



Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day: *Best Practices in Home Visiting*

Monday, September 23, 2019
The California Endowment

PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:00 am Networking and Registration – Continental Breakfast Provided
- 9:00 am Welcome – South Chapter Co-Chair
- 9:15 - 10:15 am Keynote: A Happy, Healthier California for Generations to Come
Anna Henderson, Executive Director
Westside Infant-Family Network
- 10:15 - 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 - Noon Morning Break-Out Sessions: Select One
- A. Supporting Fathers to Grow with their Children and Family**
Richard Cohen, Ph.D., Ed.M.
Kevin Gruenberg, PsyD
- B. Using a Social-Emotional Lens to Understand Challenging Behaviors**
Dana Kalek, Ed.D
Kimberly Fortuna, M.A.
Child Development Institute
- C. Developmental, Behavioral, and Trauma Screening for Young Children:
Needs and Challenges**
Karen Moran Finello, Ph.D.
WestEd Center for Prevention & Early Intervention
- D. Supporting Sensory Strategies for Preschool Learning**
Joni Schumacher, M.S., CCC-SLP
Heather Lighthart, M.O.T., OTRL
Simi Valley Adventist Hospital Early Intervention Program
- E. The New Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines:
Implications for Dual Language Learners**
Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, Department of Children and Family Studies
California State University, Los Angeles

Noon - 1:00 pm

Lunch Provided

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Afternoon Break-Out Sessions: Select One

A. Supporting Fathers to Grow with their Children and Family

Richard Cohen, Ph.D., Ed.M.

Kevin Gruenberg, PsyD

B. Using a Social-Emotional Lens to Understand Challenging Behaviors

Dana Kalek, Ed.D

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C. Developmental, Behavioral, and Trauma Screening for Young Children: Needs and Challenges

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D. Supporting Sensory Strategies for Preschool Learning

Joni Schumacher, M.S., CCC-SLP

Heather Lighthart, M.O.T., OTRL

Simi Valley Adventist Hospital Early Intervention Program

E. Advocacy 101: Empowering Families and Ourselves in Support of Young Children (New Workshop)

Annie Cox, MA, CHIME Early Education Programs

Robin Millar, PT, Adventist Health Simi Valley Child Development Center

Theresa Quary, Family Focus Family Resource Center

2:30 - 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 - 4:15 pm

Homelessness: Supporting Families and Children

Facilitator: Dora Jacildo, MA, Executive Director, Comprehensive Child Development

Panelists: Dr. Elisa Nicholas, MD, M.S.P.H., F.A.A.P., Chief Executive Officer and Pediatrician, The Children's Clinic, Melissa Schoonmaker, L.C.S.W., LA County Office of Education, Alexis Vasquez, Children's Today EcoHouse

4:15 - 4:30 pm

Closing Remarks/Raffle – South Chapter Co-Chair



PROGRAM

NETWORKING AND REGISTRATION

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Check in to get materials, register on-site for C.E. units, and enjoy a continental breakfast with colleagues.

WELCOME • Yosemite Hall

9:00 am - 9:15 am

Julie Taren, Co-Chair, I.D.A. South Chapter
David Weinstein

MORNING KEYNOTE • Yosemite Hall

9:15 am - 10:15 am

A Happy, Healthier California for Generations to Come

Opportunities and discussion at the State are emphasizing the whole child, the whole family, and the whole community strategy. Anna Henderson, Executive Director of the Westside Infant-Family Network (W.I.N.), will present on their 9-agency collaboration to address the generational transmission of trauma by working with families, family childcare homes, schools, and wider communities. Her presentation will address the increased need for agencies and the professionals working within them to build a collaborative, reflexive approach to embrace trauma-informed principles that allow each family to co-create their care—while at the same time, creating healthier, more resilient workplaces. She will highlight the value for agencies to align their architectures to grow family-and front-line staff leadership while promoting how a holistic understanding of local and state decisions at all levels of government can lead to better policies for children and families. The keynote will close with recommendations on how to bring the system to the family and use resources to support families and children.

Keynote: Anna Henderson, M.A.

As an executive director, advocate, trainer, and consultant, Anna has been developing community partnerships to support families since 1991. She is the founding director of the Westside Infant-Family Network (W.I.N.), a nationally recognized early childhood mental health program and cross-sector collaboration that integrates health, mental health, social services and early education for families with young children facing trauma and multiple challenges. She is the primary architect and founder of the Intergenerational Health Neighborhood, a 9-agency collaboration to create trauma-resilient communities, recently funded under a 4-year, \$16M contract by the Department of Mental Health (D.M.H.). She participates in numerous local and national efforts to improve outcomes for children and families, including the executive committees of Maternal Mental Health Now and D.M.H. Service Area 5 Advisory Committee, as well as Harvard University's Frontiers of Innovation.

Prior to W.I.N., Anna served as the executive director of Chicago Commons, a national award-winning, placed-based collaboration, and family school. She has extensive experience in fundraising, nonprofit consultation, and advocacy; has spoken throughout the country on intergenerational mental health, family literacy, education, and collaboration; and is the author of Making Welfare-to-Work Work for Families, a white paper funded for publication by the MacArthur Foundation.

Ms. Henderson has a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois, Chicago, as well as bachelor's degrees in English and Fine Arts from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

BREAK: 10:15 am - 10:30 am

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 10:30 am-Noon

A. Supporting Fathers to Grow with their Children and Family

Room: Catalina

Research confirms that fathers play a critical and unique role in a child's development. Fathers active in childcare promote a child's social-emotional and cognitive development and lower the risk of developing emotional disturbance. Paternal involvement can also mitigate the effects of maternal stress beginning even in pregnancy. Though important, fathers are also vulnerable; they suffer from rates of perinatal depression compared to those of mothers.

The last two decades have seen dramatic growth in supporting at-risk families with young children. These programs aspire to promote maternal health and optimal child development while also reducing neglect and abuse. The vast majority of these approaches focus on mothers, and even the programs that welcome dads are not grounded in the advantages of the benefits fathers can bring to the family.

In an effort to explore policies and practices oriented towards inclusive programs, the presenters will discuss two funded projects: 1) a home visitation with dads program; 2) a series of focus groups to hear directly from fathers about what they need to be more involved and the barriers to participation they experienced.

The presentation will include discussion on our findings and experiences and an opportunity for participants to reflect on their programs and to plan for increasing father engagement.

Speakers

Richard Cohen, Ph.D., Ed.M.

Richard Cohen has spent his career as an early childhood teacher, researcher, and administrator. His special areas of focus have included young children in the child welfare system, early identification and intervention, parent engagement, and, most recently, the roles of fathers. A Los Angeles native, Richard holds a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from U.C.L.A. and Ed.M. in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In the current millennium, Richard completed the UMass Boston/Napa Infant-Parent Post Graduate fellowship and endorsed as an Advanced Infant-Family and Early Childhood Transdisciplinary Mental Health Practitioner.

Kevin Gruenberg, PsyD

Kevin Gruenberg is an independent consultant and program developer focused on integrating fathers into programs that engage developing families. He co-developed and is researching a home visitation program for fathers and their young children meant to promote paternal engagement and family wellbeing. He also provides consultation and training on fatherhood and building parent-child relationships throughout Los Angeles. Lastly, as a clinical psychologist, Dr. Gruenberg works with children, families, and adults in private practice.

B. Using a Social-Emotional Lens to Understand Challenging Behaviors

Room: Mojave

Children's challenging behaviors can often leave us baffled, frustrated, and pulling at straws trying to determine what to do next. This session will help participants recognize how our regulation and responses can impact the adult/child dynamic and will provide an opportunity to develop and use a social-emotional lens to understand how a child's neurology, temperament, and emotional responses contribute to challenging behaviors. Participants will learn strategies to respond in non-reactive and empathic ways, as well as how to use a developmentally sensitive approach to help children regulate and communicate when big emotions occur.

This presentation will describe home visiting from the perspective of the parent, home visitor, and resource parent. No/low-cost materials will be shared that may be left with families on child development.

Speakers

Dana Kalek, Ed.D

Dr. Dana Kalek is the Director of Operations at the Child Development Institute located in Woodland Hills, CA. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Child Development from Cal State University, Northridge and her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership-Educational Psychology from Pepperdine University. She has been working in the field of early intervention for over 20 years by supporting and influencing those relationships that impact early development in children. She has published several journal articles that focus on the importance of the parent-child relationship as well as presented at various international conferences. Dr. Kalek teaches child development as an adjunct professor at Los Angeles Valley College.

Kimberly Fortuna, M.A.

Kimberly Fortuna graduated from California State University, Northridge with an M.A. in Educational Psychology and Counseling with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education. Kimberly is currently a School Program Supervisor and Training Program Coordinator at the Child Development Institute in Woodland Hills. Kimberly provides early intervention to children and families in both home and school environments as well as offers professional training, developmental assessments, and consultation to preschools.

C. Developmental, Behavioral, and Trauma Screening for Young Children: Needs and Challenges

Room: Cabrillo

This session will provide an overview of what is known about developmental, behavioral, and trauma screening for young children in California and efforts to improve screening in primary care. New legislation requiring trauma screening in addition to developmental screening will be highlighted, with attention to the need for resources and referrals to support young children identified through screenings. The work of the California State Screening Collaborative, co-funded by the C.A. Departments of Developmental Services and Public Health, will be shared. This includes efforts to address challenges related to the workforce available to provide needed services and creation of resource materials for referring sources.

Speaker

Karen Moran Finello, Ph.D

Dr. Finello is an applied developmental psychologist with a specialization in birth to five-year-olds and their families and works in WestEd's Center for Prevention & Early Intervention. She has developed, directed, and evaluated home-based, community programs focused on NICU graduates, very young children with behavioral and mental health issues, and children under age 5 at risk for developmental problems since 1983. Dr. Finello provides training, technical assistance, and consultation to school districts, hospitals, and community, state, national, and international organizations in the areas of infant mental health, early intervention, early childhood development, reflective supervision, evaluation, and program development. She was the project director for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Systems Administration (SAMHSA) System of Care Project for birth to 5-year-olds in Los Angeles from 2005-2012, the external evaluator for the California Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (M.I.E.C.H.V.) Programs from 2012-2016, and currently directs Promising Minds in Hawaii, California's Project LAUNCH, and the California State Screening Collaborative. In addition, Dr. Finello provides training and technical assistance to Part C Early Intervention programs nationally. She is endorsed as a B-5 Mental Health Specialist and a Reflective Practice Mentor in California and is retired faculty in the Emeriti Center at the University of Southern California. Dr. Finello earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Southern California in 1984.

D. Supporting Sensory Strategies for Preschool Learning

Room: Joshua Tree

Young children take in information through their senses – sound, touch, taste, and smell. Presenters will describe the sensory system and states of regulation that support young children, and the importance of knowing how sensory processing impacts a child's behavior, social interaction, and learning. Participants will learn strategies to support classroom engagement, learning, and peer play.

Speakers

Joni Schumacher, M.S., CCC-SLP

Joni Schumacher obtained her Bachelor and Master's degrees from Loma Linda University and has over 25 years of experience working with infants, toddlers, and youth. She has learned from the children and adolescents that she has worked within the public schools, mental health facilities, private practice, and outpatient clinic settings. Joni currently is working at the Adventist Health Simi Valley Hospital Child Development Center and has extensive knowledge of language development and language challenges, autism spectrum disorder, sensory processing, and social cognition. She believes that supporting a child in their pursuit of play, joy, and knowledge is the basis of all learning relationships.

Heather Lighthart, M.O.T., OTR/L

Heather Lighthart is a registered and licensed occupational therapist who received her Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from Loma Linda University. She has been practicing as a pediatric occupational therapist for almost 15 years in a variety of settings, including private practice, clinical, schools, and services within the home environment. She currently is working at Adventist Health Simi Valley Hospital's Child Development Center. Heather's expertise includes sensory processing and regulation and creating sensory diets. Advanced education in Handwriting Without Tears and the ALERT Program are among some of the tools she utilizes. She truly loves working with children of all ages and ability levels but has developed a passion for sensory processing and how it affects a child's daily life. Heather enjoys supporting each child to reach their potential by providing strategies, building on their strengths, and collaborating with family and other professionals involved in the child's life.

The New Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Program Guidelines for Dual Language Learners

(Session offered in AM only)

Room: Yosemite Hall

The California State Department of Education has released a new edition of the Infant/Toddler Learning and Development Guidelines. The new edition has a dedicated chapter on the development of infants/toddlers who come from homes where English is not the primary language. This session will discuss the major topics from this chapter, including guiding principles, brain development, best practices, and the importance of family engagement.

Speaker

Marlene Zepeda, Ph.D.

Marlene Zepeda is a Professor Emerita in the Department of Child and Family Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. A former preschool and elementary school teacher, Dr. Zepeda's scholarship focuses on dual language learning (DLL) in Spanish speaking preschool children and child development in Latino infants and toddlers.

Dr. Zepeda has participated in many activities relevant to dual language learners. For the California State Department of Education, Dr. Zepeda led a group of national experts in the development of California's Early Learning Foundations for English Language Development for 3 and 4-year-olds. This was the first effort of its kind

in the nation and contributed to a series of research papers and video materials associated with California's Best Practices for Dual Language Learners.

Dr. Zepeda has authored several publications focused on the development of dual language learners, including a set of teacher competencies for Dual Language Learners. She recently contributed a commissioned paper focused on workforce development for the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's report entitled, Promoting the Educational Success of Children and Youth Learning English: Promising Futures. She has developed a Policy Framework for Young DLLs in California sponsored by the Heising-Simons Foundation and is a contributing writer to California's Infant-Toddler Guidelines (2nd Edition). Her current research focuses on understanding pedagogical practice with preschool-age Dual Language Learners.

Dr. Zepeda is a member of the Campaign for Quality Early Education, a California advocacy group that lobbies on behalf of Dual Language Learners and currently is a member of Los Angeles', First Five Commission. Marlene received her B.A. in Child Development from California State University, Los Angeles and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Developmental Studies and Early Childhood Education from the University of California, Los Angeles.

LUNCHEON • COURTYARD

Noon – 1:00 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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NEW WORKSHOP

E. Advocacy 101: Empowering Families and Ourselves in Support of Young Children

Room: Yosemite Hall

The first five years in the life of a child are a critical time for learning and developing. We need now more than ever for educators and families to work together to advocate for issues that matter in the life of young children. A panel that includes a parent representative from the Family Resource Center and program administrators will address steps and strategies to support families to participate as equal partners in advocacy efforts.

Speakers

Annie R. Cox, M.A.

Annie R. Cox is the director of the CHIME Early Education Programs. She holds an M.A. in Educational Psychology (Early Childhood Special Education). She has been involved in programs for young children and families for over 30 years supporting access for inclusive education for young children and has participated in the mentoring and supervision of university students.

Theresa Quarry

Theresa Quarry has been a coordinator at the Family Focus Resource Center in the San Fernando Valley since 2006. Her responsibilities include conducting parent and professional training and workshops on such topics as record organization, the individualized education program process, parent rights and procedural safeguards, and disability awareness. She plans and coordinates outreach events and meetings to pertinent agencies, hospitals, families, and the community; and attends district meetings and workshops to disseminate information to parents.

Robin Millar, PT

Robin Millar has had rich and rewarding experiences working with and supporting families and their infants, toddlers, and children with identified needs for over 45 years. She currently is the Administrative Director of Adult and Pediatric Therapy Services at Adventist Health Simi Valley Hospital and serves over 600 children and families in their Child Development Center.

Robin's involvement in the child development community has included local, county, and state service roles on various Boards of Directors, the Executive Committee for First 5 Moorpark/Simi Valley Neighborhoods for Learning, as a Community Representative for the State Interagency Coordinating Council, and former State Chair and current I.D.A. Board Director. She consistently advocates for children and their families and influences others to do so too. Robin has presented at numerous conferences and seminars as well as to college/university students representing the various fields that support the wellbeing of children with identified needs.

BREAK

2:30 pm – 2:45

LATE AFTERNOON PLENARY • Yosemite Hall

2:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Homelessness: Supporting Families and Children

This session will focus on homelessness and its effects on early childhood development. Panelists will discuss how homelessness can inhibit the physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. They will also share strategies that service providers, in partnership with families, can implement to minimize these effects. Participants will further understand the importance of advocating for a child-focused case management plan and the role they can play as a convener of a multi-disciplinary team in support of young children experiencing homelessness.

Speakers

Dora Jacildo, M.A.

Dora Jacildo came to Comprehensive Child Development Services in 2016 from S.A.H.A.R.A. (South Asian Helpline and Referral Agency), where she was the organization's first Executive Director. Before joining S.A.H.A.R.A., she was the Executive Director of Children Today for close to 11 years. At Children Today, she

developed a trauma-informed service delivery model in response to the needs of young children experiencing homelessness.

Dora Jacildo has a wealth of nonprofit management expertise working with women and children and is a recognized community leader with past appointments to the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, and the Board of Directors of Child 360 (formerly L.A.U.P.), where she served as Secretary. She currently serves as Treasurer of Every Child California and Chair of the Villages of Cabrillo Collaborative.

Dora Jacildo is a strong advocate for young children and education equity. She believes that an anti-bias, trauma-informed learning environment provides the best outcomes for all children.

Dora Jacildo has a Master's degree in Human Development and Social Change from Pacific Oaks College and was formerly part-time faculty at Los Angeles Harbor College. She resides in the city of Lakewood with her 9-year old son, Jacob.

Dr. Elisa Nicholas, MD, M.S.P.H., F.A.A.P.

Dr. Elisa Nicholas has served as Chief Executive Officer of The Children's Clinic, "Serving Children & Their Families" (T.C.C.) for over 30 years. Dr. Nicholas has taken what was once a small, mostly volunteer-run clinic serving only children in Long Beach, California to an innovative and progressive system of thirteen community health centers and a mobile clinic that provide comprehensive trauma informed health and wellness services serving 40,000 patients of all ages, through 130,000 visits per year throughout Long Beach and the South Bay. T.C.C. addresses not only individual health issues of patients but also the social determinants of health.

Dr. Nicholas has a history of commitment to helping children and their families lead healthier and happier lives and experience success. She has driven pioneering work in chronic disease management, such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences (A.C.E.s), and families experiencing homelessness. Dr. Nicholas oversaw the Everychild Bright Beginnings Initiative incorporated throughout T.C.C. to identify and address the effects of toxic stress and exposure to violence on infants, toddlers, and pregnant mothers. Under her guidance, T.C.C. was the first certified trauma-informed organization in Los Angeles County and has become the primary provider of primary healthcare to those experiencing homelessness or precariously housed.

She has implemented and participated in numerous collaboratives that involve the active participation of the communities, including Long Beach Alliance for Food and Fitness, Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma, and Partnership for Public Health. She recognizes the wisdom, resiliency, and strength of children and their families and is honored and humbled to be their partner.

A graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles (U.C.L.A.) School of Medicine, Dr. Nicholas completed a pediatric residency at the Yale University School of Medicine, and preventative medicine residency while a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Fellow at the U.C.L.A. School of Medicine. She earned her Masters of Science in Public Health from the U.C.L.A. Fielding School of Public Health and has received numerous awards for her work.

Melissa Schoonmaker, L.C.S.W.

Melissa Schoonmaker is the Project Director III, Child Welfare and Attendance, Los Angeles County Office of Education. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California. She is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Melissa joined the Los Angeles County Office of Education (L.A.C.O.E.) in the Division of School Support Services in 2012 to serve as the Homeless Liaison in order to support the 80 school districts and more than 320 charter schools to meet the educational needs of more than 70,000 youth identified as experiencing homelessness across the County. Currently, she serves as the Project Director for the Child Welfare and Attendance Unit and oversees support to school districts and charters regarding attendance, student discipline, homelessness, enrollment, and a myriad of other child welfare issues. Before the L.A.C.O.E., Melissa was employed at the Los Angeles Unified School District (L.A.U.S.D.) for 16 years in several positions including Pupil Services and Attendance (P.S.A.) Counselor, School Attendance Review Board Chairperson and as a P.S.A. Coordinator over the Homeless Education, Pregnant Minors, Permits and Student Transfers, Foreign Student Admissions, and

School Court Liaison Programs. The culmination of her professional experiences has enabled her to facilitate outreach and support additional services as a collaborative partner with various district personnel, community organizations, and other stakeholders to make a positive impact upon the educational goals of students and their families across Los Angeles County.

Alexis Vasquez, B.S.

Alexis Vasquez is passionate about children and has built a career out of helping them learn, grow, and thrive. She has over 17 years of experience in the field of child development, starting as an assistant teacher at Isabel Patterson Child Development Center and working her way up to center director of Children Today's EcoHouse, a position she has held for three years.

In her current role, Alexis oversees a trauma-informed child development program that serves children 0-5 years of age who are experiencing homelessness or involved in the child welfare system as a result of abuse or neglect. She is responsible for guiding teachers in their work to ensure the environment is welcoming, developmentally appropriate, and responsive to the needs of children and families. She also works closely with the agency's social worker to coordinate resources for families and advocate on their behalf when they need additional support.

Alexis has a Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development and Family Studies from California State University, Long Beach and a Program Director Permit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

CLOSING REMARKS AND RAFFLE

Lisa Dittbenner, Co-Chair, I.D.A. South Chapter
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Thank you for your participation at the conference!

THIS CONFERENCE IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY:

