



Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference

Monday, September 19, 2022

Younes Conference Center North, Kearney, NE

#thrivingchildren2022

Agenda

8:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Samuel Meisels, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | smeisels@nebraska.edu
Senator Myron Dorn, Nebraska Legislature | mdorn@leg.ne.gov

9:05 a.m. Keynote Presentation

Building a Parent Nation

Dana Suskind, TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health | drsuskind@bsd.uchicago.edu

10:10 a.m. Break

10:20 a.m. Morning Breakout Sessions

- Community-Centered Solutions to Increase Child Care Availability
- Early Childhood Professionals in Nebraska: Well-Being Beyond COVID
- Early Childhood Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- How Communities Help Prepare Young Children for School Success
- Reimagining Early Childhood Partnerships
- The Cost of Quality: Understanding the Dollars and Cents Behind a Child Care Provider's Budget
- The Importance of Storytelling in Supporting Early Childhood Programs

11:10 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. Lunch

12:00 p.m. Plenary Session

We Care for Kids: Community Resources, Challenges, and Opportunities

Moderator: Marti Beard, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | mbeard@nebraskachildren.org

Kara Ficke, We Care for Kids | kara@nebraskacaresforkids.org

Wendy Gwennap, United Way of South Central Nebraska | eccc@unitedwayscne.org

Allison Jonas, Gothenburg Public Schools | allison.jonas@gosweddes.org

Keith Knudsen, Mayor, City of Laurel | kknudsen@mysecbank.com

Milva McGhee, McCook Economic Development Corporation | ladymjm007@gmail.com

1:10 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. **Afternoon Breakout Sessions I**

- Creating Better Solutions With Parents and Providers at the Table
- Highlighting Opportunities for Early Childhood System Support
- Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center Tour
- The Importance of Storytelling in Supporting Early Childhood Programs
- Understanding Fundraising Basics
- We Care for Kids ... In Your Community
- What It Means to Be an Advocate

2:20 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. **Afternoon Breakout Sessions II**

- How to Support Home-Based Providers in Your Community
- Increasing and Strengthening Diversity in Nebraska's Early Childhood Environment
- Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center Tour
- Strategic Plan for Equitable Access to Quality (SPEAQ) Early Childhood Services in Nebraska
- Understanding Early Childhood Funding
- We Care for Kids ... In Your Community

3:20 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. **Keynote Presentation**

Building Support for Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Through Unexpected Messengers

Barry Ford, Council for a Strong America | bford@councilforastrongamerica.org

4:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

5:00 p.m. **Reception**

Hosted by *We Care for Kids*

Morning Breakout Sessions: 10:20–11:10 a.m.

Community-Centered Solutions to Increase Child Care Availability—Silver 3

Nichole Hetz, Gothenburg Early Childhood Learning Coalition | geclc.coordinator@gmail.com

Allison Jonas, Gothenburg Public Schools | allison.jonas@gosweddes.org

Melinda Long, Columbus Community Hospital | mstrong@columbushosp.org

Many communities were beginning meaningful projects to increase access to quality early child care when a worldwide pandemic brought activities to a halt. Join leaders from across the state to learn how different communities and organizations have innovatively responded to the pandemic and economic forces, leveraged interlocal agreements, and successfully reimaged how they can meet the need for quality early child care.

Early Childhood Professionals in Nebraska: Well-Being Beyond COVID—Silver 8

Alexandra Daro, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | adaro@nebraska.edu

Kathleen Gallagher, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | kgallagher@nebraska.edu

Early childhood professionals need to be well to provide the care children need to thrive. Surveys of early care and education programs and workforce in Nebraska indicate that early childhood professionals experienced inadequate support before and during COVID. The pandemic contributed to a context of worsening conditions for the early childhood workforce in Nebraska and the potential for an increased shortage of quality child care. In this interactive session, we invite early childhood professionals, family members, and community advocates to discuss current challenges and possible solutions for providing systems of support for Nebraska's early childhood workforce.

Early Childhood Teacher Recruitment and Retention—Silver 2

Tracy Gordon, Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children | tgordon@nebraskaaeyc.org

Susan Sarver, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | ssarver@nebraska.edu

Julia Torquati, University of Nebraska–Lincoln | jtorquati@unl.edu

Communities across the nation are struggling with how to recruit early childhood providers dedicated to creating a quality environment for young children. Communities are also struggling with retaining those professionals, as some professionals choose to leave the field entirely. This session will explore career pathway partnerships with the Nebraska State College System, Nebraska Community College Association, the University of Nebraska, and more, to support those interested in entering and remaining in the field.

How Communities Help Prepare Young Children for School Success—Silver 10

Sami Bradley, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | sbradley@nebraskachildren.org

Holly Hatton-Bowers, University of Nebraska–Lincoln | hattonb@unl.edu

Young children's social-emotional skills are critically important for fostering learning, positive relationships, making caring decisions, and later school success. Come to this session to discover the strong connection between social-emotional skills and school success as well as ways for the community to share this important message to promote child and family well-being.

Reimagining Early Childhood Partnerships—Silver 5

Kim Burry, Nebraska Association of School Boards | burrykim@gmail.com

Melody Hobson, Nebraska Department of Education | melody.hobson@nebraska.gov

Rachel Sissel, Nebraska Communities and Families Foundation | rsissel@nebraskachildren.org

Public-private partnerships across Nebraska are strengthening connections between school districts and early childhood community-based providers. This is improving cost-effectiveness, helping to ensure access to professional development, and better supporting children's transitions to Kindergarten. Hear what has prompted some of these relationships and reimagine how your work with community child care professionals can support all children before they start school.

The Cost of Quality: Understanding the Dollars and Cents Behind a Child Care Provider's Budget—Silver 9

Moderator: Jen Goettemoeller Wendl, Prairie Oak Publishing & Consulting | jen@prairieoakpublishing.com

Angela Blaesi, Angela Blaesi's Childcare | arosane@yahoo.com

Jeanna Capito, Prenatal-to-Five Fiscal Strategies | jeanna@prenatal5fiscal.org

Shannon Cotsoradis, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative | scotsoradis@nebraskaeearly.org

Debra Nared-Hollingsworth, Nared's Peewee Palace | dnared@outlook.com

Why is quality child care so expensive? What are the financial considerations child care providers face when deciding to serve children who are eligible for the child care subsidy? What does it take to run a child care business that is both viable and accessible to serving all families who are seeking quality care? Join our interactive session and dive into a provider's budget, learn how a cost model approach can set new child care subsidy rates for Nebraska, and hear how rates set by a cost model have stabilized child care businesses in other states.

The Importance of Storytelling in Supporting Early Childhood Programs—Silver 4

Kira Geiger, Nebraska Community Foundation | kgeiger@nebcommfound.org

Carrie Malek-Madani, Nebraska Community Foundation | cmalek-madani@nebcommfound.org

Michael Wunder, Nebraska Community Foundation | mwunder@nebcommfound.org

This session will take a hands-on, practical approach to sharing your early childhood messages. From identifying attention-grabbing story angles and great interviewees, to taking compelling photos, working with journalists, and using media coverage, we'll cover it all. Plus, hear success stories from Nebraska communities and learn how their examples can take your message to the next level.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions I: 1:30–2:20 p.m.

Creating Better Solutions With Parents and Providers at the Table—Silver 10

Moderator: Gladys Haynes, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | gh@buffettearly.org

Wendy Gwennap, United Way of South Central Nebraska | eccc@unitedwayscne.org

Ashley Palumbo, NECC Parent Ambassador | ashleypalumboinomaha@gmail.com

Kim Parsons, Nebraska Communities for Kids | eccc.kparsons@gmail.com

Todd Schmeeckle, Preschool Development Grant/Parent Ambassador | todd.schmeeckle@gmail.com

Tierra Stennis-Harper, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative | tstennis@nebraskaeearly.org

Ilissa Talkington, NECC Parent Ambassador Program Manager | ifern@nebraskaeearly.org

Often, those closest to the challenge have the best perspective regarding potential solutions. This can be especially true when it comes to child care shortages across our state. Join this discussion as panelists share ways to recruit and support parents and providers to participate in community planning and advocacy groups. Learn about the benefits for communities, as well as for parents and providers. Working together, we can arrive at the best solutions for children and families across Nebraska.

Highlighting Opportunities for Early Childhood System Support—Main Ballroom

Moderator: Susan Sarver, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | ssarver@nebraska.edu

Lindsay Braddock, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services | lindsay.braddock@nebraska.gov

Lynne Cook, Nebraska Department of Education | lynne.cook@nebraska.gov

Beckie Cromer, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services | beckie.cromer@nebraska.gov

Jenny Fleming, Nebraska Department of Education | jenny.fleming@nebraska.gov

Melody Hobson, Nebraska Department of Education | melody.hobson@nebraska.gov

Nicole Vint, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services | nicole.vint@nebraska.gov

Just like a house, early care and education programs cannot stand without a strong infrastructure in place. During this moderated panel, leaders from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will share success stories highlighting available support for early care and education. Attendees will learn about resources from both agencies that can be used to support their local early childhood systems and how these agencies have added additional supports during the pandemic.

Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center Tour—Silver 8

Chelsea Bartling, Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center | bartlingc@unk.edu

Dawn Mollenkopf, University of Nebraska at Kearney | mollenkopfdl@unk.edu

Hear from design engineers with advanced insights into creating spaces specially designed for children, then see the quality environment and innovative practices in play at the Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. Listen as the team shares how they serve the youngest members of the Kearney community and help children grow and explore in a rich learning environment.

The Importance of Storytelling in Supporting Early Childhood Program—Silver 4

Kira Geiger, Nebraska Community Foundation | kgeiger@nebcommfound.org

Carrie Malek-Madani, Nebraska Community Foundation | cmalek-madani@nebcommfound.org

Michael Wunder, Nebraska Community Foundation | mwunder@nebcommfound.org

This session will take a hands-on, practical approach to sharing your early childhood messages. From identifying attention-grabbing story angles and great interviewees, to taking compelling photos, working with journalists, and using media coverage, we'll cover it all. Plus, hear success stories from Nebraska communities and learn how their examples can take your message to the next level.

Understanding Fundraising Basics—Silver 2

Moderator: Lindsay Bartlett, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | bartlett@nebraskachildren.org

Moderator: Shonna Werth, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | swerth@nebraskachildren.org

John Levy, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation | johnlevy@omahafoundation.org

Jessie Rasmussen, Buffett Early Childhood Fund | jr@buffettearly.org

John Scott, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation | john@omahafoundation.org

Colten Venteicher, Gothenburg Improvement Company and Bacon, Vinton & Venteicher | coltenv@bvv.law

Successful fundraising requires much more than “making an ask.” Join philanthropy experts and experienced community fundraising leaders to learn about researching potential funders, building relationships, asking questions, understanding key terms, examining funding purposes, and delivering a well-constructed proposal.

We Care for Kids ... in Your Community—Silver 3

Kim Adamski, We Care for Kids | kim@neimandcollaborative.com

Anne Brandt, Lincoln Littles | anne.brandt@lincolnlittles.org

Kara Ficke, We Care for Kids | kara@nebraskacaresforkids.org

Nici Johnson, Educational Service Unit (ESU) 13 | njohnson@esu13.org

Learn about the exciting energy around the *We Care for Kids*—a statewide effort to build support for quality early childhood education for all Nebraska families. Hear from the campaign team and explore tools and materials available to local communities. Attendees will walk away equipped to advocate for quality early childhood education.

What It Means to Be an Advocate—Silver 5

Sen. John Cavanaugh, Nebraska Legislature | jcavanaugh@leg.ne.gov

Jodi-Renee Girón, First Five Nebraska | jgiron@firstfivenebraska.org

Aiesha Rahn, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | arahn@nebraskachildren.org

Katie Walmsley, Valley Country Economic Development | katiewalmsley@ordnebraska.com

There is a need for active and well-informed advocates to help public officials make decisions about policies that impact the well-being of our children, families, communities, and state. This session will explore what it means to be a citizen-advocate for building an early childhood movement with lessons learned from members of Nebraska’s Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions II: 2:30–3:20 p.m.

How to Support Home-Based Providers in Your Community—Silver 9

Moderator: Brandee Lengel, Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative | blengel@nebraskaeearly.org

Alexis Marquez, Lexie's Little Sunshines In-Home Child Care | lexieslittlesunshinedaycare@gmail.com

Heather Schmidt, Love and Learn Childcare | hjolarson@msn.com

Charlotte Zuniga, Charlotte Zuniga Daycare | charlotte.zuniga@yahoo.com

Home-based providers are key contributors to maintain sufficient quality child care for families and communities. These providers are often overlooked leaders in the industry, despite flexible and innovative practices that offer diverse options to meet the needs of children and families. Engage with several home-based providers and learn how to create an environment where home-based providers are supported.

Increasing and Strengthening Diversity in Nebraska's Early Childhood Environment—Silver 6

Moderator: Melissa Cleaver, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | melissacleaver@nebraska.edu

Quentin Brown, Educare Lincoln | quentin.brown@educarelincoln.org

Jené Chapman, Nebraska Department of Education | jene.chapman@nebraska.gov

Ferial Pearson, University of Nebraska at Omaha | fpearson@unomaha.edu

Aiesha Rahn, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation | arahn@nebraskachildren.org

The ability of children and families to thrive is directly impacted by their opportunity to build connections with early childhood professionals who reflect the diversity of the community in which they live. This panel session will engage attendees in a discussion about the importance of increasing diversity in the workforce and leadership roles across Nebraska's early childhood landscape.

Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center Tour—Silver 8

Chelsea Bartling, Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center | bartlingc@unk.edu

Dawn Mollenkopf, University of Nebraska at Kearney | mollenkopfdl@unk.edu

Hear from design engineers with advanced insights into creating spaces specially designed for children, then see the quality environment and innovative practices in play at the Plambeck Early Childhood Education Center on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus. Listen as the team shares how they serve the youngest members of the Kearney community and help children grow and explore in a rich learning environment.

Strategic Plan for Equitable Access to Quality (SPEAQ) Early Childhood Services in Nebraska—Silver 4

Hallie Duke, Dr. Duke Consulting | hallie@dukeconsulting.com

Brandy Price, ABC 123 Childcare | abc123_childcare@hotmail.com

Susan Sarver, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | ssarver@nebraska.edu

Kelsey Schnoor, In His Arms Community Childcare | director@stjohnbc.net

The Nebraska Early Childhood Strategic Plan is being written on behalf of Nebraska children and families. It uses recommendations from families, providers, early childhood professionals, community support organizations, school staff, and more to holistically reflect the state's early childhood environment. This SPEAQ session will be one of many community-based conversations to ensure the plan adequately identifies opportunities and challenges for diverse communities and stakeholders across the state.

Understanding Early Childhood Funding—Silver 2

Cathey Huddleston-Casas, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska | chuddleston-casas2@nebraska.edu

Jen Goettemoeller Wendi, Prairie Oak Publishing & Consulting | jen@prairieoakpublishing.com

Every child care environment should have access to the funding necessary to offer quality services to children and their families, but the complex network of funding streams can be confusing. Learn more about the interaction of federal, state, and municipal systems and the role they each play to support quality within your own community.

We Care for Kids ... in Your Community—Silver 3

Kim Adamski, We Care for Kids | kim@neimandcollaborative.com

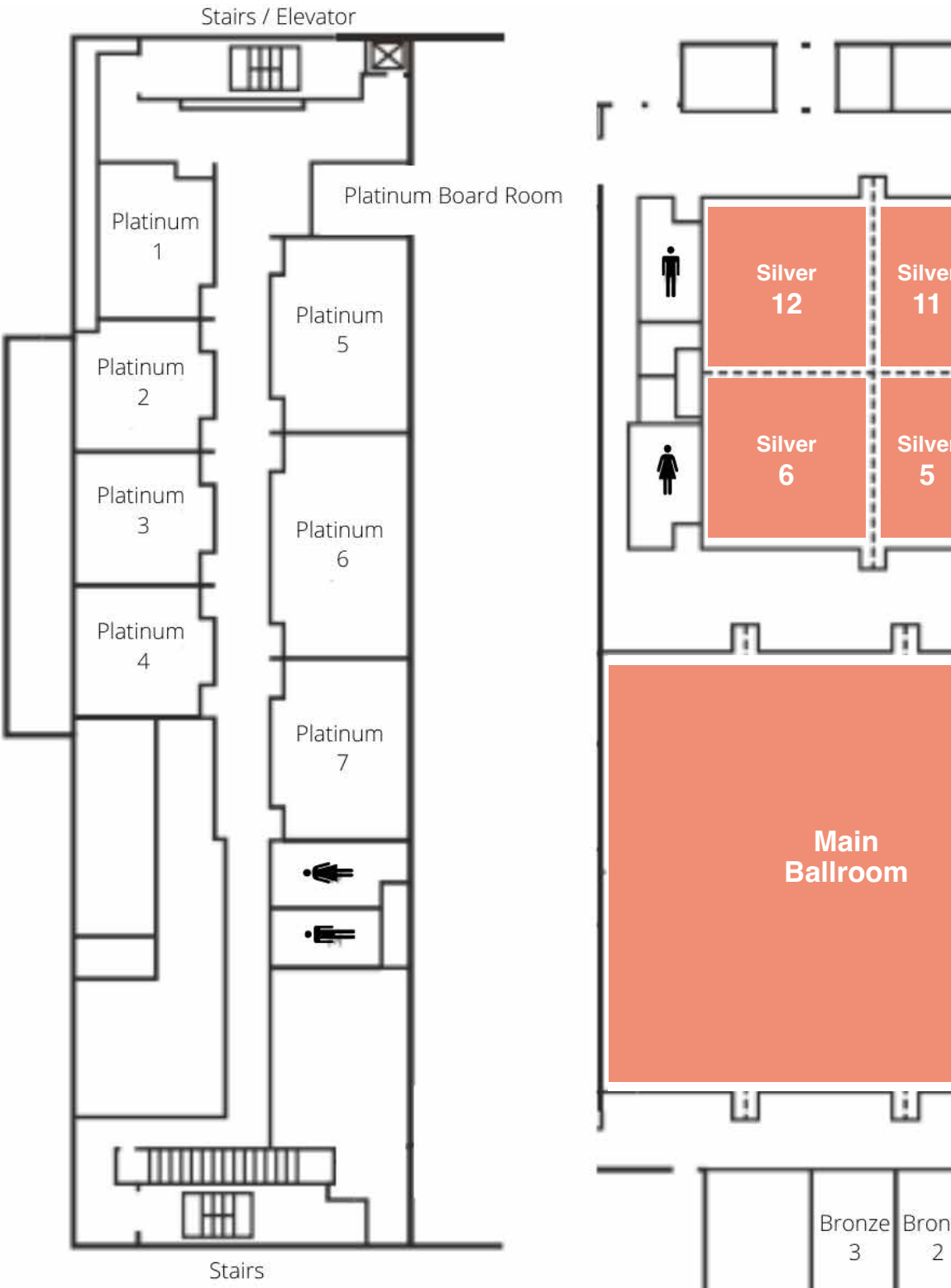
Kara Ficke, We Care for Kids | kara@nebraskacaresforkids.org

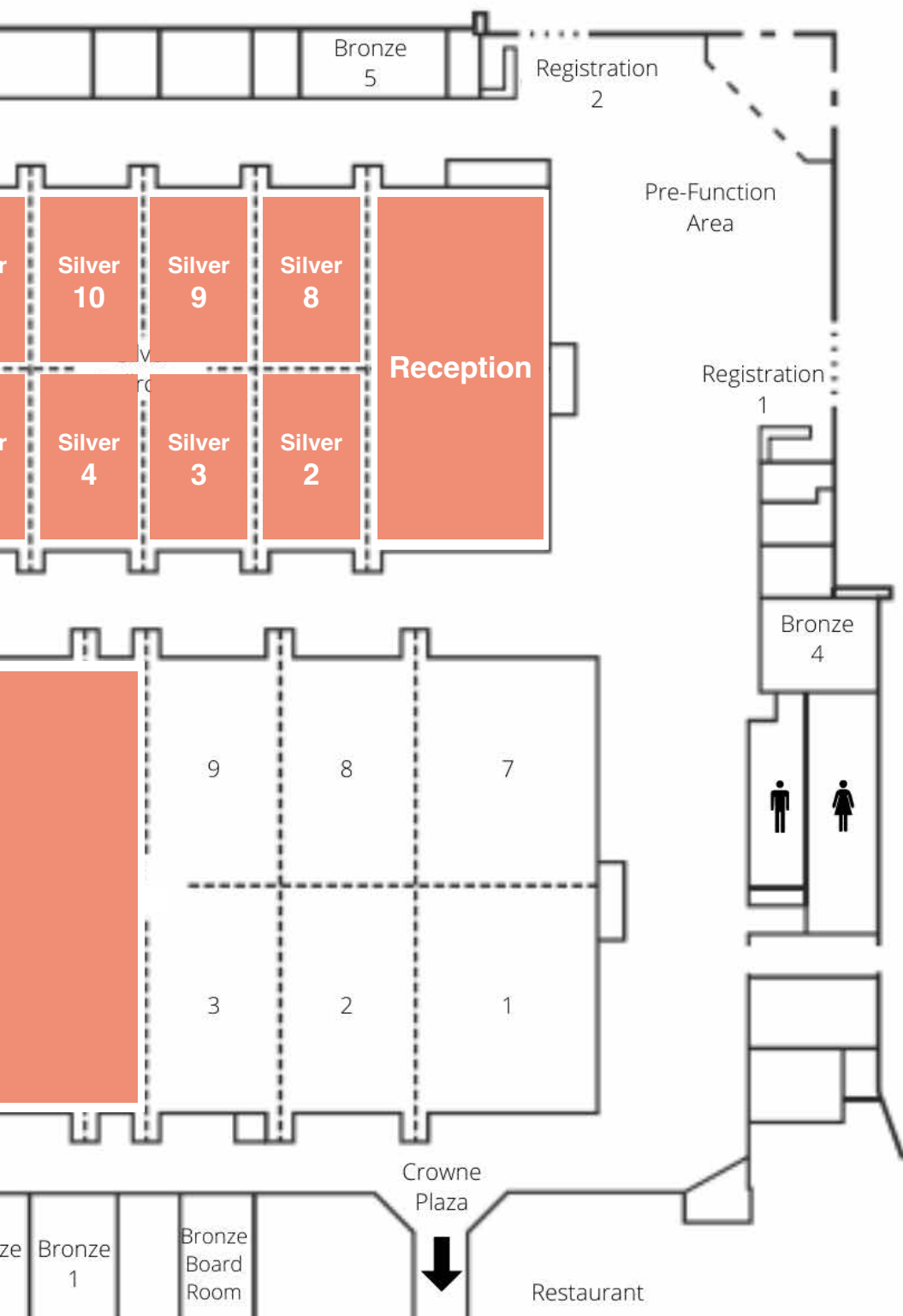
Holly Hatton-Bowers, University of Nebraska—Lincoln | hattonb@unl.edu

John Spatz, Nebraska Association of School Boards | jspatz@nasbonline.org

Learn about the exciting energy around the *We Care for Kids*—a statewide effort to build support for quality early childhood education for all Nebraska families. Hear from the campaign team and explore tools and materials available to local communities. Attendees will walk away equipped to advocate for quality early childhood education.

Younes Conference Center North Floor Plan





Keynote Speakers

Dana Suskind, M.D.

TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health

Dana Suskind, M.D., is a professor of surgery, pediatrics, and public policy (affiliated) at the University of Chicago and co-director of the TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health. An internationally recognized thought leader, Suskind has dedicated her research and clinical life to optimizing foundational brain development and preventing early cognitive disparities and their lifelong impact. In 2013, Suskind and her team led the first-ever Bridging the Thirty Million Word Gap convening at the request of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She is the author of "Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain" and of the New York Times bestselling book, "Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential, Fulfilling Society's Promise," which empowers parents to use developmental neuroscience to build a society that works for families, not against them.



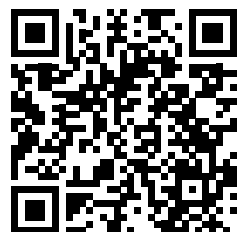
Barry Ford, J.D.

Council for a Strong America

Barry Ford, J.D., is president and CEO of Council for a Strong America. Prior to joining the staff of Council for a Strong America, Ford served as the director of public affairs and advocacy for the United States Tennis Association (USTA), where he led the association's efforts to build and deepen its relationships with policymakers at every level of government and expand the availability of quality tennis programming and facilities throughout the country. Ford earlier was president for external relations at The After-School Corporation (TASC), now ExpandED Schools, worked as a local lobbyist in New York City, was a two-time candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, and was an associate with the international law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. He is chair of the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers steering committee, a board member of the Afterschool Alliance, and a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Use the QR code to learn more about all of the conference speakers on the 2022 Thriving Children, Families, and Communities Conference website.



Resources

List of Exhibitor Tables

Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska

First Five Nebraska

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

Nebraska Association for Infant Mental Health

Nebraska Child Care Referral Network

Nebraska Community Foundation

Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

Nebraska Extension Early Childhood Team

Parents as Teachers National Center

Preschool Development Grant

We Care for Kids

We Care for Kids



**Quality early education
helps Nebraska's children
and families thrive.**

**Join us at
NebraskaCaresForKids.org**

BY THE NUMBERS:

Early Childhood in Nebraska

The Need for High-Quality Early Care and Education

- Early childhood is regarded as the period of time in a young child's life from birth through age 8. The brain is developing more rapidly during these early years of life than at any other time.¹
- Parents are children's first teachers, but most young children are not with their parents for many hours of the day. In Nebraska, more than 76% of children under age 6 live in homes where all adults work, which is higher than the national average of 68%.²
- Ninety-one percent of counties in Nebraska with licensed child care providers do not have enough available slots to meet the current demand.³
- Twelve counties in Nebraska have no licensed child care facilities.⁴
- Seventy percent of mothers with infants and toddlers are in the labor force in Nebraska.⁵
- Teacher turnover is as high as 26% in some early care and education settings.⁶
- Thirty-six percent of children in Nebraska age 5 and younger are considered at-risk of failure in school (55,838 children).⁷

Nebraskans' Views on Early Care and Education⁸

- The vast majority of Nebraskans express support for early care and education.
- In overwhelming numbers, residents say that quality care and education is not available or affordable for all families in Nebraska.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of Nebraskans say that early care and education has a significant impact on the long-term success of children.
- Only 10% of residents strongly believe that most young children are prepared to be successful in school when they start Kindergarten.

- Just 1% of residents say all children birth to age 5 in Nebraska receive quality early care and education.
- Few Nebraskans (11%) strongly agree that quality early care and education is available to every family in the state. Even fewer (6%) believe it is affordable.
- A substantial majority of Nebraskans (67%) believe the state should make early care and education a higher priority than it is today.
- More than half (51%) of the state's residents say the state should provide early care and education for all children from low-income families who choose to use it.

Status and Compensation of the Early Childhood Workforce

- Nearly half of Nebraskans (48%) believe that teachers and caregivers are paid too little.⁸
- Who is caring for children and how they are doing it matter greatly. The safety, relationships, and interactions between young children and their parents, caregivers, and teachers are the most important elements of a high-quality experience.⁹
- In 2015, the median annual salary pay for early childhood professionals is \$25,980 for those providing in-home early care and education, \$18,706 for center-based teachers, \$36,000 for PreKindergarten teachers, and \$41,000 for Kindergarten-Grade 3 teachers.¹⁰
- The median annual pay for center-based teachers is half that of school-based PreKindergarten teachers, even though the age and developmental needs of children being served are the same.¹⁰
- The median annual pay for center-based teachers falls below the poverty line by almost \$1,400 for a family of three.¹⁰
- More than 11% of home-based providers have a second job and nearly 20% of center-based teachers, public PreK teachers, and K-3 teachers report holding a second job.¹⁰

- Nearly 30% of home-based providers and 20% of center-based teachers depend on some type of public assistance.¹⁰
- More than 13% of home-based and center-based child care providers report that their own school-aged children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.¹⁰

Return on Investment

- Ensuring all families and children have equitable access to affordable quality care is key not only to the healthy growth and development of Nebraska’s children but to the economic vitality and prosperity of the state.^{4,11}
- Nebraska’s lack of sufficient child care is a burden on working parents, employers, and state revenues, resulting in “nearly \$745 million annually in direct losses”.¹²
- A dollar spent for high-quality early care and education yields an average return of \$4; in circumstances where children are extremely vulnerable, the return can be as high as \$13.¹³
- This return includes money saved on special education, health care, social services, and the criminal justice systems, as well as money earned from greater educational attainment, increased earnings, and improved productivity.¹³

COVID-19 Impact on Early Care and Education Providers¹⁴

- One in 4 providers has seen their income reduced by over 50%.
- Almost all providers have experienced decreased enrollment, with greater enrollment reductions for center-based providers.
- In the event of illness resulting from COVID-19, less than 1 in 4 providers has paid sick leave.
- Most providers are experiencing symptoms of stress, such as changes in sleep, difficulty concentrating, social isolation, and anxiety about the future.
- The majority of providers (51%) reported that without financial assistance they will likely close if the pandemic continues or worsens.
- Most providers (87%) would apply for financial assistance, if offered. Less than 1% say they would not seek additional financial assistance.
- The majority of providers (59%) reported using the temporary child care subsidy rule allowing providers to bill when enrolled children are absent.

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1. National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. (2000). *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development. Eds. J.P. Shonkoff and D.A. Phillips. Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
 2. The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center. Table: "Children under age 6 with all available parents in the labor force in the United States" and "Children under age 6 with all available parents in the labor force in Nebraska." Retrieved from: <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5057-children-under-age-6-with-all-available-parents-in-the-labor-force?loc=1&loct=1#detailed/2/29/false/1729,37/any/11472,11473>
 3. Voices for Children. (2020). Kids count in Nebraska 2019 report.
 4. Nebraska Legislature Appropriations Committee. (2020). Interim Study Committee Report for Legislative Resolution 390: Examination of the fiscal and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Nebraska's early childhood workforce and the early childhood care and education system. https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/reports/committee/appropriations/lr390_2020.pdf
 5. ZERO to THREE & Child Trends. (2021). The state of Nebraska's babies [website]. Retrieved from: <https://stateofbabies.org/state/nebraska/>
 6. Roberts, A. M., Gallagher, K. C., Sarver, S. L., & Daro, A. M. (2018). Early childhood teacher turnover in Nebraska. Retrieved from: <https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/beci/docs/early-childhood-teacher-turnover-in-nebraska-new.pdf?la=en>
 7. First Five Nebraska. Retrieved from: <https://www.firstfivenebraska.org/why-early-childhood-matters/legislative-district/>
 8. Buffett Early Childhood Institute & Gallup. (2016). Nebraskans speak about early care and education: Buffett Early Childhood Institute/Gallup survey on early childhood care and education in Nebraska. Retrieved from: <https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/beci/docs/announcement--buffett-gallup-survey-findings-report.pdf?la=en>
 9. Institute of Medicine and National Research Council (2015). *Transforming the workforce for children birth through age 8: A unifying foundation*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/19401>.
 10. Roberts, A.M., Iruka, I.U., & Sarver, S.L. (2017). Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Survey: A focus on providers and teachers. This statistic is based only on those who responded to the survey and is not necessarily a representative sample of the state.
 11. Karoly, L. A. (2017). The case for investing in disadvantaged young children. In B. Falk (Ed.), *Defending Early Childhood* (pp.235-242). New York: Teachers College Press.
 12. Bureau of Business Research, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2020). *The Bottom Line: Economic Impacts of Inadequate Child Care Access in Nebraska*. Report prepared for First Five Nebraska. August 4, 2020. Retrieved from: http://www.firstfivenebraska.org/uploads/Bottom_Line_Report-FINAL.pdf
 13. Heckman, J., Pinto, R., & Savelyev, P. (2013). Understanding the Mechanisms Through Which an Influential Early Childhood Program Boosted Adult Outcomes. *American Economic Review*, 103(6), 2052-2086. Heckman: The Economics of Human Potential. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://heckmanequation.org/>
 14. Daro, A. & Gallagher, K. (2020). The Nebraska COVID-19 early care and education provider survey II: Experiences, economic impact, and ongoing needs. "Things are starting to take a toll." Retrieved from: <https://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu/-/media/beci/docs/provider-survey-2-080420-final.pdf?la=en>

Join the Conversation.....



Buffett Early Childhood Fund	buffettearly.org
Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska	buffetinstitute.nebraska.edu
First Five Nebraska	firstfivenebraska.org
Growing Together Northeast Nebraska	growingtogetherne.com
Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties	learningcommunityds.org
Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children (NeAEYC)	nebraskaaeyc.org
Nebraska Association of School Boards	nasbonline.org
Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC)	unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry	nechamber.com
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	nebraskachildren.org
Nebraska Community Foundation	necommfound.org
Nebraska Council of School Administrators	nca.org
Nebraska Department of Economic Development	opportunity.nebraska.gov
Nebraska Department of Education	education.ne.gov
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	dhhs.ne.gov
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative	nebraskaeearly.org
Nebraska Early Learning Connection (Northern Partnership)	esu1.org/nelcp
Nebraska Economic Developers Association	neda1.org
Nebraska Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC)	esucc.org
Nebraska Extension	extension.unl.edu
Nebraska Head Start Association	neheadstart.org
Nebraska Hospital Association	nebraskahospitals.org
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association	nrca.net
Panhandle Partnership, Inc.	panhandlepartnership.com

Wifi Network Name: Younes Conf Center (No password required)

Connect with conference participants on social media during today's conference by using hashtag **#thrivingchildren2022**.

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