

# The Urgent Need for Effective Child Care and ECE Policy

A GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

September 12, 2023 | 3:00-4:30pm ET

## MODERATOR:



**Michelle Kang**

**CEO, National Association for the Education of Young Children**

Michelle serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), a global association dedicated to high quality early learning for all children. Prior to becoming CEO, Michelle served as NAEYC's inaugural Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer where she oversaw the strategy and daily operations for Membership, Early Learning Program Accreditation, Publications, Conference, Market Solutions and Global Engagement. She has guided the substantial system adjustments necessary to support child care and preschools attaining and maintaining accreditation

through the pandemic and shepherded the development and launch of the fourth edition of NAEYC's Developmentally Appropriate Practice book. Prior to joining NAEYC, she served in leadership roles at Bright Horizons, an international provider of early education and most recently as Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Operational Strategy. Drawing on her experiences as the daughter of Korean immigrants, Michelle is committed to creating belonging within organizations, and developing inclusive leadership and mentoring opportunities. Also an ardent supporter of higher education student development, Michelle has served as a Resident Tutor and Scholar at Harvard University and as a member of the Student Engagement and Leadership Advisory Board for The College of William & Mary. Michelle holds a Bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, a Masters of Education in Leadership and Policy from the University of Virginia, and a Masters of Science in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford (UK). She and her husband live in Maryland with their three children.

## PANELISTS:



**Elliot Haspel**

**Director of Climate and Young Children, Capita**

Elliot Haspel is a child & family policy expert and commentator. He specializes in early childhood & education issues and the intersection between early childhood development and climate change. He most recently served as the Senior Program Officer for Early Childhood Education at the Robins Foundation. Among other accomplishments, Elliot conceived of and helped raise over \$7 million for the Child Care NEXT philanthropic initiative, and helped spearhead the launch of the 100-member strong Virginia Funders Network. Elliot is the author of *Crawling Behind: America's Childcare Crisis and How to Fix It*. He has appeared on television as an analyst, including on The PBS Newshour with Judy Woodruff and MSNBC'S American Voices with Alicia Menendez. His writings have appeared in a variety of top publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Atlantic. In 2021, Elliot was invited to testify

before the U.S. House of Representatives on the care economy. Elliot holds an B.A. in History from the University of Virginia and an M.Ed. in Education Policy from Harvard's Graduate School of Education.



**Lisa Roy, Ed.L.**  
**Executive Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood**

Dr. Lisa Roy was appointed by Governor Jared Polis as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood in May 2022. The Department manages comprehensive programs and services for young children, families and early childhood professionals, including Universal Preschool (UPK) Colorado, which provides half-day preschool for all Colorado children in the year before kindergarten. Dr. Roy previously served as the director of program development for the Buffett Early Childhood Institute and as the executive director of early childhood education for Denver Public Schools. She has volunteered and worked in non-profit and government roles supporting families with young children for over 30 years. Dr. Roy completed a doctorate in Leadership for Educational Equity with an emphasis on Executive Leadership from the University of Colorado at Denver. She also has a master's in Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education with a focus on school counseling, also from CU Denver. Dr. Roy has served on many boards including the Emily Griffith Foundation, Denver Early Childhood Council, Afterschool Alliance, KIPP Colorado, Mental Health Center of Denver, Tony Grampsas Youth Crime Prevention and Intervention, and Denver Welfare Reform. Dr. Roy is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Colorado Women's Forum and the Golden Key Society. She was honored by CU Denver with the 2023 School of Education & Human Development Distinguished Alumni Award. She also earned the 2022 Harmon Award for Early Childhood Mental Health from the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health. Dr. Roy writes for pleasure, primarily as a literary nonfiction and historical writer.



**Jessica Sager**  
**Co-Founder and CEO, All Our Kin**

Jessica Sager is an expert in the field of family child care and the visionary behind All Our Kin, an organization that trains, supports and sustains family child care educators – and in doing so, fosters economic development, gender equity and racial equity. A graduate of Barnard College and Yale Law School, Jessica co-teaches a Yale University seminar on “Child Care, Society, and Public Policy.” Her many honors include the U.S. Small Business Administration's “Women in Business Champion” award, the Ashoka Changemakers/Robert Wood Johnson Champion of Children’s Well-Being award, and the Care 100 list of the Americans doing the most to re-imagine and re-humanize care. Jessica is an Ashoka Fellow, a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow, and an Aspen Braddock Scholar. A frequent voice for child care in publications such as Time, The Hill, New America and Education Week, she is also a trustee of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund, and sits on the Board of the Low Income Investment Fund.



**Stephanie Schmit**  
**Director of Child Care and Early Education, Center for Law and Social Policy**

Stephanie Schmit is CLASP’s director of child care and early education. Her work focuses on the intersectional needs of families and the foundational role that child care plays in helping meet them through federal and state policy analysis and state implementation of federal programs. Ms. Schmit has expertise in state and federal child care and early education policy, home visiting, data analysis, and maternal mental health. Stephanie has worked at CLASP for over ten years—having served as a policy analyst and senior policy analyst on CLASP’s child care and early education team prior to her current role. Before joining CLASP, she worked at the National Center for Parents as Teachers in St. Louis, focusing on policy and advocacy for young children and in direct practice doing home visits through an early childhood program in Cincinnati, OH. Ms. Schmit has a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Cincinnati and a master’s degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis.



**Katharine Be. Stevens**  
**Founder and CEO, Center of Child and Family Policy**

Katharine Stevens is founder and CEO of the Center on Child and Family Policy (CCFP). Prior to launching CCFP, she served for more than six years as a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), leading AEI’s early-childhood program. Before joining AEI, Dr. Stevens founded and led Teachers for Tomorrow, one of the first teacher-apprenticeship programs in the United States, which recruited and trained teachers for New York City’s lowest-performing schools. She has a Ph.D. in education policy from Columbia University, an M.Ed. from Teachers College, an MBA from Columbia Business School, and a B.A. in US history from the University of Chicago.



**Laura Valle-Gutierrez, MPA**  
**Fellow, The Century Foundation**

Laura Valle Gutierrez is a fellow at The Century Foundation, where she uses her policy and research expertise to advance gender, racial and economic equity. Laura has written and testified about the urgent need for child care solutions, the retirement insecurity of mothers, and the importance of unemployment insurance. The throughline of her work is a commitment to promoting economic security solutions for women and communities of color. Prior to joining TCF, Laura was the senior policy analyst at the Bell Policy Center, a state-based research and advocacy organization in Colorado. At the Bell she did research and advocacy for equity-centered policies around postsecondary education, workforce development, and fiscal reform. She received an MPA at Brown University with a focus in data-driven policy and a BA from Brown University in comparative French and English literature. Laura is originally from Puerto Rico and grew up in Longmont, Colorado.