



Relationships Matter: Partnering With Families to Support Early Relational Health

July 28, 3-4:30 pm ET/12:00-1:30 pm PT

Co-Presenters



David W. Willis, MD, FAAP
Senior Fellow
Center for the Study of Social Policy

Dr. Willis is a Senior Fellow with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, CSSP where he leads a national initiative to advance early relational health for child health and communities. A Boarded, Developmental-Behavioral pediatrician, Dr. Willis was a clinician in Oregon for more than 30 years with a practice focused on early childhood development and family therapy. Currently, he is the Co-Chair of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Forum on Children's Wellbeing and was the previous first Executive Director of the Perigee Fund, a Seattle-based philanthropy. And from 2012-2018, he served as Director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau, in Washington DC., and continues to be thought leader in home visiting and early childhood systems.

During his career, Dr. Willis also has been a Harris Mid-Career Fellow with childhood development nonprofit ZERO TO THREE; the past president of the Oregon Pediatric Society; an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Early Education and Child Care; and chair of the AAP's Board's Early Brain & Child Development Strategic Initiative. Dr. Willis has been a national lecturer, advisor to early childhood national policy and visionary for the transformation of child health care in coordination with early childhood communities and focused on the advancement of early relational health and young children's social-emotional and developmental wellbeing.

Yet, his greatest relational health achievement comes from the joy he and his wife share with his two married sons and their young families who have each blessed them with three grandchildren – LucyMae and Sam in Camas, WA and Clara Sophia, in San Antonio, TX.



Dr. Dayna Long
Pediatrician, Medical Director and Researcher
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland
Center for Child & Community Health

Dr. Dayna Long has been a primary care pediatrician at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland for over 20 years. For the past 5 years, she has also served as the Director of Center for Child and Community Health at University of California, San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. She dedicates her career to eliminating childhood health inequities that lead to poor health, financial and educational outcomes for families and young children on both individual and population levels. She is a co-Principal Investigator of the *Pediatrics Adverse Childhood and Resilience Study (PEARLS)*. The PEARLS tool screens and measures children for experiences in their daily environment that can cause stress. She also directs the Family Information and Navigation Desk (FIND), along with the FINDconnect technology platform, which address the social and environmental factors affecting children's health outcomes. As a steering committee member of First 5 Alameda County/Help Me Grow, Dr. Long advocates for children.

In 2014 she received the prestigious National Service Award from the Corporation for National Service for the 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps. She is the 2016 Girls Inc., Alameda STRONG awardee, received the 2018 Genius Leadership Award from Kapor Capital and Genius Plaza and most recently was given the Keeping the Promise 2020 Award from Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Dr. Long received her B.S. from Stanford University in Biology and a B.A. in African and African-American History. She attended medical school at George Washington University and completed her residency and an infectious disease fellowship at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, and was subsequently a Harvard Macy Institute Faculty Scholar.



Mary Mackrain, MEd, IMH-E® (IV)
Managing Project Director
Education Development Center

Mary Mackrain has over 25 years of experience developing and managing improvements of state and national projects aimed at advancing maternal, infant, and family outcomes focusing on infant mental health and relational wellness. Currently, through her work at EDC she is the Managing Director of a portfolio of early childhood health and quality improvement programs including the HRSA funded Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network. Additionally, Mary supports the SAMHSA funded IECMHC Center of Excellence and serves as a member of the RAINE group, a think tank dedicated to the advancement of early childhood mental health consultation (ECMHC) practice, policy, and research. Prior to her work at EDC Mary co-developed and for over 10 years, led the statewide, evaluated Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) program for the Michigan

Department of Health and Human Services. Additionally, through her work with the Devereux Center for Resilient Children she co-authored an infant toddler program (DECA-I/T) to support adults in nurturing the social and emotional well-being of themselves and their young children. Mackrain is an IMH Mentor and serves as an advisory member to the National Home Visiting Resource Center. Mackrain's most recent publications include, a 2020 article in PLOS One, *Addressing maternal depression in home visiting: findings from the Home Visiting Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network*, and a 2019 *Review of Trauma-Informed Initiatives at the Systems Level*, a summary prepared for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Nikki Shearman PhD
Chief of Strategic Initiatives
Reach Out and Read

Nikki Shearman is responsible for guiding the planning process to build out Reach Out and Read's strategic road map, Next Chapter, and for taking the lead in implementing the plan around Reach Out and Read's leadership role in shaping pediatric primary care to promote nurturing family-child relationships. She also coordinates the strategy for research and evaluation that demonstrates Reach Out and Read's impact. Nikki brings a combined experience of research, operational strategy, and communications to this position, starting with 10 years' experience in medical research in laboratories in the UK, Japan and Germany, and publication of her work in international journals. Subsequently, Shearman has worked within the management of a variety of non-profit organizations in the UK and the US. Shearman earned her Ph.D in cancer research from the University of Southampton, UK.



Jordana Ash
Director of Strategic Partnerships
Hemera Foundation

Jordana Ash is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Infant Mental Health Clinical Mentor®, is the first Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Hemera Foundation <https://hemera.org/>. She joined this private family foundation in July 2019 to lead work across child and adolescent mental health, development and well-being. Her efforts focus on building partnerships to identify, explore and help ameliorate challenges that affect children and young people, families and communities. Of particular interest is the intersection of contemplative practice and mental health. This new role comes after spending 5 years working to advance early childhood mental health policy and practice at the Colorado Office of Early Childhood. That position, also a first of its kind in Colorado, established Jordana as a national expert, trusted partner, and strategic thinker in the highly visible and impactful world of early childhood mental health.

Ms. Ash is faculty with the University of Colorado Denver, Irving Harris Program in Child Development and Infant Mental Health. In 2018, she received the Bob Harmon Award for Outstanding Contribution in

the Infant Mental Health field. She developed the award-winning, nationally recognized Kid Connects model of early childhood mental health consultation, which is delivered in Colorado and has influenced programming across the country. Ms. Ash is a founding member of The RAINE Group, a think tank comprised of national experts which works to advance practice, policy, and research in the specialty of early childhood mental health consultation.

Her most recent publications include the November 2017 ZERO TO THREE Journal and the December 2016 edition of Newborn and Nursing Review. Ms. Ash was featured on The Checkup podcast titled "There's no such thing as a baby" (<https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/podcast/ep-9-what-policymakers-should-know-about-early-childhood-mental-health>) where she discusses the importance for early childhood mental health for parents, advocates and policy makers.



Moderator
Becky Miles-Polka

As founder and President of Within Reach Consulting Services, Becky Miles-Polka serves as a trusted advisor to non-profit leaders, funders, public and private sector leaders engaged in improving the well-being of communities and the people who live in them. She brings experience in community change, population health and maternal-child health.

Becky is a Senior Consultant to the Campaign for Grade Level Reading serving as the State Lead for Iowa and provides leadership for the Campaign's health initiatives. She is a Senior Fellow with Attendance Works, a national and state initiative that promotes awareness of the important role that school attendance plays in achieving academic success. Becky is also a HealthConnect Policy Fellow with the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation. Becky is a Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Midwife and Registered Yoga teacher.