

Orlando, FL ★ July 8-10



2020 Pre-Conference Sessions

100. New Research in Quality and Quality Improvement

This preconference session will highlight a range of new research findings related to quality and quality improvement in early care and education. National and state projects will be highlighted. Multiple presenters will describe their work and then discuss findings and policy implications with participants.

Presenters: Kelly Maxwell and Kathryn Tout, Child Trends

101. Everything You Wanted to Know About QRIS but Were Afraid to Ask

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, such as 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 with other leaders.

Presenter: Char Goodreau, National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance

102. Meaningful Coaching Data and Documentation to Impact Sustainable Change at All System Levels

We will introduce a logic model and process for identifying meaningful data that can better inform and impact the diverse tiers of stakeholders in a coaching initiative, including practitioners, coaches, site supervisors, coaching supervisors, coaching-initiative decision makers, and funders. We will clarify how coaches can document and use specific data and sample forms to better inform their coaching practices as well as how to focus on and support the ongoing professional development of coaches.

Presenters: Constant Hine and Robin Levy, Horizons in Learning

103. Setting the Stage for Data-Driven Learning: Best Practices for Data Management and Cleaning

This session will guide participants through best practices for organizing their QRIS or quality initiative data. Participants will learn how to design a data dictionary and complete data cleaning checks tailored to the needs of QRIS (e.g., identifying duplicate/implausible values). These techniques will help participants (1) recognize the scope and limitations of their data; (2) identify what data may facilitate better understanding of how ECE programs engage in quality initiatives; and (3) support data-driven decisions in their own ECE systems.

Presenters: Tracy Gebhart and Nadia Orfali Hall, Child Trends

104. 2nd Order System Change: What it is, Why it Matters, and How to Make it Happen

If you ever feel like your QRIS is unwieldy and cumbersome, or that your redesign meetings swirl around the same recurring themes, you are likely using 1st order (incremental) approaches to try to effect 2nd order (transformational) change. Such an approach is like pushing a boulder uphill -- exhausting and ineffective. Join us to learn how to distinguish 1st, 2nd, and 3rd order change and gain tools for figuring out how to create the conditions for authentic system transformation.

Presenter: Ida Rose Florez, Early Childhood System Solutions, LLC

105. Powerful Partnerships: How Higher Education and State System Leaders use EarlyEdU Alliance Resources to Build Innovations Supporting Early Childhood Educators

Join your peers from Pennsylvania, Utah, and Nebraska and find out how they are leveraging the free resources available through the EarlyEdU Alliance and partnerships with higher education to build aligned and accessible career pathways to continuing improvement and degree attainment. Learn more about partnering with higher education, how video analysis can support quality, and the outcomes of a Practice Based Coaching course pilot with coaches statewide. Collaborate on applying the resources and lessons learned.

Presenters: Tara Dwyer, PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning; Katie Emerson-Hoss, EarlyEdU at University of Washington; KC Hutton, Utah Office of Child Care; Susan Sarver, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

106. "Nothing About Me Without Me is For Me": Listening to the Voices Least Often Heard within Systems

Presenters from School Readiness Consulting, and their Michigan, Montana, Oregon, and Washington (King County) partners, will lead participants in a deep examination of current family and community engagement practices, and what states are learning from efforts to share power and co-create solutions within communities. This session will center on family and community engagement as a racial equity objective and confront challenges that persist in these efforts. Participants will work individually and/or in state teams to define their own pathways forward.

Presenters: Jennifer Caldwell and Thelma Wong, School Readiness Consulting; Lonias Gilmore, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana; Alicia Martinez, King County; Sara Mickelson, Oregon Early Learning Division

107. Taking Infant-Toddler Work to the Next Level: Collective Thinking, Planning and Action

Do you have something great to share about your infant and toddler efforts? Are you facing challenges in funding, implementing programs, weaving together promising but disconnected efforts, or moving from pilot to scale? Join us to explore lessons learned from the Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships and other state strategies for improving the quality of child care for infants and toddlers. This session follows the release of two reports: [Expanding High-Quality Child Care for Infants & Toddlers: Lessons from Implementation of Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships in States](#), published by the Ounce of Prevention and BUILD's [Caring for Our Youngest: State Strategies for Improving the Quality of Child Care for Children Under Age Three through Quality Improvement Systems](#). State representatives will share their successes, promising practices, and challenges. Participants will have the opportunity to pose questions and receive input and consultation from peers.

Presenters: Kristin Bernhard, Ounce of Prevention Fund; Tiereny Lloyd, BUILD Initiative; other presenters to be determined

108. Committing to Equity: Policy Decisions that Promote Racial Equity in State Child Care Programs

Creating racially equitable child care systems can seem like an enormous challenge, but stakeholders can move toward programs and policies designed in response to the needs of parents and providers, increasing equitable access to high-quality child care. In this interactive session we will discuss principles of racial equity in policy making, and specific opportunities to apply those principles in subsidy, QRIS design, and outreach to parents and providers. Participants will discuss specific strategies, applying them to their own work.

Presenters: Kisha Davis, Illinois Department of Human Services; Jennifer Greppi, Parent Voices California; Cemeré James, National Black Child Development Institute; Christine Johnson-Staub, CLASP

109. Work Environments Matter—Improving Organizational Climate, Culture, and Conditions within QRIS

This interactive session focuses on the strategies, tools, and supports available to improve the organizational climate, culture, and conditions within early care and education programs. Two states—Illinois and Oregon—will share their recent efforts to build a CQI focus on enhancing work environments into their QRIS. Explore what other states are doing to ensure that early care and education settings are a great place for adults to work and for children to learn.

Presenters: Jill Bella and Teri Talan, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership; Toni Porter, Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

110. Funding Our Future

Support for early care and education is growing. But funding gaps pose a significant challenge to ensuring quality early care and education for more children. Hear about planning and costing out of the ECE system, and state and local tax policies for expansion of public investment in early care and education. Interact with experts who work with states and communities on these issues, as well as state and local leaders who have led successful initiatives to expand revenue through innovative tax strategies.

Presenters: Olivia Allen, Children's Funding Project; Miriam Calderon, Oregon Division of Early Learning; Lisa Christensen Gee, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy; Harriet Dichter, BUILD Initiative; Lynn Karoly, RAND Corporation; Annemarie Valdez, First Steps

111. Home-Grown Family Child Care

Family child care is well-positioned to meet the needs of families facing the greatest barriers to accessing care, including families with infants and toddlers and families working nontraditional hours. Join us to discuss strategies to increase the supply of high quality family child care. We'll also explore approaches to better integrating family child care into the prenatal to five system and mine strategies that facilitate system change while improving home-based care such as quality support structures, funding and contract approaches, and family and community engagement.

Presenters: Jeanna Capito, Consultant; Danielle Fuentes Johnson, BUILD Initiative; Natalie Renew, Home Grown; Jessica Rodriguez Duggan, Consultant

112. Building Leadership for Systems Development and Sustainability: Essential Skills and Traits

This preconference session will explore cross-system, cross-sector leadership development (with examples of current trends and initiatives across states), foundational concepts, and strategies for growing visionary and capable leaders who are primed to meet state or community challenges. The session will engage participants in a state self-assessment to identify important skill sets, resources, and strategies for developing future leaders.

Presenters: Marsha Basloe, Child Care Services Association; Sarah Heinemeier, Compass Evaluation and Research

113. A Seat on the Rug: Strategies for Serving Children and Families with Complex Needs in Early Education Programs

Explore strategies to ensure children and families with complex needs--such as those involved in the child welfare system, children with disabilities, or those who experience homelessness--are able to access and participate in early childhood programs, and that the professionals working in those programs have the supports they need to serve families effectively. Presenters will share examples of model policies and best practices, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and support attendees in developing an action plan to take home.

Presenters: Carrie Bires, Ounce of Prevention Fund; other presenters to be determined