



AGENDA

Monday, September 17, 2018

**Thriving Children, Families, and Communities:
The Role of Early Childhood Programs**

8:30 a.m. Check-in and breakfast

9 a.m. Welcome and morning plenary sessions

High-Quality Early Care and Education: What It Is and What It Takes

Kate Gallagher, research and evaluation director at the Buffett Early Childhood Institute, will address high quality from the perspective of the child, answering the questions, “What does the child need to be well and do well?” and “How can we provide it?”

Developing and Supporting a Qualified Workforce

Marjorie Kostelnik, senior associate to the president at the University of Nebraska and former dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences at UNL, will lead an interactive session exploring how to plan for and implement policies and practices to support the professionals who are educating and caring for our young children.

Redesigning Child Care to Promote Education, Support Families, and Build Communities

Joan Lombardi, a national education consultant and former deputy assistant secretary for early childhood development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will lead a session highlighting promising community efforts in Fairbury, Lincoln, and Pender.

12 p.m. Lunch and panel discussion

Community Champions: Early Childhood Development Spurs People Attraction

Jeff Yost, president and CEO of the Nebraska Community Foundation, will lead a lunch panel with leaders from Columbus, Ogallala, and Red Cloud, who are actively implementing high-quality early childhood programs to drive community vitality and economic development.

1:15 p.m. Workshops

4:30 p.m. Networking reception

Workshops

The Buck Stops (W)Here! Funding Resources for Quality Programs

Jeff Yost, Nebraska Community Foundation

Gladys Haynes, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Ben Baumfalk, First Five Nebraska

High-quality early childhood programs positively impact children's development. Ensuring the programs remain financially stable, however, can be challenging. Often a program's financial sustainability requires blending and/or braiding funds from numerous sources. This workshop will identify operational costs associated with providing high-quality early childhood care and education services. Potential revenue sources will also be discussed, including partnerships where expenses are shared. Presenters will demonstrate the use of a cost of quality calculator and budget template.

Designing Quality Early Care and Education Environments

Debora Wisneski, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Ed Buglewicz, RDG Planning & Design

This interactive workshop will explore purposeful connections between quality environments and quality programs, reflecting on the fundamentals of architectural design along with the selection of building finishes, program materials, and furnishings that all add up to quality environments for young children. Whether undertaking renovation, new construction or a simple remodel, there are lessons learned and guiding principles to consider. The discussion will apply to a range of settings from home-based to center-based programs and identify special considerations for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children, including mixed-age groupings.

Bridging Cultures and Languages for High-Quality Care and Education

Chris Maxwell, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Claudia Zapata, Midlands Latino Community Development Corporation

Janette Merkel, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Nayeli Lopez, Learning Community Center of South Omaha

High-quality care and education builds upon the strengths of children, families, and communities, drawing upon home culture and language. This panel highlights culturally affirming approaches to early childhood workforce and program development across community and school settings.

Journey Toward Quality: One Community's Experience

Kate Gallagher, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Sally Hansen, The Valley Child Development Center

Kerra Zambrano, The Valley Child Development Center

Ashley Wittwer Armstrong, The Valley Child Development Center

Communities are built on strong families and healthy children. High-quality child care is an essential aspect of community vitality. Children need brain-building care and education, and parents need reliable, quality care to support their work, education, and family well-being. Learn about one Nebraska town that put high-quality child care at the center of its community vitality plan. Hear about the adventures, joys, and challenges of creating a high-quality early childhood program and planning for sustainability.

Early Childhood Policy and Systems Development

Becky Veak, First Five Nebraska

Elizabeth Everett, First Five Nebraska

Adam Feser, First Five Nebraska

Learn how state and federal administrative and legislative policy shapes early childhood programming and about the government systems that administer programs. Learn also about an exciting opportunity to develop leadership skills that will help you influence public policy and have your voice heard.

Messaging Effectively About Early Childhood in Your Community

Mike Medwick, First Five Nebraska

Engaging local audiences about the importance of early developmental experiences is essential to the success of your community's early childhood goals. This interactive workshop will focus on framing your message for different audiences, leveraging your communications resources, and other key elements of crafting an effective messaging strategy that influencers and decision-makers will respond to.

Engaging Families: Cultivating and Sustaining Collaborative Partnerships

Portia Kennel, Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Numerous studies point to the importance of parenting and family engagement in promoting children's school readiness, achievement, and long-term school success. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect upon and discuss their own experience as parents, practitioners, and partners in the education process. Participants will learn strategies for building relationships with families that support reciprocal early education and care/school-home partnerships.

Connecting Schools With Community Child Care

Amy Bornemeier, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Panel of school leaders from across the state

Early childhood development spans the years from birth through Grade 3. Learn more from a group of communities where schools and child care programs are working together to benefit young children and their families. A panel of school leaders will share their community approaches, lessons learned, and challenges they encountered.