



**RAISING
CHILD CARE,
RAISING
AMERICA.
MAY 19-22**



WELCOME TO CCAOA'S 2024 SYMPOSIUM

Welcome to Child Care Aware® of America's 2024 Symposium—Raise Child Care. Raise America! Never before has America been more child care aware. Never before have we had the opportunity to make it child care strong.

This year's symposium is designed to help you seize the moment and raise America. As in past years, we address improving quality, accessibility, affordability, fortifying the workforce and increasing funding—and we'll take this message to our elected officials during Advocacy Day.

This year we go a step further to focus on the essential role child care plays in advancing health equity and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow and build lifelong healthy behaviors.

I want to thank our stellar group of speakers, who include leaders from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, The Abecedarian Group, LLC, and the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Through a variety of plenary, individual and concurrent sessions, the 2024 Symposium will help you deepen and share your expertise while gaining insight into how to fit your focus and those of others into a successful movement for powerful impact.

Together, we can seize the opportunity in today's child care crisis. America is child care aware, we can make it child care strong.

Warmly,



Susan Gale Perry
Chief Executive Officer
Child Care Aware® of America



Content Tracks

Our tracks make it easy to find and select sessions on topics that matter most to you.

● Cutting-Edge Research

Data is one of our most valuable tools. Hear the most up-to-date and relevant research from experts in the field on subjects that will make the most impact on your work.

● Elevating the Child Care System

Elevating the child care system involves family and community engagement, capacity building, workforce development, knowledge about state licensing requirements and more. This track will highlight solutions to these varied challenges child care businesses face today, and how systems-level leaders are instrumental in this success.

● Innovative Programs and Practices

Meet innovative thought leaders in child care approaching problems with exciting solutions. Sessions will touch on forward-thinking approaches on current child care hot topics, leadership development, coaching and strategies for training and technical assistance.

● Stand for Child Care

How can we create a united voice for child care? Movement building involves connecting with businesses, policymakers and social services in our community to advocate and support policies for quality, affordable child care. Learn how to advocate and make impactful connections within your community.

CONNECT
TO WIFI 📶

NETWORK: MARRIOTTBONVOY_CONFERENCE

PASSWORD: CCAOA2024

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE*

Saturday, May 18

5PM - 7PM
Registration/Information Desk Open

Sunday, May 19	Monday, May 20	Tuesday, May 21	Wednesday, May 22
8AM - 5PM Registration/ Information Desk Open	7AM - 5:30PM Registration/ Information Desk Open	7AM - 10AM Registration/ Information Desk Open	7AM - 10AM Registration/ Information Desk Open
7:30AM - 10:15AM Board Meeting	7:30AM - 8:30AM Breakfast 🍴	7AM - 8AM Breakfast 🍴	7AM - 8AM Breakfast 🍴
10:30AM - 11:30AM Joint Council Meeting <i>(Invitation Only)</i>	7:30AM - 8:30AM Peer Partner Breakfast <i>(Invitation Only)</i>	8AM - 9AM Exhibits Open	8AM - 9AM Plenary ★
11:30AM - 12PM Snack Break with Exhibitors	8AM - 5PM Exhibits Open	8AM - 5PM Advocacy Day	9AM - 11:30AM Exhibits Open
11:30AM - 6PM Exhibits Open	8:30AM - 9:30AM Plenary ★	2PM - 5PM Exhibits Re-Open	9AM - 9:15AM Break with Exhibitors
12PM - 2PM Pre-Symposium Sessions <i>(Included with Registration)</i>	9:30AM - 10AM Break with Exhibitors	2PM - 5PM Registration/ Information Desk Open	9:15AM - 9:30AM Annual Meeting
2PM - 2:30PM Break with Exhibitors	10AM - 11:30AM Concurrent Sessions	2PM - 5PM Advocacy Day Wrap-Up and Snack Break	9:30AM - 10:45AM Closing Plenary ★
2:30PM - 3:45PM Concurrent Sessions	11:30AM - 12:30PM Lunch 🍴		11AM - 12:15PM Concurrent Sessions
4PM - 5:15PM Opening Plenary ★	12:30PM - 1:30PM Congressional Staff Panel		12:30PM Symposium Concludes
	1:30PM - 2:15PM Advocacy Day Prep		
	2:15PM - 2:50PM State Networking Breakout		
	3PM - 3:30PM Snack Break with Exhibitors		
	3:30PM - 5PM Concurrent Sessions		
	5:15PM - 6:30PM Networking Reception		

*Subject to change



SATURDAY, MAY 18

5PM
–
7PM

Registration/Information Desk Open

Grand Foyer

SUNDAY, MAY 19

8AM
–
5PM

Registration/Information Desk Open

Grand Foyer

11:30AM
–
12PM

Snack Break with Exhibitors

Grand Foyer

Enjoy light refreshments while you visit the exhibitors and learn all about the products and services they have to offer.

Noon
—
2PM

Pre-Symposium Sessions

Included with Registration

● Stand for Child Care

Seizing the Moment: Advocacy Strategies and Easy-to-Use Tools that Work

Salon F&G

Children's Council of San Francisco advocates passionately for child care at the city, county and state levels. They know seizing the moment and using our voice is the way to get decision-makers' attention. In this interactive session, they will share best practices in advocacy, including stakeholder identification, communications strategies and resource allocation. How do you choose the right issue on which to focus? How can you make your message succinct and clear and achieve the goal you are aspiring to? They will also share their advocacy wins and losses and discuss (and practice!) tips and tricks for effective public speaking and impact. The goal is for everyone to leave feeling confident and comfortable advocating for a high-quality, accessible, affordable and equitable child care system that we all deserve.

Presenters:

Alex Maykowski, *Senior Manager Public Policy & Organizing, Children's Council of San Francisco*

Maria Luz Torre, *Parent Voices Manager, Children's Council of San Francisco*

Sierra Fischer, *Public Policy Intern, Children's Council of San Francisco*

● Elevating the Child Care System

Speaking a Common Language to Make a Greater Impact: An introduction to the revised Professional Development Glossary

Salon D&E

Consistent and well-defined professional development (PD) language is the foundation for effective communication with colleagues, stakeholders, policymakers and advocates. CCAoA and NAEYC's newly revised and updated glossary ensure the field uses a common language to describe education, training and technical assistance terms, increasing understanding about the pivotal role professional development plays in creating equitable quality care for all young children and their families. Learn more about how ECE professionals can use this tool to strengthen our ability as a field to communicate well and remain focused on our shared goal of quality PD.

Presenters:

Susan Butler-Staub, *Senior Director of Professional Development, Child Care Aware® of America*

Shannon Cameron Quinn, *Early Care and Education Specialist, Child Care Aware® of America*

Mary Harrill, *Senior Director, Higher Education, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

● **Innovative Programs and Practices**

Innovative Approaches States are Using to Raise and Sustain Quality Initiatives

Salon 6

Join this interactive session to learn and engage with colleagues across the US around innovative solutions to seize the moment to advance and sustain quality initiatives. Panelists will share the evolution of initiatives including how they are being implemented, how they are measuring success and what their plans are for sustainability.

Presenters:

Jodi Whiteman, Director, Partnership and Growth, LENA

Dan Harris, Executive Director, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Amanda Poyser, Program Manager – Grants, Child Care Aware® of Kansas

Janet Singerman, President & CEO, Child Care Resources Inc.

Judith Santmire, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association

● **Elevating the Child Care System**



Documentary Screening: “Make a Circle”

Salon 5

Embark on a journey into the heart of early childhood education with Make a Circle, a sneak preview documentary screening at the Child Care Aware of America Symposium in May. A stirring portrayal of life as early childhood educators, this film is a powerful call to action for a society that must reevaluate and revitalize its approach to the education of its youngest citizens. Don't miss this groundbreaking documentary and join the grassroots movement.

Attendees will hear from and be able to pose questions to one of the filmmakers, as well as child care providers featured in the film with experience working in the home and center programs, during a special plenary session following the screening.

Presenters:

Jen Bradwell, Co-Director and Producer, “Make a Circle”

Anne Bauer, Director, All Peoples School, Aquatic Park

Patricia Moran, Owner, Creative Learning Center

2PM
2:30PM

Break with Exhibitors

Grand Foyer

2:30PM
-
3:45PM

Concurrent Sessions

FEATURED
SESSION

● Stand for Child Care

Amplifying Parent Voices: Empowering Change in Child Care Policymaking

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Learn how Connecticut is standing up the only official body of parent child care advisors in the nation to maximize its ability to build and maintain a child care system that best meets the needs of all of its children and families across race, background and circumstance -- and how you can apply lessons learned to your own parent advocacy!

Presenters:



Caroline Austin,
*Parent Cabinet Design
Committee Consultant*



Joceline Fidalgo,
*Manager, Third Sector
Capital Partners*



Kesha Lee, *Managing
Director, Third Sector
Capital Partners*



Symone McGuire,
*Parent Cabinet Member
Region 2*



Bianca Shinn,
*Parent Cabinet Member
Region 1*



Elena Trueworthy,
*Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut
Office of Early Childhood*

● Innovative Programs and Practices

Investing in Family Child Care Leadership

Salon D&E

Home-based child care is a critical resource for families, yet the number of licensed family child care programs has steeply declined. An often-overlooked solution is Family Child Care (FCC) leadership. In this session, presenters will highlight how states, the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC), FCC associations and educator-led community-based networks are addressing inequities in early care and education (ECE) systems by centering FCC in ECE system design and offering authentic, responsive and relevant supports to FCC educators.

Presenters:

Yesenia Robles-Brown, *Chief of Staff, National Association of Family Child Care*

Kenia Reinoso, *Maryland Family Child Care Educator and National Association of Family Child Care Policy Fellow*

● **Stand for Child Care**

State Child Care Policy: From Child Care Aware to Child Care Strong

Salon 5

While Congress remains gridlocked, states have made major advancements to support child care access, affordability, quality, and sustainability in the last two years. Together, we'll dig into how states are supporting their child care systems, especially in the wake of relief funding ending, and what the new requirements under recent changes to Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) regulations mean for states moving forward. Participants will be given time to connect and strategize with peers on how they will ramp up and sharpen their work at the state level to promote and implement these changes made in the final rule.

Presenters:

Diane Girouard, *State Policy Senior Analyst, Child Care Aware® of America*

Rachel Wessler, *Policy Analyst, Child Care Aware® of America*

● **Innovative Programs and Practices**

Building Strong Relationships: Navigating Conflict and Building Trust

Salon F&G

Discover techniques for cultivating robust relationships, adeptly handling conflicts and establishing systematic approaches founded on trust. In our daily roles as child care professionals, we engage in diverse environments. Join us to deepen your expertise to anticipate, strategize and guide discussions to navigate potential conflicts effectively. Participants will practice navigating conflict professionally by understanding the background and needs of each individual. Participants will analyze relationship-building strategies to improve their communication skills.

Presenters:

Kat Martinez, *Child Care Resource & Referral TA Specialist, The Research Institute at Western Oregon University*

Valeria Anderson, *Bilingual FCCO TA Specialist, The Research Institute at Western Oregon University*



● **Cutting-Edge Research**

When Child Care Subsidies Are Out of Reach, Who is Most Impacted?

Salon 6

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) serves as the primary source of federal funding for states to help families with low incomes afford child care, and to support broader child care quality. However, limited federal investments, state funding constraints and restrictive policies mean that subsidy access is out of reach for far too many children and families. Finding affordable care can be especially burdensome for families with low incomes and even more so for those who also experience compounding racial inequities, such as those faced by Black, Hispanic and other communities of color. This presentation will explore new analyses of potential eligibility for, and access to, CCDF-funded care for families with low incomes in all 50 states and Washington, DC, by race and ethnicity. Following an interactive activity, presenters will share the latest research and data findings related to the under- and overrepresentation of racial and ethnic groups among children potentially eligible for a subsidy. Presenters will then engage attendees in identifying various policy and implementation barriers that further drive inequities, as well as the relevant historical context.

Presenters:

Stephanie Schmit, *Director, Child Care and Early Education, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)*

Alisha Saxena, *Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)*

● **Cutting-Edge Research**

Developing Successful Strategies Through Mapping Child Care Providers

Roslyn

This workshop empowers early childhood education stakeholders to create GIS maps of licensed child care providers. Attendees of this hands-on session actively learn how to identify child care supply gaps, make data-driven decisions, and engage partners to improve your state's ECE landscape.

Presenters:

Alex Cooper, *Director of GIS Research, Child Care Aware® of America*

Anne Hedgepeth, *Chief of Policy, Child Care Aware® of America*

4PM
5:15PM

OPENING PLENARY*

Lessons Learned and What's Next for CCDBG Reauthorization

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

A decade has passed since the last reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which reshaped federal support for child care. What led to the success of that historic reauthorization, how far have we come, and where do we go next? Is CCDBG still our best vehicle for moving toward high-quality, equitable access to child care for families across America? The leaders who helped shape the 2014 CCDBG reauthorization success will explore our greatest opportunities now to make real progress, and what lessons from the past can guide our future strategy.

Panelists:



Linda K. Smith,
*Director of Policy, Buffett Early
Childhood Institute and Senior Fellow
Child Care Aware® of America*



Celia Hartman Sims,
*Founder and President,
The Abecedarian Group, LLC*



Mario Cardona,
*Senior Advisor for Early Childhood
Development & Education, White House
Domestic Policy Council*

Moderator:



Susan Gale Perry,
*Chief Executive Officer,
Child Care Aware® of America*

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#CCAoASymposium24





MONDAY, MAY 20

7AM
–
5:30PM

Registration/Information Desk Open

Grand Foyer

8AM
–
5PM

Exhibits Open

Grand Foyer

7:30AM
–
8:30AM

Breakfast

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

7:30AM
–
8:30AM

Peer Partner Breakfast – (Invitation Only)

Salon D&E

The CCAoA Peer Partners Program is a networking opportunity that attendees registered for in advance. It is designed to help them connect and engage with others during the Symposium.

PLENARY ✨

8:30AM
9:30AM

Empowering Voices: Reflections on the Experiences of Early Educators in the “Make a Circle” Documentary

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

This groundbreaking documentary, crafted by an award-winning filmmaking team, unveils the story of resilient child care providers who rise from the challenges of the pandemic and continue advocating for change. Make a Circle closely follows the directors and teachers at three child care programs over several years, capturing the magic within their classrooms, their personal struggles, and their unwavering commitment to a child care system that had already been pushed to its limits.

A stirring portrayal of life as early childhood educators, this film is a powerful call to action for a society that must reevaluate and revitalize its approach to the education of its youngest citizens. Don't miss this groundbreaking documentary and join the grassroots movement.

Presenters:



Jen Bradwell,
Co-Producer & Filmmaker,
“Make a Circle”



Anne Bauer,
Director,
All Peoples School



Patricia Moran,
Owner, Creative Learning Center

Facilitator:



Sandy Maldonado,
Director of Early Learning,
Child Care Aware of Washington

9:30AM
10AM

Break with Exhibitor

Grand Foyer

10AM
–
11:30AM

Concurrent Sessions

FEATURED
SESSION

● Stand for Child Care

Advancing Child Care: A Perspective from Government Officials

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Join Administration for Children and Families officials for a discussion about recent federal efforts to improve child care policies and support the early care and education workforce. Following updates, participants will be invited to ask questions and share perspectives from their state and local experiences.

Presenters:



Ruth Friedman,
*Director of the Office of
Child Care, Administration
for Children & Families*



Anne Hedgepeth,
*Chief of Policy,
Child Care Aware® of America*

● Stand for Child Care

Maximize Your Advocacy in an Election Year

Salon 5

Election season provides advocates a unique and powerful opportunity to advance child care issues in their community. With the 2024 election season underway, join us for a session to learn how you can maximize your advocacy efforts. Attendees will hear from industry leaders as they share rules and regulations around permissible electoral activities for 501(c)(3) organizations. Attendees will also be able to see what election activities look like in practice as a CCR&R panel shares examples of activities they have done to engage during election season. After this session, attendees will walk away with a strong understanding of what opportunities an election season can offer for child care issues and impact in their communities.

Presenters:

Nick Moe, *Public Policy Manager, thread*

Kristy Ritz, *Executive Director, West Virginia Association for Young Children*

Susan Finkle Sourlis, *Sr. Counsel, Affiliated Organizations, Alliance for Justice*

Brittany VanPelt, *Senior Specialist, Advocacy, Child Care Aware® of America*

Elise Cranston, *Director of Advocacy, Child Care Aware® of America*

● **Innovative Programs and Practices**

Strengthening Educator Pipelines and Pathways via Apprenticeship

Salon F&G

In this interactive discussion, participants will learn how Colorado Mesa University/CMU Tech Early Childhood Department (EDEC) is partnering with high schools and community members to draw in students with an interest in early education. We will be exploring the challenges and successes regarding embedding the National Child Development Associate Certification - National Office of Professional Recognition into concurrent enrollment where students earn college credit, 120 hours of CDA training and high school credits toward graduation; how the apprenticeship program is impacting the quality of child care in the communities the college serves; the increase in students' opportunities to receive quality mentoring while working in an early childhood setting; and the importance of embracing the diverse community, including people who are bilingual.

Presenters:

T. Vail Shultz-McCole, PI EDEC Apprenticeship Grant, Colorado Mesa University - CMU Tech

● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Opportunities for States to Expand Access to Child Care Assistance

Salon 6

This session explores the impact the lack of a comprehensive child care and early education system has on access to child care assistance. Presenters will review policy levers that can equitably increase access through a presentation, activity and discussion, and will share examples of positive state progress for anyone interested in making an impact through this approach.

Presenters:

Rachel Wilensky, Senior Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Shira Small, Research Assistant, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Alyssa Fortner, Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)



● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Supporting the Unique Needs of Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers

Roslyn

Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care is the most prevalent form of non-parental child care in our country, with over 5 million FFN caregivers looking after 11.5 million children, including 5.8 million children ages 0-5. Despite this fact, little is known about the characteristics and attributes of FFN caregivers. In this session we will look at data and information about FFN caregivers and their needs, discuss the unique role of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) in connecting to and serving FFN caregivers and explore the policy considerations of these approaches.

Presenters:

Alexandra Patterson, *Director of Policy and Strategy, Home Grown*

Cristi Carman, *Director, Stanford Center for Early Childhood*

Gracie Martinez, *Family Services Program Manager, Child Care Aware of Washington*

Lisa Conley, *Family, Friend & Neighbor Department Manager, BrightSpark Early Learning Services*

● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Re-Envisioning NAEYC Early Learning Program Accreditation: Lessons Learned So Far

Salon D&E

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is nearly one year into the process of re-envisioning accreditation to build a system that is more equitable, simpler, more transparent and that better provides feedback to drive quality improvement. In this session, presenters will discuss what's been learned so far and what is next. We will seek feedback from the audience to inform this ongoing work and future opportunities.

Presenters:

Meghan Salas Atwell, *Senior Director, Applied Research, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

Alissa Mwenelupembe, *Managing Director, Early Learning, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

Amanda Batts, *Director of Quality Assessment & Assurance, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

● **Innovative Programs and Practices**

Sustaining the Business of Child Care

McLean

Civitas Strategies team has intensively supported child care businesses across the nation through actionable business tools, one-on-one goal-based coaching and supportive systems for business coaches. Highlighting our experiences at the systems level in Texas, Wisconsin and Georgia, the presentation will focus on various ways to support child care businesses and effective implementation strategies. Matthew will share the greatest threats to child care businesses and opportunities for stability and growth and discuss how business coaches and other supports can most effectively help build a more sustainable future for child care businesses. Learn how business coaches can most impactfully join the movement to help build a better future for child care businesses.

Presenters:

Matthew Crescenzo, Associate Director of Government & Strategic Initiatives, Civitas Strategies

11:30AM
–
12:30PM

Lunch

12:30PM
–
1:30PM

PLENARY ★

Get Ready to Head to Capitol Hill: Tips from Congressional Staffers on Making an Impact

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Advocates will hear from Congressional staffers on the best strategies to engage with Congressional offices and insights into the current state of federal child care policies on Capitol Hill. This session will help attendees sharpen their advocacy efforts and tactics heading into the Symposium's Advocacy Day.

Presenters:

(invited) Staff from the Congressional Pre-K and Child Care Caucus

1:30PM
–
2:15PM

Prepare for Advocacy Day – Messaging and Materials to Raise Child Care

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Advocates will hear from CCAoA staff on the current federal landscape, impactful messaging for advocacy in 2024, an overview of Advocacy Day travel and logistics, and review online and print materials.

Presenters:

Elise Cranston, Director of Advocacy, Child Care Aware® of America

Christina Koch, Federal Policy Analyst, Child Care Aware® of America

2:15PM
2:50PM

Advocacy Day State Planning Time

Salon D&E, Salon F&G, Salon 5, Salon 6

Advocates will meet in breakouts by state to assemble agendas and talking points for their Advocacy Day meetings with lawmakers. Breakout room assignments will be shared in the previous session.

3PM
3:30PM

Snack Break with Exhibitors

Grand Foyer

Enjoy a coffee break while you visit the exhibitors and learn all about the products and services they have to offer.

3:30PM
5PM

Concurrent Sessions



● Elevating the Child Care System

Making Child Care Strong: Are We Ready?

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

We know the child care system is broken. While the threads we've used to patch together the frail and fragmented child care system are unraveling, never before has America been more child care aware. So, what does the ideal child care system look like and what will it take to get there? This session will share insights from the WeVision EarlyEd initiative and examine what families, educators and administrators want to see in their ideal child care system. We will also discuss what it will take to make child care strong and the crucial questions standing in our way.

Presenters:



Marica Cox Mitchell,
Vice President, Early Childhood,
Bainum Family Foundation



Jamal Berry,
President and CEO,
Educare DC

● Elevating the Child Care System

Moving Forward: An Equitable Future for the ECE Profession

Rosslyn

The Unifying Framework provides a roadmap for fortifying a well-prepared, effective, diverse, and well-compensated ECE profession, and recognizes the role that every stakeholder plays in facilitating this work. Included is a professional governance body that holds responsibility for setting the guidelines for the profession, setting the parameters for quality assurance for both the practitioners and the professional preparation programs, and serving as a collaborator with states as they implement the recommendations of the Unifying Framework. The Commission for Professional Excellence in ECE launched in 2021 to fulfill this responsibility. Learn from members of the Commission about its work and priorities.

Presenters:

Susan Gale Perry, *Chief Executive Officer, Child Care Aware® of America*

Michelle Kang, *Chief Executive Officer, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

Sarah LeMoine, *Senior Director, Professional Innovations, ZERO TO THREE*

Dr. Calvin Moore, *Chief Executive Officer, Council for Professional Recognition*

● Stand for Child Care

Increase Your Impact: Successful Strategies for Outreach and Education

Salon 6

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation generously provided CCAoA with funding to invest in efforts to build capacity for outreach and educational activity around the impact of federal relief and sustainable, long-term investments in child care that support all children, families and providers. In this session, recipients from four of the funded states, representing a range of program sizes and experiences, will share their work to:

- Create outreach and education efforts to demonstrate the impact of policies that support long-term change for all families, children and providers
- Include and raise the voices of families and providers
- Address inequities within the child care system, with a first-order priority on addressing issues of racial equity
- Develop and strengthen the capacity of child care professionals to engage in outreach and education
- Share initial outcomes, lessons learned and tips for how you can do outreach and education work in your own state or community

Presenters:

Mollie Smith, *Executive Director, Child Care Answers*

Jonny Carkin, *Advocacy and Coalition Director, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children*

Kara Porter, *Executive Vice President, Starting Point*

Paula Neth, *President & CEO, The Family Conservancy*

Elise Cranston, *Director of Advocacy, Child Care Aware® of America*

● **Cutting-Edge Research**

Listen, Learn and Amplify – RAPID/NAEYC’s Partnership to Survey the ECE Workforce and Parents in the Post-Cliff Era

Salon F&G

Throughout the pandemic, surveys conducted by both RAPID and NAEYC have proven vital in illustrating the depth and wide-reaching impacts of the child care crisis. In October 2023, RAPID and NAEYC chose to team up. Presenters will discuss the merits and motivations behind the collaboration and findings to date. Input from the audience will be gathered to inform this ongoing work.

Presenters:

Cristi Carman, *Director, RAPID Survey, Stanford Center on Early Childhood*

Meghan Salas Atwell, *Senior Director, Applied Research, National Association for the Education of Young Children*

● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Access and Opportunity: Child Care Aware® of America’s Spanish Supports Companion Guide

McLean

This session will introduce and explore Child Care Aware of America’s (CCAoA) Spanish Supports Companion Guide, which supports and enhances the onboarding and training of Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Staff and the child care workforce. CCAoA recognizes the work CCR&Rs and other systems-level leaders have done to support the early childhood community, both in response to the pandemic and the ongoing endeavor to strengthen child care business and increase equitable access to high-quality and affordable child care. It is through this perspective that the Spanish Supports Companion Guide for CCR&Rs was developed to elevate the existing resources currently in our toolbox, making the vital work of child care resource hubs accessible to the Spanish-speaking community.

Presenters:

Elizabeth López Acevedo, *Early Care and Education Specialist, Child Care Aware® of America*

Shannon Cameron Quinn, *Early Care and Education Specialist, Child Care Aware® of America*

Keila Garcia, *Program and Hispanic Services Manager, Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness*

● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Partnering to Support our Military Families

Salon D&E

Many families across the country struggle to find child care. Military families often face additional hurdles. Join Child Care Aware of America's Military team to learn about the many supports that CCAoA offers for military families and engage in conversation around how we can work together to help meet their unique needs.

Presenters:

Andrew Coates, Program Services Director, EFM Respite Care Programs, Child Care Aware® of America

Francisco Jamison, Chief of Military Programs and Strategy, Child Care Aware® of America

Audrey Kraemer, Program Services Director, Provider Services in Programs, Child Care Aware® of America

● **Elevating the Child Care System**

Saving Time, Money and Energy: Supporting Child Care Programs through a Shared Services Alliance in North Dakota

Alexandria

Presenters will discuss the current challenges facing child care programs and dig deeper into how Child Care Aware of North Dakota is finding innovative ideas to bolster business resilience in programs across the state through a Shared Services Alliance. The Shared Services Alliance saves programs time, improves revenue, bolsters staff and improves overall communication with families. Presenters will combine storytelling and an interactive presentation to share the early successes of providing the tools to build providers' efficiencies and capacity across the state.

Presenters:

Keely Ihry, Managing Director, South East Education Cooperative/Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

Paige Paislee, Start-Up Coordinator, South East Education Cooperative/Child Care Aware® of North Dakota

Verla Jung, Start-Up and Community Engagement Coordinator, South East Education Cooperative/Child Care Aware® of North Dakota



- **Elevating the Child Care System**

One State's Journey to Alternative Market Rate: It's Not Just About Cost Modeling

Salon 5

This session will delve into the journey of a state's approach to developing a process to set market rates using cost-based information. While cost modeling serves as a fundamental aspect of the process, the session will discuss the additional nuance and considerations that are essential to implementing rates that support a sustainable system. The discussion will emphasize the unique complexities and multifaceted dynamics involved in ensuring equitable access to quality child care. Join us to explore innovative approaches to determine appropriate subsidy rates, share experiences, and collectively envision a more equitable and sustainable child care system across the nation.

Presenters:

Amanda Danks, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Ariel Ford, Director of the Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Department of Health and Human Services

Janet Singerman, President & CEO, Child Care Resources Inc.

Karen Manship, Managing Director, American Institutes for Research

5:15PM

6:30PM

Networking Reception

SkyView, Grand Foyer, and Salon D&E

Join us for drinks and appetizers as you catch up with your colleagues. Visit with peers and our sponsor Lena in Salon D&E.

Sponsored by:



TUESDAY, MAY 21

7AM | **Registration/Information Desk Open**
10AM | Grand Foyer

8AM | **Exhibits Open**
9AM | Grand Foyer

7AM | **Breakfast** *Turn in passports by 9AM
8AM | Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

8AM | **Advocacy Day**
5PM | Advocates will meet with their lawmakers' offices on Capitol Hill in groups with others from the same state to share critical on-the-ground perspectives from the child care field that will help inform future investments in federal child care funding.

2PM | **Exhibits Re-Open**
5PM | Grand Foyer

2PM | **Registration/Information Desk Re-Open**
5PM | Grand Foyer

2PM | **Advocacy Day Wrap-up & Snack**
5PM | Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

ENTER TO WIN \$250!

Complete Your CCAoA Exhibitor Passport by 9AM on Tuesday, May 21.

Attendees must visit all participating exhibitors in order to be eligible for the \$250 grand prize drawing. The \$250 prize winner will be announced following the Advocacy Day activities on the Hill.



*CCAoA is an equity-driven, inclusive organization, and encourages the exchange of diverse opinions. The ideas and opinions presented by external organizations at CCAoA events or in any external documentation do not necessarily reflect CCAoA's official position. CCAoA assumes no responsibility for any statement of fact or opinion presented at our events. CCAoA does not necessarily endorse the products or services of any event advertiser, exhibitor or sponsor.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

7AM – 10AM | **Registration/Information Desk Open**
Grand Foyer

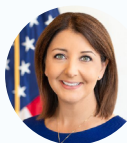
7AM – 8AM | **Breakfast**
Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

PLENARY ★

8AM – 9AM | **Partnering Together to Protect the Health of Young Families**
Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is protecting health and improving lives in every community. Supporting young families is a priority for CDC that focuses on upstream prevention so that children and families have what they need to learn, grow and build lifelong healthy behaviors. Child care providers are critical partners as we work to advance health equity and protect the health of young families and children as a team. This plenary session will focus on addressing health through early education as an essential strategy to create healthy progress for children, families and early educators.

Presenter:



Dr. Mandy Cohen,
Director, Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention (CDC)

Moderator:



Susan Gale Perry,
Chief Executive Officer,
Child Care Aware® of America

9AM – 9:15AM | **Break with Exhibitors**



9:15AM
9:30AM

Annual Meeting

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Join Child Care Aware of America CEO Susan Gale Perry and CCAoA Board President Renée Boynton-Jarrett as they share an update on the state of the organization.

Presenters:

Susan Gale Perry, Chief Executive Officer, Child Care Aware® of America

Renée Boynton-Jarrett, M.D., Sc.D., Pediatrician, Social Epidemiologist and Associate Professor, Boston University School of Medicine.

9:30AM
10:45AM

CLOSING PLENARY ✨

Building the Early Childhood Mental Health Continuum

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

Compelling data show that both young children and their caregivers continue to experience worsened mental health post-pandemic. Early childhood teachers demonstrate higher rates of stress and depression and identify more negative internalizing and externalizing behaviors of the young children in their care. Taken together, caregivers have diminished capacity to address young children's mental health problems and young children's healthy development and learning may be negatively impacted.

CCR&R and other intermediaries are increasingly being called upon to address the mental health and well-being of young children and the child care workforce. What does it really look like to support young children and their caregivers across a continuum of mental health supports? What is the difference between a mental and behavioral health approach to early childhood mental health consultation, and why does it matter? Where should we start, and how do we get to scale? Join us for an engaging plenary session where we'll delve into these pressing questions. Explore opportunities for prevention, discover promising classroom strategies for teachers, and learn about innovative approaches to meet the needs of the early childhood workforce.

Presenters:



Dr. Walter Gilliam,
Executive Director, Buffett
Early Childhood Institute



Dr. Charlene Wong,
Senior Advisor for Health Strategy,
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention

Facilitator:



Dannette Smith, MSW
Commissioner, Colorado
Behavioral Health Administration

11AM
–
12:15PM

FEATURED
SESSION

Concurrent Sessions

● Elevating the Child Care System

Child Care as an Economic & Critical Support to Prevent Child Welfare System Involvement

Grand Ballroom ABCHJK

There is an ever-growing body of science related to how economic and concrete supports can prevent or avert the unnecessary activation and deployment of child protective services and the use of foster care. This presentation is a synthesis and translation of that evidence with an emphasis on child care to inform program and policy choices.

Presenters:



Clare Anderson,
Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

● Cutting-Edge Research

Centering Black Families: Equitable Discipline through Improved Data Policies in Child Care

Salon 5

This session explores how enduring anti-Black racism in child care can be addressed to support systemic change in discipline policies through equitable data practices. Through a presentation and discussion, this session is for those interested in ensuring Black children have equitable access to high-quality, affirming and safe child care.

Presenters:

Tiffany Ferrette, *Center for Law and Social Policy*
Alyssa Fortner, *Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy*

● **Cutting-Edge Research**

Visualizing Emergency Preparedness: How Data Help CCR&Rs Respond to Disasters

Salon 6

Join this session to learn how CCR&Rs can leverage partnerships and data analyses (such as GIS mapping) to prepare child care providers, families and local stakeholders for and respond to emergencies like wildfires, storms, and public health emergencies.

Presenters:

Alex Cooper, *Director, GIS Research, Child Care Aware® of America*

Julie Coats, *Director, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Child Care Aware® of America*

Holly Nett, *Director, Child Care Emergency Partnerships, Child Care Aware® of America*

Nicole Higa, *Resource & Referral Manager, PATCH Hawaii*

● **Stand for Child Care**

Food for Thought: Advancing Policy Change for CACFP

Salon F&G

CACFP is an important federal program that provides meal reimbursements to eligible child care programs, but the program is long overdue for updates. Children need access to healthy foods, and providers need help buying them. Join this session to dig into the policy changes CCR&Rs can advance at the state and federal levels to make CACFP a more accessible and equitable program, and the tools available to support this.

Presenters:

Mary Beth Salomone Testa, *Consultant, Home Grown*

Diane Girouard, *State Policy Senior Analyst, Child Care Aware® of America*

12:30PM

Symposium Concludes

EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

Grand Foyer

May 19	11:30AM – 6PM	May 21	8AM – 9AM 2PM – 5PM
May 20	8AM – 5PM	May 22	9AM – 11:30AM

Breaks with Exhibitors

May 19	11:30AM – 12:30PM 2PM – 2:30PM 5:15PM – 6PM
May 20	9:30AM – 10AM 11:30AM – 12:30PM 3PM – 3:30PM
May 22	9AM – 9:30AM

Exhibitor Set-Up/Move-In

May 19	8AM – 11AM
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Exhibitor Move-Out

May 22	11:30AM – 12:30PM
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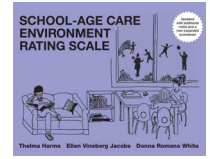
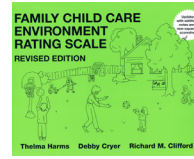
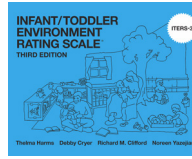
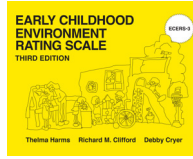
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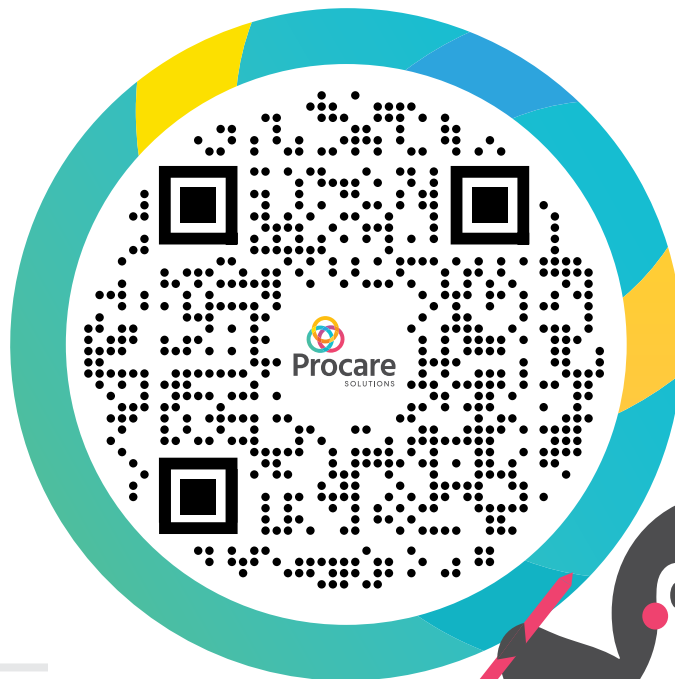
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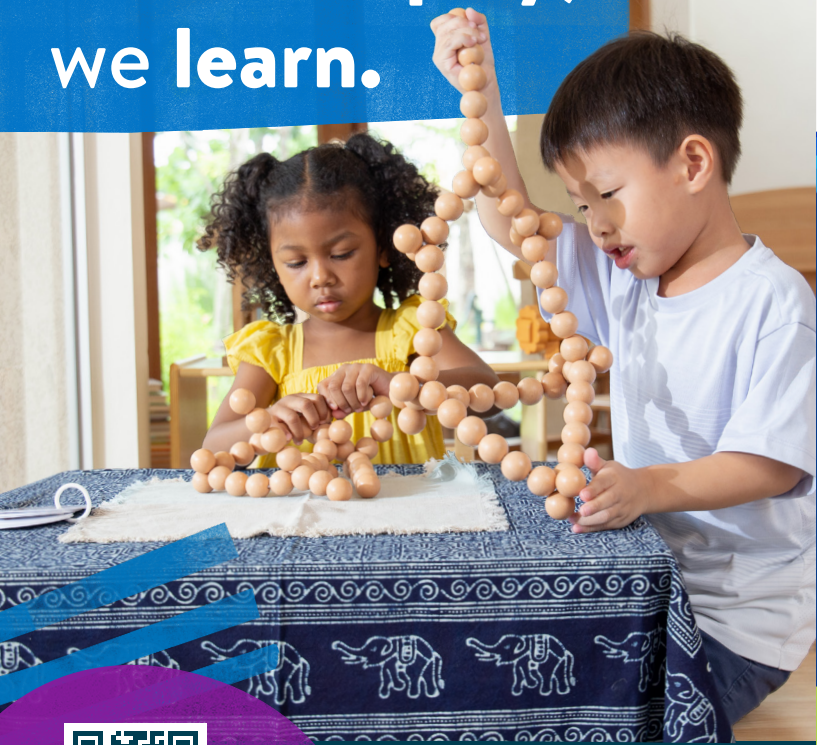
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