

# 2023 Public Policy Forum

## In Person Agenda

*\*As of Friday, February 17. Content is subject to change.  
Sunday and Monday sessions take place in Salons ABCHJK, with the exception of afternoon breakouts.*

**\*Please note that all public policy forum sessions are closed to press and off the record\***

### Sunday, February 26

#### **1:00 – 1:30 pm: Welcome and Introductions**

- Lasting Legacy DMV Fellows
- Michelle Kang, CEO, NAEYC
- *Sponsor Remarks: Michelle Thomas, Senior Early Education Policy Advisor, TCC Software Solutions*
- Table Introductions & Connections

#### **1:30 – 2:15 pm: What Worked and What Didn't: Build Back Better and Lessons Learned for Future Fights**

- Anne Hedgepeth, Child Care Aware of America; Lauren Hogan, NAEYC; Julie Kashen, The Century Foundation; Kara Marchione, Senate Appropriations Committee; Casey Peeks, formerly on the House Education and Labor Committee

#### **2:15 – 2:45 pm: Snack Break!**

#### **2:45 - 3:45 pm: Exploring Complex Issues: Let's Talk About...**

- The Intersections of Child Care and Climate Change
  - Michelle Kang, NAEYC and Joan Lombardi, Georgetown Center for Child and Human Development
- The Intersections of Quality, Equity, Standards, and Qualifications
  - Marica Cox Mitchell, Bainum Family Foundation and Jeana Ross, Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation
- The Intersections of SEL, CRT, and ECE (Social Emotional Learning, Critical Race Theory, and Early Childhood Education)
  - Shyrelle Eubanks, National Education Association and Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

#### **3:45 – 4:00 pm: Break to Breakouts**

#### **4:00 – 5:00 pm: Exploring Complex Issues in Deep Dive Concurrent Session Conversations**

- The Intersections of Child Care and Climate Change (Salons DEFG)
  - Michelle Kang, NAEYC and Joan Lombardi, Georgetown Center for Child and Human Development
- The Intersections of Quality, Equity, Standards, and Qualifications (Rosslyn)
  - Marica Cox Mitchell, Bainum Family Foundation and Jeana Ross, Saul Zaentz Charitable Foundation
- The Intersections of SEL, CRT, and ECE (Salons 1)
  - Shyrelle Eubanks, National Education Association and Libbie Sonnier, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

***Enjoy time in the evening, and dinner in and around Washington, DC!***

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## Monday, February 27

**Breakfast available starting at 7:45 am.**

### 8:30 am: Welcome

- Natalie Vega O'Neil, NAEYC Governing Board President
- *Sponsor Remarks: A Message from HighScope Educational Research Foundation*

### 8:45 – 10:15 am: Administration and Congress: In Their Own Words

- 8:45 – 9:15 am: Department of Health and Human Services
  - Introductions: Nicole Lazarte, ACCA Child Development Center
  - Assistant Secretary January Contreras and Deputy Assistant Secretary Katie Hamm
- 9:15 – 9:45 am: Department of Education
  - Introductions: Natalie Vega O'Neil, NAEYC Governing Board President
  - Deputy Assistant Secretary Swati Adarkar
- 9:45 – 10:15 am: Congress
  - Ashley Bykerk, Rep. Katherine Clark, in conversation with MA educator Nahiomy Miller
  - Lara Rosner, Senator Collins (invited) and Mimi Vance, Senator Cassidy (invited)

### 10:15 – 10:30 am: Break

### 10:30 – 11:15 am: Strong, Smart, and Powerful Advocates: NAEYC Hill Day Talking Points Overview

- Lauren Hogan, NAEYC

### 11:15 am – Noon: When to Use Which Data, In What Messaging, For Which Asks, With Which Audiences

- Cristi Carman, RAPID EC; Kimberly Early, PennAEYC; Christy Felling, First Five Years Fund; Khadija Lewis-Khan, Beautiful Beginnings; Meghan Salas Atwell, NAEYC

### Noon – 1:00 pm: Lunch

### 1:00 – 1:30 pm: The Business of Child Care: Supporting Programs → Increasing Compensation

- Sharon Easterling, Opportunities Exchange; Jerletha McDonald, ADFW Child Care / National Association for Family Child Care; Fran Pastore, CT Women's Business Development Council; Janna Rodriguez, Innovative Daycare Corporation

### 1:30 – 1:45 pm: Break to Breakouts

### 1:45 – 2:45 pm: Concurrent Sessions: Promising Opportunities & Threatening Challenges

- **First Timers: Getting Ready for Your Congressional Visits (Salon 1)**  
*Grow your confidence and skills to be ready for your team's Hill visits!*
  - Amy O'Leary, Strategies for Children and Norma Schwartz, Florida AEYC
- **Failure is Not an Option: Centering Equity and Participant Success in Apprenticeships (Salons DE)**  
*Discuss the essential components of registered apprenticeship and the research-based participant supports that are key to the ECEPTS model, resulting in higher rates of retention and program completion.*
  - Tara Dwyer and Nohemy Catalan, Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS)

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- **Expanding Educator Benefits: Retirement, Housing, Loan Forgiveness, Substitute Pools (Salons FG)**  
*Learn more about what some programs, states, and Affiliates are doing to support educators' access to benefits that support recruitment, retention, and educator well-being.*
  - Mary Graham, Children's Village; Joe Fretwell, LIIF, Reeva Murphy, Vermont AEYC; Allyson Panzarella, Rhode Island AEYC
- **Increasing Educator Compensation through Better Business Practices (Rosslyn)**  
*Follow up on the main stage session to talk more about the small business side of child care, and how to support the (mostly) women and women of color who are running centers and family child care homes in managing their businesses to increase their own and others' financial security.*
  - Sharon Easterling, OppEx; Louise Lisboa, CT Women's Business Development Council; Jerletha McDonald, ADFW Child Care / NAFCC; Janna Rodriguez, Innovative Daycare Corp
- **Centering Parent Data, Perspective, Voice, and Power (McLean)**  
*Dive deeper into RAPID EC's parent data, and discuss ideas and actions for centering parent voice, and supporting parents and providers in building shared power to meet their comprehensive needs.*
  - Cristi Carman and Sharon Neilson, RAPID EC, joined by additional parents and advocates
- **A Translated Form Is Not Enough: Increasing Equitable Access to Stabilization Grants (Pentagon)**  
*Hear about state-level work, on-the-ground initiatives, and lessons learned for advocates, philanthropists, policymakers, and intermediary organizations about how to structure and support successful outreach that yields more equitable funding for small centers and family child care homes*
  - Patti Banghart, Child Trends; Cynthia Rice and Rebekka Zydel Lupianez, ACNJ; Eric Bucher, AzAEYC; Cody Summerville, TXAEYC
- **Brainstorming: Being Proactive (or Reactive) When Your State Wants to Deregulate (Lee)**  
*Share ideas and actions with your peers in a facilitated brainstorm on how to prepare for and/or respond to efforts to deregulate child care specifically in ways that could compromise health, safety, and quality.*
  - Facilitators: Maria Estlund, NAEYC and Daniela Villasmil, Alliance for Early Success

**2:45 – 3:15 pm: Snack Break!**

**3:15 – 4:15 pm: Concurrent Sessions: Promising Opportunities & Threatening Challenges**

- **Easy Button: Streamlining and Structuring Child Care Applications, Contracts, and Grants to Support Families' Access and Educators' Compensation (Salon 1)**  
*With a focus on educators working with infants and toddlers, and those working in family child care homes, join this session to talk about how states can – and should! – increase equity and access by simplifying (subsidy) applications for families and (contract / grant) applications for providers.*
  - Danielle Ewen, Alliance for Early Success; Christine Garza-Bell, INAEYC; Judy Reidt-Parker, Start Early; Stacey McGuire, Tots, Unlimited, Arizona; Mary Beth Salomone Testa, MBST Solutions
- **Three Affiliates, One Voice: Building a Regional Advocacy Effort (Salon DC)**  
*Learn more about how one region is taking steps to build competition into collaboration and strengthen the advocacy engagement and power building of educators in multiple states and settings.*
  - Kathy Hollowell-Makle, DCAEYC; Christina Lopez, MDAEYC; and Diane Volcansek, NVAEYC

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- **Expanding Educator Benefits: Health Insurance (Salon FG)**  
*Join this session for guidance and support on navigating the roadmap of steps advocates and allies can take to move forward on expanding access to affordable health insurance for early childhood educators*
  - Elisabeth Wright Burak, Center for Children and Families, Georgetown University; and Ashley LiBetti, Pillars Research + Strategy
- **The Advancing Early Education Collaborative: A Model for Building the Early Childhood Educator Pipeline (Rosslyn)**  
*Learn about how three institutions are partnering to build a strong ECE workforce to ensure families have access to early childhood settings with qualified, effective, professionally credentialed teachers.*
  - Dr. Olatokunbo (Toks) Fashola, American University; Michael Rowe, Trinity University; David B. Lloyd, Martha's Table
- **How You Can Implement a Coordinated Spring Advocacy and Attention Strategy: Week of the Young Child, Day Without Child Care, and Strolling Thunder (McLean)**  
*Exciting advocacy moments and events are ahead! Hear what's on the horizon, and start planning for what you can do now to advance an aligned, inclusive strategy that supports investment in ECE.*
  - Sydelle Barreto, NAEYC; BriTanya Bays, Community Change; Amanda Perez, ZERO TO THREE
- **Policy, Politics, and the Code of Ethics (Pentagon)**  
*For the first time since 2011, NAEYC is embarking on a revision of the Code of Ethical Conduct. Join for a conversation about opportunities, implications, and the intersections of the Code, policy, and politics.*
  - Raquel Diaz, FLAAYC; Georgia Goldburn, Hope for New Haven; Meghan Salas Atwell, NAEYC
- **Brainstorming: The Policy and Politics of Changes to CCDBG (Lee)**  
*Talk through ideas and messages in a facilitated brainstorm about what changes to child care policy are needed; and how to talk about them with your Republican and Democratic members of Congress*
  - Facilitator: Lauren Hogan, NAEYC

**4:15 – 4:30 pm: Break to the Main Room**

**4:30 – 5:30 pm: Plan for Hill Visits!**

- State Team Meeting Time + Closing

## Tuesday, February 28: Hill Day!

**7:00 – 9:00 am: Breakfast, State Team Meetings, and Bus Boarding to the Hill (Salons ABCFJK)**

- 7:30 am: First Group Boards the Bus (Leave at 7:45 am)
- 8:30 am: Second Group Boards the Bus (Leave at 8:45 am)

**11:00 am: Care Can't Wait Press Conference and Petition Delivery**

- Michelle Kang and NAEYC early childhood educator will be speaking on child care and early learning!

**2:00 pm onwards: Tell us how your day went...we'll be waiting! (Hotel lobby area)**

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# 2023 Public Policy Forum

## Virtual Agenda

[\\*All virtual content is also meant for and available to participants registered for the in-person forum.\\*](#)

### Sunday, February 12, now available on demand

#### Welcome

- Mario Cardona, Senior Policy Advisor, Domestic Policy Council, White House
- Meet the NAEYC Policy Forum team!

#### Federal Overview: What Child Care and Early Learning Won, What We Lost, and How We Got There

- Lauren Hogan, Managing Director, NAEYC

#### Congressional Action: What Happens Next

- Leila Schochet, Senior Policy Advisor, Senate HELP Committee

#### Budget and Appropriations: What You Need to Know for This Year

- Martha Coven, Princeton University and former OMB Director

#### Everything, Everywhere, All At Once: ECE Workforce Challenges and Solutions

- Erica Phillips, Executive Director, National Association for Family Child Care
- Tommy Sheridan, Deputy Director, National Head Start Association
- Dr. Ashley Williams, Vice President, Jumpstart

#### Spotlight: States Taking Action to Support the ECE Workforce

- Janet McLaughlin, Executive Director, Vermont AEYC
- Dr. Nikki Baldwin, Senior Lecturer, University of Wyoming
- Dr. Barbara Cooper, Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education

### Monday, March 6 (Virtual) from 3:00 – 6:00 pm ET

[More details to come!](#)

**Policy Area and Actions:** Quality Improvement, Infants and Toddlers, Financing, and more!

**Presenters:** Alissa Mwenelupembe, Managing Director, Early Learning, NAEYC; Courtney Penn, Director of the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, Indiana; Deb Flis, Quality Improvement Director, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood; Cynthia Osborne, PhD, Executive Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center; Theresa Hawley, Executive Director, Center for Early Learning Funding Equity

#### Closing + Get Ready for PLI: Spotlight on Oregon

- Ingrid Anderson, Portland State University; Leslee Barnes, Director, Preschool and Early Learning Division at Multnomah County; and Alyssa Chatterjee, Director, Oregon Early Learning Division
  - *Concluding Remarks:* Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1)

# 2023 Public Policy Forum

## Virtual On Demand Sessions (Available Anytime)

*These sessions were previously recorded but we have decided to keep them accessible to 2023 Policy Forum participants because we believe they remain useful, timely, and relevant!*

- **Bridging the Data Gap to Transform Child Care: The Arizona Story**
  - Alma Cortes, Faith Lutheran Preschool; Sharon Easterling, Opportunities Exchange; Karla Houghtalin, Southwest Human Development; Louise Stoney, Opportunities Exchange; Lela Wendell, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- **Compensation Schedules: What They Are, Why They Matter & How To Use Them In Your States**
  - Madeleine Bayard, Rodel; Julie Bieber, Kingswood Community Center Early Learning Academy; Theresa Hawley, Northern Illinois University; Lisa Hildebrand, RIAEYC; Khadija Lewis-Khan, Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center; Ann McCully, Child Care Aware of Minnesota; Bela Moté, Carole Robertson Center for Learning; Zina Noel, Northwestern University; and Cass Wolfe, CCSA
- **Family Child Care Voices Matter**
  - Laverne Cheeseboro, Heavenly Made Creations; Rosslyn Cheney, Future Scholars 24-Hour Childcare, Texas; Latonta Godbolt, Small Wonders Family Child Care, Pennsylvania; Jerletha McDonald, ADFW Family Child Care Network, Texas; Erica Phillips, All Our Kin
- **In Fellowship: Creating Community with ECE Advocacy, Policy and Leadership Cohorts**
  - Helen Blank, Geania Dickey & Dionne Dobbins (Emerging Leaders); Jerletha McDonald & Sheryl Hutzenbiller (family child care / TX and MT); Heather Marden & Jordyn Rossignol (ME); Cristina Codario, Ana Wolfowicz & Joy Gibson (PA); Eric Boucher (AZ); Kimberly Tice & Shawn Holden (OH)
- **Re-imagining Child Care with Black and Brown Early Educators in the Lead**
  - Charli Cooksey, WEPOWER, Missouri; Matthew Henderson and Miles Tokunow, OLÉ, New Mexico; Ellicia Lanier, Gateway Early Childhood Alliance and UrbanSprouts, Missouri; Rachel Schumacher, The Raising Child Care Fund
- **Start with Equity: 14 Priorities to Dismantle Systemic Racism in Early Care and Education**
  - Iheoma Iruka, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, UNC-Chapel Hill; Shantel Meek, Children's Equity Project, Arizona State University
- **Washington Wins: Compensation Successes in Washington, DC and Washington State**
  - Joan Altman, Washington Health Benefit Exchange; Shayna Cook, Bainum Family Foundation; Marla Dean, Bright Beginnings; Charisse Fagins, Educare DC; Kathy Hollowell-Makle, DCAEYC; Nicole Rose, Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

