

Collective Caregiving: Talking About What Kids & Families Need to Thrive

GLR Learning Tuesdays

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 | 3 pm – 4:30 pm ET

PRESENTER BIOS

PANELISTS



David Alexander, M.D.

President

Leading for Kids

David's career as a pediatrician and advocate for children spans more than three decades. He is currently President of Leading for Kids, which was established in 2018 with initial funding from the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, with the mission to create a society that puts children first.

From 2007 to 2018, David served as President and CEO of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, where his many accomplishments included leading the Foundation's fundraising efforts, resulting in more than \$800 million raised during his tenure. David also worked to actively engage clinical staff and board members in philanthropy and personally led solicitation efforts resulting in several transformational gifts.

David served as President for Devos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 2002 to 2005, directing all aspects of operations including strategic planning, clinical quality, physician alignment, and community relations.

For nine years, David was Medical Director and Administrator at Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to Blank Children's, he served as Medical Director and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 1988 to 1993.

From 1984 to 1988, David served as Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Inpatient Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University, where, in 1987, he was named "Pediatric Faculty Member of the Year."

He has served on numerous boards including The National Association of Children's Hospitals Board of Directors and Stanford Child Health Research Institute Board of Directors. He is a published author and sits on four editorial boards related to pediatric medicine.



Jessica Moyer, Ph.D.

Senior Principal Strategist

FrameWorks Institute

Jessica Moyer is an environmental sociologist and geographer who has been a member of the FrameWorks team since 2017. As Senior Principal Strategist, she combines her experience as a civic-minded researcher with her passion for

teaching and commitment to social justice advocacy. Prior to joining FrameWorks, Jess worked with several social, environmental, and community arts organizations, including The Race Equality Centre, where she provided advocacy support to Black, minority ethnic, immigrant, and asylum seeking communities; The Mighty Creatives, where she matched aspiring young artists from underserved communities with job placements in the culture scene; and the Center for Marine Resource Studies in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where she coordinated conservation, education, and community-building initiatives. Jess has also conducted research in Costa Rica and the Philippines, as well as taught at universities in the United States and the United Kingdom. In 2019, she co-produced two short-length films, entitled *Our Home* and *The Saving Tree*, both of which highlight Filipina women's relationships to the environment and were shortlisted for Research in Film Awards by the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council. Jess holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Delaware, a master's degree in geography from Western Washington University, and a doctorate in sociology from Queen Margaret University in Scotland.

COMMENTATORS



Sweta Shah, Ph.D.
Fellow – Global Economy and Development
Center for Universal Education
Brookings Institution

Sweta Shah is a fellow at the Center for Universal Education in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution. She specializes in early childhood education and development (ECD) with a particular focus on marginalized children and families in crisis.

Her research, policy, and practice work over 20 years around the world has focused on early learning, holistic child development, and parenting programs in refugee camps and other crisis contexts, hybrid and virtual learning in humanitarian contexts due to COVID-19, and learning while on the move for migrant children and families. Uplifting voices of children and families with lived experience has been a priority in all her work that she continues to champion daily.

She has advised many organizations and governments around early childhood education and development to select models to fund and implement and policies to adopt. She has recently designed an ECD center of excellence in the Middle East. She has written two books: “Young Children in Humanitarian and COVID-19 Crises: Innovations and Lessons from the Global South” (which is open-source) and “Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Crises: South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda.” Shah co-edited a special issue on ECD in emergencies for the *Journal on Education in Emergencies*. Additionally, she has written and spoken about early childhood education and development in many media outlets, publications, conferences, and events.

Shah is currently leading a multi-year global early childhood education initiative at the Brookings Institution that aims to provide research and policy recommendations to governments around the world to reach Sustainable Development Goal 4.2 focused on equal access to quality early childhood education and development. She is also exploring the expansion of Playful Learning Landscapes work at Brookings bringing together the science of learning with urban design and placemaking so learning is embedded

outside of the classroom where families go—parks, bus stops, supermarkets. Lastly, she is also exploring young children’s learning and development in the context of a changing climate.

Prior to joining the Brookings Institution, Shah co-founded ChildArise, a nonprofit that seeks to transform the lives of young children and families affected by crisis through impact storytelling and creative problem-solving. She also worked in philanthropy and numerous nonprofit organizations implementing early childhood education and development programs.

Shah earned a doctoral degree in education from the Institute of Education at the University College London, a master’s in international development from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from Bucknell University.



Kerrie Urosevich, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Hawai`i Early Childhood Action Strategy

Kerrie Urosevich knows that when our youngest keiki (children) and `ohana (families) thrive, so do our businesses, schools and communities. Kerrie is the Executive Director for Hawai`i Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS), a 12-year government-nongovernment collaborative working to improve the system of care for Hawai`i’s youngest keiki. Kerrie previously served in both Governor Abercrombie’s and Governor Ige’s Administrations in this role. Over the last 30 years, Kerrie’s work has been rooted in local and international peacebuilding, policymaking and systems change efforts.

MODERATOR



Ernestine Benedict
Chief Communications and Marketing Officer
ZERO TO THREE

Ernestine Benedict oversees and guides all aspects of the ZERO TO THREE’s communications functions, including digital communications, media and public relations, brand management and promotion. She also leads the vision, strategy, and execution for ZERO TO THREE LEARN, a robust offering of early childhood professional development products and services, including the annual conference, trainings, bookstore and membership program.

Ernestine brings more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications strategy across multiple industries, including nonprofit, government, arts and culture, and technology. Before joining ZERO TO THREE, she served as the Chief Communications Officer for the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading, a national effort to boost children’s early literacy and early school success. Previously, she served as Chief of Communications for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS.) She also served as Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Reading Is Fundamental.

Ms. Benedict began her career in the Silicon Valley, where she held product management and product marketing positions at AOL, Netscape Communications and Broadband Office. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies degree in Finance from Temple University.