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Division of
Early Childhood

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUMMIT

Families Lead the Way: Transforming Communities Through Engagement

Featuring Author and
National Expert
Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D.



Providing resources, tools
and support to early
childhood service providers,
families and communities to
help create engaged
communities.

Thursday
July 26, 2018
8:00am-3:30pm

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Program

Registration, Breakfast and Networking	8:00-9:00 AM
Welcome and Greetings	9:00-9:15 AM
Keri Hyde, Executive Director, Ready At Five and Dorothy Stoltz, Director for Community Engagement, Carroll County Public Library	
Steven Hicks, Assistant State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood	
Keynote	9:15-10:15 AM
Joyce Epstein, Ph.D., Director of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships and the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)	
Break	10:15-10:30 AM
Early Childhood Advisory Councils on Effective Family Engagement Initiatives	10:30-11:30 AM
Mandy Feeney, Early Childhood Instructional Coordinator, Chair, Early Childhood Advisory Council, Cecil County Public Schools	
Lisa Davis, Coordinator, Early Childhood Programs, Howard County Public School System	
Black and Latino Parents' Promotion of their Young Children's Learning	11:30 AM-Noon
Susan Sonnenschein, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director Applied Developmental Psychology Program UMBC	
Introducing the New <i>Maryland Families Engage</i> Website	12:00-12:15 PM
Chris Swanson, Ed.D., Senior Director of Quality Early Care & Education Associate Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University School of Education, Center for Technology in Education	
Networking Lunch	12:15-1:30 PM
Workshops	1:30-3:30 PM
Conclusion	3:30 PM

Please visit our Education Stations for wonderful resources from Judy Centers, Local Councils, Maryland Family Network, Johns Hopkins CTE and Library Partners. (Located in the hallway across from the registration table)
Also, please visit our Maryland Families Engage Web Café for a chance to view the NEW Maryland Families Engage website! (Located in the Memorabilia Room)

Open 8:00am-12:30pm

Keynote Speaker



Joyce Epstein, Ph.D.

Joyce L. Epstein, Ph.D. is Director of the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships and the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), Principal Research Scientist, and Research Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. In 1995, she established the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS), which provides professional development to enable school, district, and state leaders to design research-based programs of family and community involvement.

Dr. Epstein has authored over one hundred publications on family and community involvement including *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*, Third Edition (Corwin Press, 2009), which guides partnerships program development, and a textbook for college courses for future teachers and administrators called *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Preparing Educators and Improving Schools*, second edition (Westview, 2011).

Among recent awards, she was named a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in 2009 and received the 2009 Elizabeth Cohen Award for Applied Research from AERA's Sociology of Education Special Interest Group. Her current research focuses on how district and school leadership affect the quality of schools' programs of family and community involvement and results for students. In all her work, she is interested in the connections of research, policy, and practice.

Facilitator



Jeffrey Capizzano

Jeffrey Capizzano is President and Founder of the Policy Equity Group, LLC, a consultancy that empowers socially conscious organizations by providing advocacy, research, and communications support. He is a nationally known advocate and researcher with both private and public-sector experience. Prior to founding his consultancy, Mr. Capizzano was a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development and Education at the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He also

worked for seven years at the Urban Institute conducting policy-related research in the areas of early childhood and K–12 education.

Morning Presenters

Lisa Davis

Lisa has been the Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs for the Howard County Public School System for 12 years. Prior to that, she was an assistant principal and an elementary math/science curriculum specialist. She was lucky enough to spend the first ten years of her career teaching preschool, kindergarten, and second grade. She is the co-founder/co-chair of the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council and is on a mission to create a countywide, high-quality early childhood infrastructure (including community-based child care programs and the public school system) that provides support for all young children and their families.

Mandy Feeney

Mandy is the Instructional Coordinator for Early Childhood Education, and the Chair of Cecil County Early Childhood Advisory Council with Cecil County Public Schools. She began her career in early childhood education 24 years ago as a teacher's assistant in a child care center. Mandy has worked in the Cecil County Public School system for the past 17 years. Her roles have included prekindergarten teacher, kindergarten teacher, special educator, instructional coach and assistant principal. She has obtained two undergraduate degrees and two Master's degrees with concentrations in early education, elementary education, reading and literacy, and educational leadership. She has been the Coordinator of Early Childhood Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for the last 3 years. Mandy supervises the Cecil County Judy Center, serves on the Board of Directors for MRDC representing the interest of early education and Head Start, and serves as the Chair of the Cecil County Early Childhood Advisory Council. She has redefined the vision and work of the Cecil County ECAC and as a result serves on a Local Management Board subcommittee advocating for the importance of allocated resources and supports focused on young families and their children in Cecil County.

Susan Sonnenschein, Ph.D.

Dr. Sonnenschein is an Associate Professor in the Applied Developmental Psychology program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. In addition to her doctorate in developmental psychology, she received a Master's degree in education psychology and is certified as a school psychologist.

Chris Swanson, Ed.D.

Dr. Christopher Swanson leads a team focused on improving outcomes for young children, and any child with diverse development and learning. This includes partnering with the Maryland State Department of Education to operate the Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating and Improvement System that is designed to ensure all children have access to high-quality child care and preschool programming; Maryland Learning Links, a comprehensive educational strategies and innovations website; the Making Access Happen initiative promoting inclusive preschool education; the Maryland Families Engage website designed to promote best-practices in partnering with families to holistically meet the needs of children; and multiple early learning and special education competency-based workforce transformation badging models. Before joining Hopkins, he served as the principal for the National Connections Academy School. Prior to that role, he was the director of professional development and instructional supports, and an autism and cognitive delay specialist in the central office of Baltimore County Public Schools.

Workshops

A. It Takes a Village: Understanding Millennials and Gen Xers as Parents Room: A302
Lacy Tsonis, Maryland Family Network and Bunny Egerton, Columbia Association

Each generation of parents changes how we view and understand parenting styles and family dynamics. Generation X and Millennial parents have unique perspectives and approaches to raising their children; understanding these is an important aspect of building strong relationships with them. To truly engage families, understanding who they are and how they approach parenting is an important aspect of the relationship. Come explore how Generation X and Millennials were raised, how this impacts how they parent, and strategies to engage with them.

B. Empowerment is Our Policy: Utilizing Parent Leaders to Create Positive Impact Room: A303
Jody Burghardt, Discovery Station Early Head Start, Angelica de Soto, Early Head Start, and Susan Palomino

This workshop will detail our belief in not only sharing best practices with parents about ways they, as their children's first teachers, can stimulate and make their children's learning continuous; but also offer the adequate space for parents themselves to practice leadership in diverse ways, and foster a sense of community by sharing their own areas of knowledge and expertise. We believe our initiatives promote family well-being, support the educational aspirations of parents and families as well as develop families as leaders and becoming their children's advocates.

C. From Parent Participant to Parent Leader: The Parent University Program Room: A304
Britney Pitts, University of Maryland Promise Heights Initiative, and Gisselle Joseph, Parent Coordinator, Parent University Program

This workshop aims to describe in detail the role of parent leadership in a community parenting program in West Baltimore, the Parent University Program (PUP). This workshop will introduce the PUP and its components; discuss the need and benefit of having peer leadership amongst the parents; describe the role of peer leaders; and discuss how to empower parents to move from PUP participant to PUP leader. The PUP brings in community partners to provide families with children birth to three years old with education and information on early brain development, health and nutrition, safety and discipline, stress management, attachment, parenting, and the importance of talking to their babies.

D. High Impact Culturally Responsive Family, School, and Community Engagement For Early Childhood Education Room: Aud.
Karmen Rouland, Ph.D., Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium and Nyla Bell, Senior Equity Specialist, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium

In this workshop, participants will learn how to engage racially, linguistically, and socioeconomically diverse families and learn how to address the needs of these families by examining assumptions and discussing strategies to promote two-way partnerships. The session will enable educators to create a culturally responsive setting where parents feel welcomed so that they can: 1) engage in the school environment and their child's education; 2) create a positive learning environment at home which will promote their child's well-being and learning; and 3) advocate for their children at school. Participants will think about and discuss the needs of families in their school/district and their hopes for family communities to become advocates within the school community, especially low-income and linguistically diverse families. We will explore methods of how to build authentic two-way partnerships and explore multiple strategies for meeting the needs of families.

E. The Importance of Culturally, Diverse Voices in Educational Settings: Utilizing Immigrant Parent Leaders to Connect Educators to the Communities they Serve
Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez and Laura Gardner

Room: A306

In this workshop, participants will design a plan to implement that will assist in involving all parents and identifying strategies for inviting diverse families/parents to take on leadership roles. Utilizing Immigrant Parent Leaders to Connect Educators to the Communities they serve. This workshop outlines a professional development experience for educators designed to connect them with immigrant communities they serve.

F. Using Media to Promote Collective Capacity in Family Engagement
Krista Respass, Maryland Public Television and Jackie Cassidy, Harford County Public Library

Room: 7 South A

In this workshop, MPT will demonstrate a family engagement activity model that champions multi-generational family learning to engage all members of the family in a creative learning process as they explore, share and create together. This multi-generational model is inspired by both Ricarose Roque's work at the MIT Media Lab, and the pioneering two-gen work of the National Center for Families Learning. Participants will learn how to leverage educational media and technology during their family engagement initiatives. MPT will highlight a variety of educator resources that include curriculum, background information and supports necessary for facilitators to confidently lead families during family engagement sessions. Educational digital media can foster a great learning and bonding experience for children and family members. Co-viewing activities increases preschool parents' awareness of, and ability to support their children's learning in the home environment.

G. Besides Love, What Every Family Needs
Gail Guillard and Virginia McDaniel, Maryland Family Network

Room: A300

This workshop will provide an opportunity for parents and organizational representatives to experience first-hand a Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Café. Those who are interested in bringing a fresh parent engagement and parent leadership model to their organizations will gain an understanding of Parent Cafés and will learn about free training opportunities and resources for providing Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Cafés in their communities.

H. Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors/ECAC Involvement
Anna Simulis, Early Childhood Behavioral Health Coach, and Todd Hall, Early Childhood Coordinator, Worcester County Public Schools

Room: 7 South B

Participants will delve more deeply into understanding, preventing and planning responses to challenging behaviors in young children. These sessions will highlight the Devereux Early Childhood Initiative, Facing the Challenge, including exploring answers to questions such as: What is challenging behavior? Why do kids misbehave? How can we partner with parents? What are some prevention strategies?

Workshop Presenters

Nyla Bell

Nyla is a former third generation Philadelphia public school teacher with over 10 years of experience in education and a longstanding commitment to working for education equity and social justice. As MAEC's Senior Education Equity Specialist, Nyla provides technical assistance (TA) to school districts seeking to advance racial, gender, cultural, and socioeconomic equity in their schools. Before joining MAEC, Nyla's work for education justice began as a teenager when she got her first paying job as a youth organizer and continued into adulthood as an English teacher; teacher consultant; graduate school instructor on race & critical pedagogy; and TA trainer.

Jody Burghardt

Jody has worked in the Early Childhood Education field for over 13 years as an advocate for parents, children and child care providers throughout Montgomery County. She has served on many committees and advisory boards at the local and state level. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and loves to stay active. In her free time, you can usually find her teaching group fitness classes at local gyms and training individuals to be group fitness instructor.

Jackie Cassidy

Jackie is a Children's Services Librarian, Lead Media Mentor and Tinkerer with 15 years of experience at Harford County Public Library. She is also a committee chairperson for the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. Sparking curiosity in children and engaging families with wondrous selections of media—both new and old is the most rewarding part of her day.

Angelica de Soto

Angelica, a bilingual and bi-cultural staff member, is the Parent Community Engagement Specialist for the Early Head Start (EHS) program in which her role is to provide opportunities for families to engage, support and expand their leadership skills. She has worked with the community at large for the past twenty years. Her experience through the community has ranged from volunteering with programs such as the Friends in Action, a program that promotes supporting, teaching and advocating for families; to working with the school system as an interpreter/translator. At EHS, she has had the opportunity to work in different roles for over a decade, from providing direct services to families and children, to assisting the assisting the health coordinator, and now, supporting parent's learning with her current position. Working in different roles for the EHS program has given her the understanding of the mission and services for the program. Participating in Early Head Start has been an inspiring experience for her.

Bunny Egerton

Bunny has overseen the Columbia Association Youth Services Division for over 15 years, managing 20 before and after school child care centers, employing 100 providers and serving 1,800 children daily. Previously, she has worked as a high school principal, testing coordinator, teacher, and in retail management. She is an adjunct instructor at Howard Community College. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Allegheny College, and her MEd in Special Education from Loyola University Maryland.

Andrea Felder

Andrea is a Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Café parent leader and mother of four young children. She homeschools her children and is an active part of her local homeschooling community. Andrea completed the Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Café Facilitator Training Institute at the beginning of 2018 and has recently joined the Maryland Family Network Parent Café team.

Laura Gardner

Laura has 16 years of experience working in public education, refugee resettlement, and social work. While in public education, she worked as a district level manager for immigrant family and community engagement as well as a school social worker. Laura worked for Bridging Refugee Youth and Children's Services (BRYCS) managing their national technical assistance initiative to federal Refugee School Impact Grantees. She has facilitated professional development on building the capacity of teachers and school systems to engage immigrant families in their children's education, language access, cultural competency, equity, unaccompanied immigrant children, immigrant family reunification, and refugee resettlement. Gardner holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor's degree in Education.

Gail Guillard, MA

Gail is the Family Support Training Director and Strengthening Families Coordinator with Maryland Family Network. Gail holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and has over 25 years of experience working with, and on behalf of, families. Her background includes family counseling; working with adolescents; family support; and training of human service staff. She is a certified trainer of both Be Strong Families Parent Cafés and of Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work, is a certified MBTI facilitator, and has presented workshops on a range of professional development topics in addition to facilitating Parent Cafés.

Todd Hall

Todd is the Early Childhood Coordinator for Worcester County Public Schools. He has been a former Principal at both Pocomoke Elementary and Pocomoke Middle Schools. Pocomoke Elementary was named a National Title 1 school and Blue Ribbon School under his leadership. Mr. Hall received the prestigious Terrell Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership in 2012 which recognized only 6 distinguished Principals each year.

Giselle Joseph

Giselle reflects a personality that includes ambition, generosity, and thoughtfulness. She encourages fighting for what one desires and believes in and doing so through God because nothing great comes easy and with God everything is possible. Giselle is a mother, motivated by her love for learning as she strives to become an outstanding and successful woman. Her passion for learning new tools for parenting lead her to participate in the Parent University Program and she was promptly recognized as a leader. Giselle was asked to come back as a Parent Mentor and now serves as the program's Parent Coordinator.

Workshop Presenters

Virginia McDaniel

Virginia is the Human Services Program Assistant at Maryland Family Network. In her position she provides administrative support for the Strengthening Families Maryland Initiative, facilitates Strengthening Families Maryland Parent Cafés, and provides Parent Cafe technical assistance to organizations. Virginia currently holds a BA in Psychology, and has worked in the Human Services field for over 15 years. Throughout her career she has worked directly with families and young children in crisis intervention, providing teaching and counseling. She has dedicated her life to encouraging families to excel in the face of adversity, and doing so with humor, warmth, and strength.

Susan Palomino

Susan is a wife, working parent and the mother of 36-month-old Lony Stephens. The family started the program in 2016 when Lony was around 11 months. As an immigrant working parent, mom was searching for a program to help her son's development to prepare him for school. Mom originally heard of the program when she was waiting to receive services at the WIC office. She applied and enrolled her son to receive services through the home visiting program. Even though it was hard sometimes, she tried to participate in all the group socializations, parent cafes, trainings and meetings available for parents. When her child turned two, the family applied for a center slot to give Lony a greater opportunity to learn and interact with other children. Also, giving the family the benefit to provide a safe environment for their child while they were at work. Recently mom, due to her work schedule, was able to be part of the Policy Council group as a representative for the parents in the center. As a member of the Policy Council, she has had the opportunity to use her leadership skills, by providing opinions and feedback on the services her son is receiving for the benefit of the community.

Britney Pitts, LCSW

Britney received her MSW from the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She now works for the school's Promise Heights initiative as an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and is placed with the Judy Center at Eutaw Marshbrun Elementary School in West Baltimore. Britney does classroom consultation and social-emotional training for school staff; provides individual, group, and family therapy for students; and supervises MSW interns. She also serves as Program Coordinator for the Parent University Program, a program she started with as a first-year graduate student intern.

Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez

Professor Pruneda-Hernandez is the Early Childhood Program Coordinator for Montgomery College Rockville and Takoma Park Campuses. Sonia earned her M.S. from Nova Southeastern University and her B.A. from the University of North Florida. She is a current doctoral candidate of early childhood education at Walden University. Sonia started her career in early childhood education with the Navy Child Care Programs in Jacksonville, Florida and continued in the ECE field directing and training in Child Care Centers for the Department of Defense - Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy and then government centers in Rockville, MD. She has worked extensively throughout her career assisting child care centers through the NAEYC Accreditation process. Pruneda-Hernandez is the Co-Advisor of the Montgomery College Early Childhood Education Club which has received numerous awards and is the MC Coordinator for the Maryland State Department of Education Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund. She has been teaching early childhood education courses at Montgomery College since 2006. She was awarded the MC Faculty Outstanding Service Award in 2015 and the NISOD of Excellence Award in 2016.

Krista Respass

Krista has worked with and on behalf of the child care community for more than 20 years and is currently the Managing Director of Early Childhood Education Services at Maryland Public Television. Ms. Respass coordinates many professional development and outreach activities, including the US Department of Education's Ready To Learn Initiative as both a station partner, and most recently, in developing national resources using research-based, multi-platform early learning content from PBS KIDS. Ms. Respass, has work jointly with the Maryland State Department of Education developing online professional development courses for Core of Knowledge clock hours for Maryland's early educators.

Karmen Rouland

With over 15 years of experience working on issues of race, gender, and family engagement, Karmen oversees CEE's technical assistance portfolio. Previously, she served as a youth mentor in Michigan and Washington, DC and was an assistant teacher in an early childhood setting. Most recently, Karmen was employed at the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Since 2006, Karmen has taught undergraduate and graduate-level educational psychology and research methods courses. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Howard University and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the Combined Program in Education and Psychology at the University of Michigan.

Anna Simulis, LCSW-C

Anna relocated from upstate New York to the eastern shore in 2008 where she became the Clinical Therapist for youth in a treatment foster care independent living program. Since that time, she has worked as a Clinical Therapist, PRP Specialist and Program Director for an outpatient mental health clinic, Program Coordinator for the Early Childhood Mental health Consultation Project at Salisbury University, Adjunct Professor at Salisbury University and is currently the Early Childhood Behavioral Health Coach for Worcester County Public Schools. Anna has completed the Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate through University of Maryland and the TOT certifications in both Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning and from the Devereux Center for Resilient Children for Facing the Challenge: Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors. Anna is also certified as a Trauma Informed Therapist through the Justice Resource Institute in Massachusetts.

Lacey Tsonis

Lacey is the Assistant Deputy Director at Maryland Family Network and has worked with children and families for over 15 years. She began her career in before/after school child care, and summer camps before spending a brief time working in human resources. For the last decade, she has worked with the Maryland Child Care Resource Network, first as the Professional Development Coordinator at the Howard County Child Care Resource Center. Her work focuses on improving the quality and accessibility of affordable child care for families in Maryland. Lacey received her Bachelor's Degree from Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania in Child and Family Studies.

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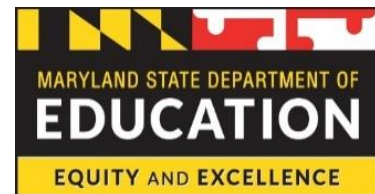
The Maryland Family Engagement Coalition wishes to thank its co-chairs Dorothy Stoltz and Robin Hopkins, and the Summit Committee members for their planning support.

Monique Baskerville
Roikensha Craig
Wendy Dantzler
Natalie Dean
Julie Dobies

Karina Hudack
Cyndi La Marca Lessner
Malkia "Kia" McLeod
Barbara Scherr
Chris Peusch

A special thank you to Ready At Five and the Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch of the Division of Early Childhood at MSDE, and Jeff Capizzano for helping to make today's Summit a success. Their commitment and support are greatly appreciated.

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