the work of the Commission on Professional Excellence in Early Childhood Education (ECE Commission) in advancing a unified and cohesive early childhood education profession—its mission, as originally outlined in Unifying Framework for the Early Childhood Education Profession. Faculty will lead discussions on the ECE Commission's latest initiatives and explore how educators across states and settings are shaping this effort. Through interactive conversations and resource sharing, participants will gain insights into this national initiative and discover ways to stay engaged and contribute.

ALL EC ROLES ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speaker



**Shyrelle Eubanks**

Senior Policy Analyst | National Education Association

### LS-E1: From Brain Research to New Clinical and Intervention Models: Supporting Young Children in Foster Care

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 324-326

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches to health and mental health assessment within pediatric care and early intervention, grounded in brain research. Presenters will highlight innovative models designed to support young children in foster care and discuss how integrated care strategies can help address the effects of early adversity. Case studies will illustrate practical applications of these approaches in clinical and intervention settings.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, EI, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-4; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES IECMH POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Maria Kroupina**

faculty, department of pediatrics | Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, of Minnesota



**Jeff Wozniak**

Professor | University of Minnesota



**Jessica Simacek**

University of Minnesota

### LS-E2: Reimagining Workforce Support Systems in Early Childhood Home Visiting

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 308

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores strategies to strengthen the early childhood home visiting workforce by examining national competencies, professional learning communities, and workplace experiences. Presenters will share key findings from three studies on workforce support and job satisfaction, highlighting actionable strategies to enhance professional development and program effectiveness. Attendees will gain insights into building more supportive systems that improve retention and overall impact in home visiting programs.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES CWSS IECMH POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Ashley Shafer**

Post Doctoral Associate | Office of Child Development, Family Foundations Early Head Start, University of Pittsburgh



**Deborah Fuller**

Assistant Director, Research and Evaluation | University of Delaware



**Laura Nathans**

Researcher | Baby TALK

### LS-E3: Discover the Power of Intergenerational Learning and Inquiry-Based STEAM Education

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 309

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Join Museum experts to explore the benefits of intergenerational learning and inquiry-based STEAM education. This session will highlight the role of communities of practice in supporting young children's early science experiences and fostering their science identity. Engage in group discussions, reflect on your practices, and leave with rich resources and practical ideas to inspire and enhance your future teaching!

**Discipline(s):** ECE, Multi;

**Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-1; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES ECE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Ilana April**

Assistant Director of Elementary Learning | American Museum of Natural History



**Kristen Olson**

Senior Manager of Curriculum and the Living Collection | American Museum of Natural History



**Bilexis Casado**

Assistant Director | Early Childhood and Community Programs | American Museum of Natural History

### LS-E4: Running the Numbers: A Practical Guide to Estimating Costs of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation with the New Calculator

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 307

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session introduces the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) Cost Calculator, a tool designed to help estimate and plan for the costs of IECMH consultation services. Presenters will discuss the development process, including national vetting and key improvements, and provide guidance on its implementation. The session will conclude with a real-world example from the Louisiana IECMH program, followed by a Q&A to explore practical applications and considerations for use in various settings.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

**Speakers**



**Meghan Schmelzer**

Senior Manager | ZERO TO THREE



**Angela Keyes**

Associate Professor | Tulane University School of Medicine



**Jordana Ash**

Harris Community Program Co-Director | University of Colorado, School of Medicine

**LS-E5: Understanding and Supporting Military Families with Young Children: Culture, Challenges, and Strategies**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 310

**LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Military families navigate unique challenges that can impact the well-being of young children and their caregivers. This session provides an overview of military culture and the modern experiences of families with young children (ages 0-3), offering insights into their needs and strengths. Attendees will gain practical strategies to better support this often-overlooked population.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider; **Competency:** P5-5; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR DIRECT SERVICE MULTI-DISCIPLINE

**Speakers**



**Jonathon Gonzales**

Military Family Projects | Zero To Three



**Summer Jones**

Senior Writer and Training Specialist | ZERO TO THREE



**Amy Sheldon**

Senior Writer and Training Specialist | Military Family Projects - ZTT

**II-B1, Part 2: Building For Babies: A State Policy Self-Assessment Tool**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 318-320

**ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

A strong prenatal-to-three system ensures that every family has access to the services and supports they need while being guided by effective state policies. This Issue Intensive introduces Building for Babies: A State Policy Self-Assessment Suite, a comprehensive tool designed to help states evaluate and strengthen infant and toddler policies across health, family support, early learning, and system collaboration. The suite includes a self-assessment with over 100 policy recommendations, a Baby Book with national resources and state examples, and strategies for fostering cross-sector collaboration. Participants will explore how this tool can be used to facilitate critical discussions, prioritize policies, and create actionable plans tailored to their state, territory, or community. Drawing from a real-world pilot experience, this session will demonstrate how cross-sector teams including policymakers, providers, and parents, used the tool to identify shared priorities and drive system change. Through guided exercises, attendees will practice using the self-assessment suite and strategize its application within their own policy contexts.

**Discipline(s):** Multi; **Roles(s):** Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Advanced

MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

**Speakers**



**Christy Stanton**

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | ZERO TO THREE



**Katrina Coburn**

Senior Manager of State Policy | ZERO TO THREE

## II-B2. Part 2: Centering Relationships for Systems Change: Practices for Early Childhood Educators to Transform Relationships with Each Other, Families, and Children

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 321-323

### ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) Early childhood educators prioritize relationships in their programs, but how often

do they extend the same relationship-based approach

to themselves and their colleagues? This interactive Issue Intensive explores the power of authentic connection in fostering personal and systemic transformation. Participants will examine the barriers that create division, reflect on the emotional impact of disconnection, and engage in practices that promote trust, understanding, and mutual support. Through guided reflection and discussion, early education and allied professionals will gain strategies to strengthen their relationships with colleagues, families, and the broader early learning community. Learn simple and instantly implementable practices that lay the groundwork for meaningful and lasting change in the field.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Advanced

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

### Speaker



**Nanci Luna Jimenez**

President and Founder | Luna Jiménez Institute for Social Transformation

## II-B3, Part 2: The ROI of RSC: Considering the Fiscal and Emotional Impact of RSC on the IECMH Workforce

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 327-329

### ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

How can we effectively demonstrate the return on investment (ROI) of Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC) in the infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) workforce? This Issue Intensive explores Tennessee's statewide, cross-sector, longitudinal evaluation of RSC, which has grown from an initial pilot in 2018 to a robust initiative supporting over 300 professionals across home visiting, child care, and clinical IECMH sectors. Presenters will share key findings on RSC's impact on workforce well-being, retention, and efficacy, along with the methods, measures, and advocacy strategies used to sustain and expand the initiative. Participants will engage in small group discussions to explore how evaluation data can support funding efforts, ongoing assessment, and policy advocacy to strengthen the IECMH workforce. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for using data to advocate for the integration and expansion of RSC in their own communities.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Advanced

ADMINISTRATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Alison Peak**

Chief Executive Officer | Allied Behavioral Health Solutions



**Diana Morelen**

Associate Professor | East Tennessee State University

## HS-E1, Part 1: HealthySteps and Value-Based Care: How Evidence-Based Care Supports the Journey to Outcomes, Value, and Sustainability

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 302-303

### HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Planning for HealthySteps sustainability in all practices is something that cannot be left to chance. Focusing on revenues and value-based care means program leaders need solutions for ongoing program support. This session will show how HealthySteps will increase pay-for-performance compensation while ensuring the proven superior outcomes for babies and families.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Intermediate

HEALTHYSTEPS

## Speakers



**Warren Brodine**

Managing Director, Delivery Systems | Health Management Associates, Inc.



**Christina Altmayer**

Senior Vice President | HMA

## HS-E2, Part 1: Capturing Care in Context: family-centered approaches to data collection for HealthySteps quality improvement and evaluation

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Room 301

**HEALTHY STEPS SESSION** **ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Ready to center and strengthen patient and family voice in your quality improvement and program evaluation activities? In this session, we will review the community engagement continuum of emerging best practices and pragmatic approaches to data collection for program improvement that centers patient- and family perspectives.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-8*; **Level:** *Introductory*

HEALTHY STEPS

## Speakers



**Sarah Ronis**

Associate Professor, Pediatrics | UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital



**Alissa Huth-Bocks**

Director, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute | Wayne State University



**Kimberly Burkhart**

Clinical Psychologist/Associate Professor | UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

## LL-B- Part 3: Program and Service Leadership: Transformative Leadership—Strengthening Teams, Programs, and Outcomes

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 316-317

**LEADERSHIP LAB**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Transformative leadership isn't a solo endeavor—it's about cultivating the collective capacity to inspire, guide, and drive meaningful change. This Leadership Lab is designed for Program and Service Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors seeking to deepen their shared leadership skills and strengthen collaboration across Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) systems.

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**Discipline(s):** *IECMH, ECE, Multi*; **Roles(s):** *Program/Service Administrators (Supervisors, Coordinators, Managers, and Directors) and Direct Service Professionals (Early Childhood Educators, Clinicians)*; **Competency:** *P5-6*; **Level:** *Intermediate*

ADMINISTRATOR

ECE

IECMH

## Speakers



**Kimberlee J. Hendricks**



**Lynette Aytch**

Director | ZERO TO THREE

## BabyTalks Group F (BT-F): Family Strengths & Potentials

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Exhibit Hall, Theater 1

**BABY TALKS (BT)**

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

**Discipline(s):** EI, ECE, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-2 & 8 ; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES ECE MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Jessica Castillo**

Health Systems and Family Resilience Program Officer | First 5 Orange County



**Laura Walsh**

Chief Program Officer | LINC (Literacy in Community)



**Josh Barocas**

Other | LINC

### BT-F1: Stronger Together: Leveraging Group Connections to Empower Families and Streamline Success

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

#### BABY TALKS (BT)

How can collaboration strengthen family engagement and streamline program success? This Baby Talk will highlight how six Orange County agencies joined forces to host regional group connections for families, increasing referrals, reducing planning burdens, and addressing community needs. Participants will explore key benefits of this approach and consider ways to adapt similar strategies to enhance program effectiveness in their communities.

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Jessica Castillo**

Health Systems and Family Resilience Program Officer | First 5 Orange County



**Alexandra Hernandez-Sanders**

Family Support Specialist | Abrazar Inc

### BT-F2: Reimagining Literacy: Families as Community Change makers

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

#### BABY TALKS (BT)

How can families drive community-wide literacy change? This Baby Talk will highlight LINC's innovative, two-generational approach, which blends the science of reading with community-led, responsive practices. Participants will explore how this model empowers families to combat illiteracy, create sustainable literacy-rich environments, and foster lasting educational transformation.

ALL EC ROLES ECE

#### Speakers



**Laura Walsh**

Chief Program Officer | LINC (Literacy in Community)



**Josh Barocas**

Other | LINC

### SynergyCirclesGroup(SC-F): Looking at Language and Literacy Development

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 314-315

#### SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This Synergy Circles session is themed: Looking at Language and Literacy Development. It explores strategies to nurture early literacy from birth through age five. Participants will discuss creating literacy-rich environments for young children, engaging expectant and new parents in early literacy practices, and applying research-based approaches to strengthen reading foundations. Through rotating discussions, attendees will gain practical tools to support language and literacy development in early childhood settings.

**Discipline(s):** ECE, IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Student; **Competency:** P5-1; **Level:** Introductory

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE

#### Speakers



**Melissa McCall**  
Owner/Consultant | Moving Little Minds, LLC



**Betsy Diamant-Cohen**  
Executive Director | Mother Goose on the Loose, LLC



**Carrie Sanders**  
Youth Services Coordinator | Maryland State Library Agency



**Amanda Berry**  
Children's Library Specialist | Frederick County Public Libraries



**Courtney Jackson**  
Birth Through Five Literacy Coach | Quality Care for Children of Georgia

### SC-F1: Little and Literacy - Practical Strategies to Build Literacy Skills with Our Littlest Learners

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores how to create literacy-rich environments from the very beginning! Faculty will lead discussions on the role of repetition in brain development and learning, highlighting effective strategies for engaging young children. Participants will examine the six main components of early literacy and assess their teaching practices to identify opportunities for growth and improvement.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE**

#### Speaker



**Melissa McCall**  
Owner/Consultant | Moving Little Minds, LLC

### SC-F2: Engaging with Community Partners to Offer Early Literacy Programming to Expectant & Newborn Families

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This Synergy Circle explores strategies for connecting with expectant and new parents to promote early literacy. Faculty will lead discussions on modeling playful ways to talk, sing, and enjoy books with babies while reinforcing parents' essential role in their child's development. Participants will learn about Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings and explore how to adapt the program for their own settings.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE**

#### Speakers



**Betsy Diamant-Cohen**  
Executive Director | Mother Goose on the Loose, LLC



**Carrie Sanders**  
Youth Services Coordinator | Maryland State Library Agency



**Amanda Berry**  
Children's Library Specialist | Frederick County Public Libraries

### SC-F3: Food For Thought: Curating A Balanced Literacy Diet In The Birth Through Five Landscape

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**SYNERGY CIRCLES (SC)**

This session equips educators with practical, research-based strategies rooted in the Science of Reading to foster early literacy skills. By exploring the Scarborough Rope and Simple View of Reading, participants will connect these concepts to the birth-through-five landscape, building a foundational activity bank through interactive videos, discussions, and hands-on activities.

**ALL EC ROLES** **MULTI-DISCIPLINE**

#### Speaker



**Courtney Jackson**  
Birth Through Five Literacy Coach | Quality Care for Children of Georgia

### LS-F1: Well-Being for Caring Professionals: Practices, Programs, and Investments

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 307

## LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Presenters will explore the benefits of well-being services in early childhood education settings and introduce a comprehensive well-being model with demonstrated positive outcomes. The session will also examine the professional needs of those in related fields—such as child welfare, early intervention, home visiting, and pediatric nursing—and discuss how well-being programs can be adapted to support a broad range of early childhood professionals.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Adult Educator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Kerrie Schnake**

CEO | SouthCarolinaInfantMental Health Association



**Jamie Ward**

President | Curricula Concepts, Inc.



**Angela Baum**

InterimDean, College of Education | University of South Carolina

## LS-F2: Allegheny County PN3 Systems Collaborative: Support and Connection for Every Family

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 308

## LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

How can systems across health, early learning, and family support work together to improve outcomes for children from prenatal to age three? This session highlights Allegheny County's approach to bringing together county government, community organizations, and providers to strengthen collaboration. Presenters will share strategies for leveraging funding, data, and community engagement to build more connected and effective supports for families.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, ECE; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher; **Competency:** P5-8; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR IECMH POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

### Speakers



**Cara Ciminillo**

Executive Director | Trying Together



**Yazmin Bennett-Kelly**

Healthy Start Inc, (Pittsburgh)

## LS-F3: Supporting Caregivers with Intellectual Disability in Trauma Treatment with Young Children

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 318-320

## LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores key considerations for supporting caregivers with intellectual disabilities in relationship-based trauma treatment with young children. Presenters will apply these concepts through a case study of two young children who experienced significant neglect, highlighting adaptations made to treatment to support the mother's unique needs. Attendees will gain insights into tailoring trauma-informed approaches to enhance caregiver engagement and child well-being.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, CWSS; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator; **Competency:** P5-3; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR CWSS DIRECT SERVICE IECMH

### Speakers



**Michelle Roy**

Program Manager | WellPower



**Jacqueline Jacobs Tynan**  
Psychologist | RightStartforInfant Mental Health

### LS-F4: Whole Person Leadership: Leading with Vulnerability, Inclusion, and Intention

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 327-329

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session explores strength-based and reflective leadership styles, focusing on compassionate accountability, a whole-person mindset, and inclusive practices. Presenters will examine opportunities to embrace vulnerability, foster courage, and strengthen team dynamics. Attendees will gain insights into practical leadership strategies and have opportunities for discussion, collaboration, and networking.

**Discipline(s):**

*Multi, IECMH; Roles(s): Program/Service Administrator; Competency: P5-6; Level: Intermediate*

ADMINISTRATOR

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

Speaker



**Holly Arnold**  
Manager, Developmental Services Health Initiative | Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

### LS-F5: All Babies Cry: An Evidence Based Campaign to Prevent Infant Abuse

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 309

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here for session evaluation and CEU Quiz](#)

This session provides an in-depth look at incidents of severe bodily injury in children under one year old, examining patterns in risk factors and the impact of caregiver relationship dynamics. Presenters will review key findings and discuss evidence-based prevention strategies to help mitigate future risk and support families in crisis.

**Discipline(s):** CWSS, EI; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-4; **Level:** Introductory

ADMINISTRATOR CWSS

DIRECT SERVICE

EII

Speakers



**Molly Stegink**  
Child Welfare Supervisor



**Camille Gadziala**  
Child Welfare Intake Supervisor | Douglas County Human Services

### LS-F6: Championing Housing Solutions for Families

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 321-323

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#) Homelessness during pregnancy or in the first three years of a child's life has

lifelong consequences on development, health and mental well-being. With support from the Pritzker Children's Initiative, a coalition of organizations, including ZERO TO THREE, is building a policy agenda addressing homelessness for families with children prenatal-3 years old and promoting strong early childhood development and economic security. This session will explore family housing needs, the federal and state policy agenda, communications strategies for elevating the message that homelessness is preventable, and actions you can take to champion these solutions.

**Discipline(s):** CWSS, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Parent Education/Support Provider, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES CWSS

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

Speaker



**David Mandell**  
Senior Policy Officer | ZERO TO THREE

### LS-F7: Innovative Leaders Making a Powerful Difference: IECMH Emerging Leadership Awardees

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 310

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Meet the 2025 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Emerging Leadership Awardees and learn how they are making an impact on IECMH practices, policies, and systems. Be inspired by their passion, contributions, and vision for the field. This session offers an opportunity to reflect on your own professional journey while gaining insights from these innovative leaders.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Direct Service Professional, Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate, Researcher, Student; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ALL EC ROLES IECMH POLICYMAKER RESEARCHER

#### Speakers



**Janina E. Fariñas**

CEO & Founder | La Cocina



**Sarah Barclay Hoffman**

Program Manager, Community Mental Health, Policy and Advocacy | Children's National Hospital



**Diana Morelen**

Associate Professor | East Tennessee State University



**Anne Howley**

Program Coordinator | ZTT

### LS-F8: Taking a Relationship-based Approach to Financing and Systems Policy: Lessons from Maryland's Work with the Financing Policy Project

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 324-326

LECTURE SESSIONS (LS)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

This session highlights Maryland's work with the Financing Policy Project to develop sustainable Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) financing policies. Presenters will explore how reflective and relationship-based approaches can strengthen interdisciplinary coalitions, support workforce initiatives, and advance evidence-based policies. Attendees will gain insights into applying these strategies to their own financing and systems policy efforts.

**Discipline(s):** IECMH, Multi; **Roles(s):** Program/Service Administrator, Policymaker/Advocate; **Competency:** P5-6; **Level:** Intermediate

ADMINISTRATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINE POLICYMAKER

#### Speakers



**Alex Busuito**

Senior Technical Assistance Specialist | Zero to Three



**D'Lisa Worthy**

Program Administrator | BHA



**Melissa Rock**

Birth to Three Project Director | Maryland Family Network

### HS-F1, Part 2: HealthySteps and Value-Based Care: How Evidence-Based Care Supports the Journey to Outcomes, Value, and Sustainability

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Room 302-303

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Planning for HealthySteps sustainability in all practices is something that cannot be left to chance. Focusing on revenues and value-based care means program leaders need solutions for ongoing program support. This session will show how HealthySteps will increase pay-for-performance compensation while ensuring the proven superior outcomes for babies and families.

**Roles(s):** HealthySteps Affiliates; **Competency:** P5-7; **Level:** Intermediate

HEALTHYSTEPS

#### Speakers



**Warren Brodine**

Managing Director, Delivery Systems | Health Management Associates, Inc.



**Christina Altmayer**

Senior Vice President | HMA

## HS-F2, Part 2: Capturing Care in Context: family-centered approaches to data collection for HealthySteps quality improvement and evaluation

2:30PM–3:30PM | Location:Room301

HEALTHYSTEPS SESSION

ISSUE INTENSIVES (II)

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Ready to center and strengthen patient and family voice in your quality improvement and program evaluation activities? In this session, we will review the community engagement continuum of emerging best practices and pragmatic approaches to data collection for program improvement that centers patient- and family perspectives.

**Roles(s):** *HealthySteps Affiliates*; **Competency:** *P5-8*; **Level:** *Introductory*

HEALTHYSTEPS

### Speakers



**Sarah Ronis**

Associate Professor, Pediatrics | UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital



**Alissa Huth-Bocks**

Director, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute | Wayne State University



**Kimberly Burkhart**

Clinical Psychologist/Associate Professor | UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital

## Science Plenary: The Science and Power of Hope with Dr. Chan Hellman

4:00PM–5:00PM | Location:BallroomI-IV

PLENARY/KEYNOTE

[Click here to complete Session Evaluation and CEUs](#)

Join internationally renowned researcher, speaker, and award-winning author Dr. Chan Hellman for an inspiring exploration of the science of hope. Discover how hope serves as a powerful psychological strength, enhancing resilience in the face of stress and adversity.

Drawing on over 15 years of groundbreaking research, Dr. Hellman will highlight how nurturing hope is a key predictor of well-being, fostering positive outcomes for children, parents, and families. Gain actionable insights into:

Strengthening parent-child relationships through hope, Buffering the effects of adversity with hope, Practical strategies for nurturing and sustaining hope as a coping resource, and The role of hope in protecting early childhood service providers from burnout and secondary traumatic stress.

Leave this plenary equipped with a practical understanding of how hope can transform personal and professional lives.

ALL EC ROLES

MULTI-DISCIPLINE

### Speaker



**Chan M. Hellman, PhD**

Professor, University of Oklahoma | Science Plenary