2019 Pre-Conference Sessions

105. The Asian Slant: Racial Equity and Early Childhood

A panel of presenters from different states will focus on persons of Asian descent in the United States in general and early child services specifically as it addresses racial equity in three realms: level setting, Asian demographics, and early childhood services and the workforce pipeline. Each panelist will emphasize the dearth of disaggregated data on and understanding of Asian communities across the country, which encourages misperceptions of the Asian population that perpetuate racial social exclusion and stifle intellectual innovations that can overcome data collection and analysis challenges.

Presenters: Sumon Chin, Asian Child Care Resource and Referral, Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.; Marsha Shigeyo Hawley, Ounce of Prevention; Joaniko Kochi, Adelphi University; Maki Park, Migration Policy Institute

106. Meeting Design & Facilitation: MAGIC Skill Building

Meetings....can't live with them, can't live without them! Do you lead meetings with staff, community members, work groups, committee or board members? Do you need to gather input from stakeholders, help groups think through their plans, or want others join in an effort? If so, learn a framework called MAGIC to help you think about, design, and create agendas, inquiries, and processes to successfully engage others. Discover ways to prompt multiple voices, align ideas, and foster agreements with ease.

Presenter: Maggie McGlynn, McGlynn Leadership

107. Making QRIS Work for the Workforce

Early educators' skills, knowledge, and well-being are inseparable from the quality of children's early learning experiences. Thus, solutions that bolster educator preparation, working conditions, and compensation are critical to quality improvement. Discuss the role of QRIS with regard to the status of the workforce and the possibilities and limitations of what QRIS as a system can do to advance these interrelated areas and equity among early educators.

Presenters: Lea Austin, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment; Bethany Edwards, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment; Caitlin McLean, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment; Marisa Schlieber, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

108. Using Transformational Coaching to Facilitate and Promote Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) for Early Learning Professionals and Programs

Participants will explore the GROOMER Framework for Change™ model. This systematic and intentional model can be used both with individuals and at a system/program level to facilitate intentional change and promote continuous quality improvement (CQI). Participants will learn the seven GROOMER™ components to effectively facilitate reflection, problem-solving, and documentation to create lasting changes that improve program services and individual practices, and increase positive outcomes for children and families.

Presenters: Constant Hine and Robin Levy, Horizons In Learning

109. The Honeycomb and Beyond: Learning to See with a Systems Perspective and Developing Systems to Sustain Quality

Like honeycombs, organizations are complex systems that operate within a larger social system. Without a clear understanding of systems-thinking, we are at a disadvantage and less likely to develop and sustain quality practices over time. Through a simulated game, participants will gain an understanding about the systems that exist within their organization and the interconnectedness of their organization to a larger system. The result will be a new way of thinking that will lead to greater efficiencies.

Presenters: Jill Bella and Melissa Casteel, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at NLU

110. Effective Coaching Tools: Explore the Coaching Competencies Rubric and the Coaching Companion

Cultivate Learning has developed two important tools to support the impact and reach of coaching across systems and settings. Part One of this session will include a demonstration of the Coaching Companion platform and a panel discussion on how it is being used to improve teaching and coaching practices in Washington, Oregon, and California. Part Two of this session will provide an overview of the Coaching Competencies Rubric which was developed to support the assessment and drive the ongoing professional development of coaches, with additional application to higher education contexts. Participants will explore the tool with video examples and analysis and participate in a discussion of the process of collaboratively developing the rubric with coaches and educators. Opportunities to practice using both tools during the session will be provided.

Presenters: Soleil Boyd and Leslie Janes, Cultivate Learning

111. Early Education Essentials: Illustration of the Organizational Mindsets, Practices, and Processes of Programs Poised for Improvement

Groundbreaking early education research illustrates strong organizational environments and how they empower leaders, teachers, and families to aspire to and realize higher-quality practices and better outcomes for young children. In this session, we'll review the Early Education Essentials framework and surveys; use leader, staff, and parent voices to illustrate strong and weak conditions; and observe video of leaders and staff working side-by-side to create positive, incremental change using survey data and rapid-cycle improvement tools.

Presenters: Rebecca Berlin, Maribel Centeno, and Debra Pacchiano, The Ounce of Prevention Fund

112. What's new in QRIS research and evaluation?

This pre-conference session will highlight new research related to QRIS, quality improvement, and system implementation. Presenters will share findings, discuss policy implications, and engage in discussion with participants.

Presenters: Kelly Maxwell and Kathryn Tout, Child Trends

113. QRIS 101: An Introduction to Quality Rating and Improvement Systems

This interactive, introductory session is for anyone interested in learning more about QRIS including new state leaders, implementation partners, Head Start grantees and staff, and others! Discussion will focus on emerging research and trends; standards and frameworks; and implementation considerations like monitoring and supporting diverse populations. Opportunities will be offered to connect at different points of the conference to share information, ask questions, and make connections.

Presenters: Char Goodreau and Pattie Ryan, National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance

114. Digging Deeper into Family Engagement: Continuing & Extending the Discussions from 2018, for QRIS 2019

Join us as we dive deeper into the topic of family engagement in early care and education classrooms and systems. This session will extend discussions that started in 2018 and provide an opportunity for a more concentrated focus on the innovations that states are implementing, the research that points to promising practices, and the questions and ideas that emerge from our group discussions. Bring your expertise and questions and help us explore this topic together.

Presenters: Kim Alleyne, National Center on Parent, Family and Community Engagment; Beth Barrett, Indiana Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning; Anita Harvey-Dixon and Mallary Swartz, Ounce of Prevention Fund; Iheoma Iruka, HighScope; Katrina Montaño-White, New Mexico Office of Child Development; Mary Lee Porterfield, University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Manica Ramos, ChildTrends

115. State Innovations: Expanding reach, impact and equity through Higher Education and state PD system partnerships

Join the EarlyEdU Alliance as we take a deep dive with state and higher education leaders to find out how they are creating new pathways that align PD with Higher Education and articulate courses across institutions. We will discuss the work Utah, Nebraska, and Massachusetts are doing within and beyond QRIS to increase access to high quality competency-based courses and relevant degrees for Family Child Care providers, Head Start teachers, tribal students, rural, and first-generation college students.

Presenters: Anne Douglass, UMass Boston; Katie Emerson-Hoss and Sarah Perez Hamilton, EarlyEdU Alliance at University of Washington

116. How to Make Sure the Most Vulnerable Children and Families Benefit from High-Quality Early Childhood Services

The most vulnerable children and families, including those who experience maltreatment, homelessness, and disabilities, face eligibility and access barriers to high-quality ECE programs. This session will: 1) increase participants' understanding of these populations and the laws and policies designed to protect and prioritize them; 2) provide practical strategies in, resources on, and implementation examples of how to ensure inclusive quality standards and improvement efforts. Significant time to discuss specific challenges and opportunities in participants' states and communities will be provided.

Presenters: Karen Berman and Carie Bires, Ounce of Prevention Fund

117. Don't Shoot the Messengers - Make Them Effective!

Every interaction that others have with your QRIS is an opportunity to convert them or risk losing them (maybe forever!). Yet many QRIS interactions—how coaches engage providers, how providers talk to families, how advocates convince policymakers—are out of your control. Or are they? Take control of your QRIS communications by crafting the right messages for your audiences and identifying the tools your ambassadors need to be effective. In this collaborative workshop, we'll put theory into practice so you walk away with a clear game plan for your QRIS communications.

Presenter: Laura Bowen, VIVA Strategy