



Sept. 18-19, 2017 | Denver, Colorado

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## Second Meeting: Policy, Research and Innovations

Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park • 16455 E. 40th Circle, Aurora, CO 80011

### Speaker Biographies

**Bruce Atchison** is the director of early learning initiatives and has been at Education Commission of the States for four years. He brings more than 30 years of experience working in education. He has served as: chief of staff for a lieutenant governor; on a governor's cabinet and senior leadership team; executive vice president of a child advocacy organization; worked in a governor's policy office as the Head Start State Collaboration director; executive director of Denver Public Schools Family Resource Schools; director of the City of Boulder's Children's Services; and was president and CEO of a nonprofit child care center. He served on the faculty at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado, Boulder as a child development specialist. Most importantly he was in the classroom for more than 10 years. He has been honored as the "Educator of the Year," and he received the Edna Oliver Nancy Swank Early Childhood Lifetime Achievement Award. When not working you can find him fly fishing in the Rocky Mountains.

**Jeanna Capito** has been working in the prenatal-to-5 field for nearly 20 years with experience including the management of child care programming, Early Head Start, Head Start, developmental oriented pediatrics, national home visiting models, and child welfare programming. Capito has spent the last 11 years focused on the development of state and local initiatives to increase quality of programs, access by families and capacity of professionals and communities through systems change across social services agencies, education systems, home visiting services, public health programming and healthcare systems. Capito's work has involved managing projects including the development of birth-to-3 Early Learning Guidelines, recommending and implementing quality support structures for home visiting, crafting national scale learning communities for across Head Start and child care with their respective federal offices, and building a technical assistance structure for collaboration building. Capito brings strong working knowledge of both state and local systems, including work on policies and recommendations to ensure that systems at each level inform one another and are built in response to the characteristics of each other. Capito's consulting work is focused around her expertise in budget creation and management, and ability to build the complementary fiscal, governance and management systems that support collaboration and program implementation. Through this work, Capito builds structures to support the integration and efficient use of varied early childhood funding streams.

**Douglas H. Clements** is the Kennedy Endowed Chair in Early Childhood Learning and Professor at the University of Denver. Clements has published over 135 refereed research studies, 22 books, 86 chapters, and 300 additional publications on the learning and teaching of early mathematics; computer applications; creating, using, and evaluating research-based curricula; and taking interventions to scale, mostly with colleague and wife Julie Sarama. He served on the U.S. President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel, the Common Core State Standards committee, and the National Research Council's Committee on Early Mathematics, and is co-author of each of their reports.

**Representative James Coleman** is a Democratic member of the Colorado House of Representatives, representing District 7. He was first elected to the chamber in 2016. Coleman received his B.A. in psychology and a minor in business administration from Oral Roberts University. His professional experience includes serving as vice president of community engagement at the nonprofit ACE Scholarships and serving as vice president of the board of directors at Highline Academy. He has been a member of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, INROADS, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the Urban League of Metro Denver Young Professionals. During the 2017 legislative session Coleman was a member of the Business Affairs and Labor; and Local Government committees.

**Jill Filene** has 20 years of experience in applied research, program evaluation, and technical assistance (TA) to home visiting, child maltreatment prevention, and early childhood programs. She is also experienced in designing, implementing, and managing research and TA projects. Filene is the project director for the National Home Visiting Resource Center, the Design Options for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Evaluation (DOHVE) Technical Assistance, and the Family Level Assessment in Home Visiting projects. Filene is part of the management team and contributes to the development of research methodologies, data collection and site recruitment on both Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE) and Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program – Strong Start. Filene is also a member of the management team for the Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative (HARC). Prior to joining Janes Bell Associates, Filene was a research fellow for the Center for Disease Control, working on replication studies, a meta-analysis of parent training programs, and providing evaluation technical assistance to statewide effectiveness trials of child maltreatment prevention programs. She has worked on studies of several national home visiting models, including the Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, Early Head Start -Home Visiting, Parents as Teachers, SafeCare, Fussy Baby, Family Connections, and Healthy Steps. Filene has a master's in public health with a focus on maternal and child health from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Carlise King** is the executive director of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends, which promotes policies and practices that support the development and use of coordinated early childhood data across departments of education, social services, and public health to guide policy. King regularly convenes experts from states and national and technical assistance groups to communicate effective strategies for data integration and use of data to support policy. She brings years of experience analyzing early childhood services to improve policies and coordinate services for vulnerable young children. Carlise has over 16 years of experience conducting state and national level research on early childhood issues and examining the impact of state and federal policies on parents' access to child care services, licensed child care supply, child care costs, and the child care workforce.

**Deb Leong** is director of Tools of the Mind, and Professor Emerita of Psychology from Metropolitan University of Denver. Leong's interests include the application of the Vygotskian approach to early childhood education and authentic assessment. She has coauthored (with Elena Bodrova) *Tools of the Mind: The Vygotskian Approach to Early Childhood Education* and a series of educational videos on Vygotsky. She is co-director of the Tools of the Mind Project, which was chosen as an exemplary educational innovation by the International Bureau of Education, UNESCO, and United Nations. Leong's writing includes *Assessing and Guiding Young Children's Growth and Development* as well as several articles on dynamic assessment. She has also written about early childhood standards. Leong has a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

**Representative Susan Lontine** is a Democratic member of the Colorado House of Representatives, representing District 1. She was first elected to the chamber in 2014. During the 2017 legislative session, she served on the following committees: vice chair of State, Veterans and Military Affairs; Health, Insurance and Environment; and Legislative Council. Lontine is from central Florida. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida. Her professional experience includes working in advertising, working for Colorado state Representative Jeanne Labuda and serving as chief of staff for Colorado state Senator Irene Aguilar. Representative Lontine is an alum of NCSL's Early Learning Fellows program.

**Carey McCann** is assistant director of state services for the BUILD Initiative, which supports state leaders to design and develop effective early childhood systems, set policy that guides implementation of services, and advocate for children birth to age 5. McCann came to BUILD from more than 12 years at the Ounce of Prevention Fund, where she served as senior manager for the National Policy Team and led its consultation practice and peer learning with 18 states on early childhood policy and advocacy strategies. Prior to her national work, McCann coordinated the Ounce's Birth to Five Project, a statewide effort to identify system gaps and barriers, develop solutions, and link the many efforts that were already underway for children birth to 5 in Illinois. McCann started her career with six years in child welfare in Rochester, New York. She is a board member of the Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health. She has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Rochester, and a M.A. from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration with a concentration in policy and non-profit management, and a family support fellowship.

**Sheriff Michael McIntosh** has lived in Adams County, Colorado for four decades and has served in the Adams County Sheriff's Office for 30 years. Since taking office in 2015, he has focused on community engagement and outreach with an emphasis on public safety. Fostering unity within the Agency and building relationships with members of the public are hallmarks of his service. McIntosh is a United States Navy Veteran having served on the USS Constellation. Additionally, He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and the Leadership Program of the Rockies. He serves in a wide array of community groups, to include his position as State Director for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Past President for the Community Reach Center, and Chairman of the Board for the Adams County Sheriff's Foundation.

**Allison Mosqueda**, MS, RN, Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Nurse Consultant earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa and a master's degree in nursing education from Regis University. Her career as a nurse has been focused on maternal/child health and supporting underserved families. She was a home visitor with NFP starting in 2008, a supervisor in 2013 and has been a Nurse Consultant with Invest in Kids since 2015. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband and sons exploring Colorado.

**Julie Sarama** is the Kennedy Endowed Chair in Innovative Learning Technologies and Professor at the University of Denver and Director of the Marsico and Kennedy Institutes. She has taught high school mathematics and computer science, gifted, and early mathematics. She directs six projects funded by the National Science Foundation and the Institute of Education Sciences and has authored over 65 articles, five books, 53 chapters, and 50 computer programs, many with colleague and spouse Doug Clements. Her research interests include children's development of mathematical concepts and competencies, implementation and scale-up of educational interventions, professional development models' influence on student learning, and implementation and effects of software environments.

**Jennifer Stedron** is executive director of Early Milestones Colorado, an intermediary organization that will advance opportunities for early childhood success. Recently, she worked at the Aspen Institute as senior program manager for the Ascend initiative focused on two-generation approaches to family economic security. She has also served as the executive director of Colorado's Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) and the policy director for Early Childhood in the Office of Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia. In this last capacity, she spearheaded the ECLC's work to establish Colorado's new Office of Early Childhood and led the grant application effort that resulted in Colorado's \$45M Early Learning Challenge Fund award. Stedron has also managed bipartisan policy efforts in early childhood and K-12 education for NCSL. She has been published in a variety of formats including peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, and national policy briefs focused on topics spanning neural network models of development, early childhood data systems, and two-generation approaches to poverty. Stedron received her bachelor's from Michigan State University and her doctorate from the University of Denver in child clinical psychology with a specialty in developmental cognitive neuroscience.

**Representative Kathy Swan**, a Republican, represents Cape Girardeau and part of Cape Girardeau County (District 147) in the Missouri House of Representatives. She is president of JCS Wireless, a small wireless communications company. Swan has worked in a variety of nursing areas including progressive care, employee health, infection control, administrative supervision, and as a clinical instructor. She was elected to the General Assembly in November 2012. Previous elected offices include Cape Girardeau Board of Education, Cape Girardeau City Council, and Missouri Republican Party State Committeewoman. She served over 9 years on the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Previous state board service includes the Missouri METS Coalition (Math, Engineering, Technology, & Science), Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) and State P-20 Council. She is a former commissioner of the Senate Reapportionment Commission, appointed by Gov. Nixon, former commissioner of the Cape Girardeau Planning & Zoning Commission, and former treasurer of Team Emerson. Swan is the chair of the elementary and secondary education committee and the legislative task force on dyslexia.

**Colin Tackett** serves as manager of IT Solutions and Strategies for the Colorado Office of Early Childhood. In this role, Tackett coordinates between policy staff and technical staff to administer IT systems for early childhood education, quality, and health and safety services across Colorado. Before focusing on IT, he served in a number of policy positions from the Colorado Governor's Office to Human Rights Watch and the United Nations. Tackett graduated from New York University with a B.A. in International Relations, and returned to Colorado to work in education policy.