Final Agenda

The final meeting will continue the work with the Early Learning Fellows and provide issue content information in a peer learning community setting with additional facilitated small group time. Other goals include:

- Build knowledge among legislators about new research and policy.
- Promote exchange of ideas and solutions related to early learning, the early achievement gap, and many other birth to age eight issues.
- Introduce and connect legislators to other legislative leaders.
- Provide fellows with practical information they can use in their state, including an early learning action plan.
- Facilitate access to leading researchers and policy experts.

Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015
Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park
Location: Ballroom B/C 1st Floor

7:30-8 a.m. Breakfast
Ballroom A – 1st Floor

8-8:45 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day
Introduction: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
Fellows will go around the room with any updates.

8:45-9:45 a.m. The Power of Play and Helping Young Children Develop SR/EF
Take an in-depth look at self-regulation/executive function (SR/EF) and the link between those skills and later school achievement. Hear how high-quality early learning environments can promote the development of these skills in children, and how make-believe play can help young children develop SR/EF.

Introduction: Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Deb Leong, Tools of the Mind, Colorado

9:45-10 a.m. Break
10-11:15 a.m.  Supporting Children and their Parents through Child Care
Child care is an important work support for parents and child development opportunity for young children. At this session you will learn about the latest changes to the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and the opportunities for lawmakers to enhance their child development system.

Moderator: Charlotte Brantley, Clayton Early Learning, Colorado
Speakers: Christine Johnson-Staub, Center for Law and Social Policy, D.C.
Karen Schulman, National Women’s Law Center, D.C.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  Early Learning Planning: Thinking through Your Top Priorities
Identify your top priorities in a small group setting and begin to work on your individual Early Learning Plan worksheet.

12:15-1 p.m.  Lunch
Ballroom A – 1st Floor

1-2:15 p.m.  Home Visiting: A Legislative Primer
Home visiting is a voluntary, evidence-based prevention strategy to support at-risk pregnant mothers and new parents. State legislators play an important role in developing policies that incorporate evaluation findings, accountability measures, and quality improvement strategies while promoting long-term cost savings for states. Learn about efforts in Colorado to promote infant and child health, healthy child development, and school readiness through home visiting. You’ll hear what quality home visiting looks like through first-hand experiences.

Moderator: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speaker: Lisa Hill, Invest in Kids, Colorado
Jennifer Scholl, Invest in Kids/Nurse-Family Partnership, Colorado

2:15-2:45 p.m.  Early Learning Planning: Putting Pen to Paper
Decide your next steps and fill in your individual Early Learning Plan.

2:45-3 p.m.  Break

3-4:15 p.m.  Pay for Success: Innovative Financing to Support Early Childhood Programs
In tight budget times, policymakers are examining new and innovative ways to finance the services children need. Learn about performance-based investing, a financing strategy gaining popularity; social impact bonds, or “pay for success,” including a national overview of a successful functioning model; and South Carolina’s efforts to adapt this model for home visiting.

Moderator: Robyn Lipkowitz, National Conference of State Legislatures
Speakers: Joe Waters, Institute for Child Success, South Carolina
Senator Thomas Alexander, South Carolina

4:15-5 p.m.  CCDBG Focus Group (optional session)
Please join us for a robust discussion about the recent reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant. The changes to the law may present obstacles as well as opportunities for state lawmakers. To best support you as you address these
changes, we are asking for your input and legislative perspective on child care as the upcoming session approaches. Some potential discussion questions:

1. Are you aware of the CCDBG Reauthorization?
2. How do you see your role, or the role of the legislature, in deciding policy for your state child care program?
3. How does child care fit into your state’s early childhood strategy? Do you see child care as part of your state’s early learning continuum or more as a work support for families?

6-8 p.m.  
**Reception & Dinner**  
_Aspen & Snowmass Room – 1st Floor_

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**Friday, Oct. 9, 2015**  
_Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park_  
**Location:** _Ballroom B/C 1st Floor_

8-8:30 a.m.  
**Breakfast & Networking**  
_Ballroom A – 1st Floor_

8:30-9:30 a.m.  
**Brain Science: Interventions and Policy Implications**  
The session will highlight the latest research, promising interventions and policy considerations for mitigating the effects of toxic stress in young children and their families.

- **Introduction:** Julie Poppe, National Conference of State Legislatures  
- **Speaker:** Sarah Watamura, University of Denver, Colorado

9:30-10:30 a.m  
**Show Me the Evidence: Key Questions for Legislators When Examining the Research**  
This session will give the fellows a primer on evaluation research, strategies for decoding research terminology, and insights on the levels of evidence associated with different types of research studies.

- **Facilitator:** Courtney Harrison, CLH Strategies and Solutions, Colorado  
- **Speaker:** Sarah Daily, Child Trends, D.C.

10:30-10:45 a.m.  
**Break**

10:45-11:15 a.m.  
**Early Learning Planning Exercise**

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**What Legislators Need to Know about P-3**  
There is a lack of coordination between the early childhood system and the K-12 system. Hear what a P-3 system could look like and how some states have promoted effective strategies for better transition between preschool and kindergarten and K-12. Learn about what it means to have aligned standards and assessments.

- **Moderator:** Matt Weyer, National Conference of State Legislatures  
- **Speaker:** Emily Workman, Education Commission of the States

12:15-1:15 p.m.  
**Lunch and Networking**  
_Ballroom A – 1st Floor_
1:15-2 p.m.  Early Learning Planning

2-3 p.m.  Reflect on the meeting and next steps for early learning plans
Provide one nugget from the meeting or highlights from your plan.

This event is made possible by the generous support of the following sponsors:
The Bezos Family Foundation, Mattel Inc. and the Alliance for Early Success