



Scaling Solutions for the Childcare Crisis: Technology and Shared Services

October 13, 12:30–2:00 pm ET

Moderator



Chelsea Sprayregen

Entrepreneur in Residence
Promise Venture Studio

Chelsea is an early childhood entrepreneur and consultant. Her work focuses on fair pay for caregivers and educators, effective government funding systems, sustainable childcare business models and technology to support these goals. Chelsea is the Co-founder of Pie for Providers, a nonprofit, open source project helping childcare providers and working families access government subsidies. She is also the Entrepreneur in Residence at Promise Venture Studio, a nonprofit that attracts, supports and connects social entrepreneurs from across the early childhood field. Previously, Chelsea was the Public Policy Director at BeneStream, a social enterprise that helps working families access government benefits. She has also worked as a political organizer. Chelsea has an MBA from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business and a BA from Wesleyan University. In her spare time, she enjoys long bike rides around Chicago and long works of non-fiction.

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Lead Presenter



Sharon Easterling

Consultant
Opportunities Exchange

Sharon is a member of the Opportunities Exchange consulting team, supporting community-based shared service initiatives and working to expand the utilization of business automation tools in the early childhood sector. She brings to this work 25 years leading the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) affiliate organization in Philadelphia, the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC). Throughout her career, Sharon has created programs and services to improve the quality and supply of early childhood services, and advocated for policy and funding to better serve children and families.

Sharon earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of Maryland and a Master of Divinity from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and was ordained by the American Baptist Churches in 1990. Prior to her tenure at DVAEYC, she served as founding director of the Preschool Project, pastor of an inner-city congregation, director of a preschool and elementary classroom teacher. sharoneasterling@gmail.com

Discussants



Shannon Cotsoradis
Chief Executive Officer
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

As Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Cotsoradis oversees the overall work of Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative. Shannon has been a voice for children for more than two decades and aims to continue that work since joining the Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative leadership team in 2016. Prior to coming to NECC, Shannon was the president and CEO of Kansas Action for Children (KAC) since 2010. Originally from Leavenworth, Kansas, she attained her bachelor's degree in psychology from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and later earned a master's degree in child development from Sarah Lawrence College in New York before returning home to attain a second master's in public administration from the University of Kansas. Her work on behalf of children has been recognized through the Presidential Volunteer Service Award initiative, the YWCA Women's Leadership Luncheon and the Dental Champions Leadership Program. Shannon was appointed to serve two consecutive terms on the Kansas Children's Cabinet and was an appointed member of the Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality. She is a graduate of the Sunflower Foundation's Advocacy Fellowship and a member of the Leadership Kansas Class of 2008.

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Sue Renner
Executive Director
Merage Foundations

Sue directs the Merage Foundations, a consortium of eight foundations and nonprofits representing three generations of the David and Laura Merage family in Denver, Colorado. With a focus on ventures philanthropy, Sue provides strategic oversight for Early Learning Ventures (ELV), Black Cube, CareForAllChildren and the many other initiatives that the foundation leads. Sue plays an integral role in Merage Foundations' advocacy surrounding early childhood policy, including the advancement of access to affordable, high-quality childcare. Sue is a member of Colorado Governor Jared Polis' Education Policy Council and the Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission. Additionally, Sue is a founding Board Member of EPIC, director of Bright by Three, a member of the American Enterprise Institute Leadership Network, and an advisor to the Bi-Partisan Policy Center's Early Childhood Initiative.

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Ariana Shapiro

Business Mentor Coach
All Our Kin, Inc.

Ariana works as a Business Mentor Coach at All Our Kin, supporting home-based childcare providers to grow as entrepreneurs, so they can increase their incomes and reduce the stress of running a business. Drawing from All Our Kin's decades of experience with family child care, Ariana develops interactive business curricula to share with trainers and childcare providers across the country. She provides technical assistance to partner organizations through Train-the-Trainer Institutes and one-on-one coaching to support their establishment of family childcare business development programs. She is always inspired by the strength and wisdom of childcare providers and loves to spend time working with them to improve their businesses. Ariana received a bachelor's degree in Ethnicity, Race and Migration from Yale University.
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