

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS:

- \* ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MUTED.
- \* PLEASE SHARE YOUR QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS IN THE CHAT BOX.
- \* THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED & AVAILABLE AT: <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/>



# SEPECC Meeting

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025**



Meeting will begin at 12:30pm

## Agenda:

12:30 Welcome

12:40 Federal, State & Local Budget/Policy Updates

12:55 ECE Advocacy in Action

1:20 OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements

1:40 Special Presentation: Staffing Challenges & Possible Supports

2:05 Public Policy Partner

2:10 Community Partner Resources

2:25 Wrap Up

Language Interpretation is available during this presentation.  
Interpretación de idiomas está disponible durante esta presentación.

- Select this icon  at the bottom of your screen AND choose your preferred language.
- Seleccione este ícono  en la parte inferior de su pantalla y elija su idioma preferido.

Please Note - Tenga en cuenta

1. The Interpretation Feature can only be used on mobile phone using the zoom app.  
En los teléfonos móviles, solamente se puede acceder a la función de Interpretación utilizando la aplicación de zoom.
2. Select "mute original audio" if you do NOT want to hear other languages at a lower volume.  
Seleccione "mute original audio" (silenciar el audio original) si prefiere NO escuchar otros idiomas a un volumen más bajo.
3. Please mute your sound to minimize interference.  
Por favor, apague su micrófono para disminuir las interferencias.
4. **ALL** participants **MUST** select one language, English or Spanish, for the feature to work properly.  
**TODOS** los participantes **DEBEN** seleccionar un idioma, inglés o español, para que la función trabaje apropiadamente.



# PQAS HOURS FOR SEPECC

Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting-  
PQAS Credit



## Sign in Sheet for SEPECC Meeting- PQAS Credit

Thank you for joining the SEPECC Meeting. If you have attended the meeting and would like to receive PQAS credit, please fill out the information. Your credit will be on your PD Registry transcript. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy at [pdmanager@firstup.org](mailto:pdmanager@firstup.org). Please fill out this survey within 24 hours of the end of the meeting. If you do not need PQAS credit, please do not fill out this form.

\* Required

1. First and Last Name as it is on the PD Registry \*

Enter your answer

2. Email that links to your PD Registry account \*

Enter your answer

3. PD Registry Number

Enter your answer

4. Please comment if you have any suggestions or feedback.

Enter your answer

Submit

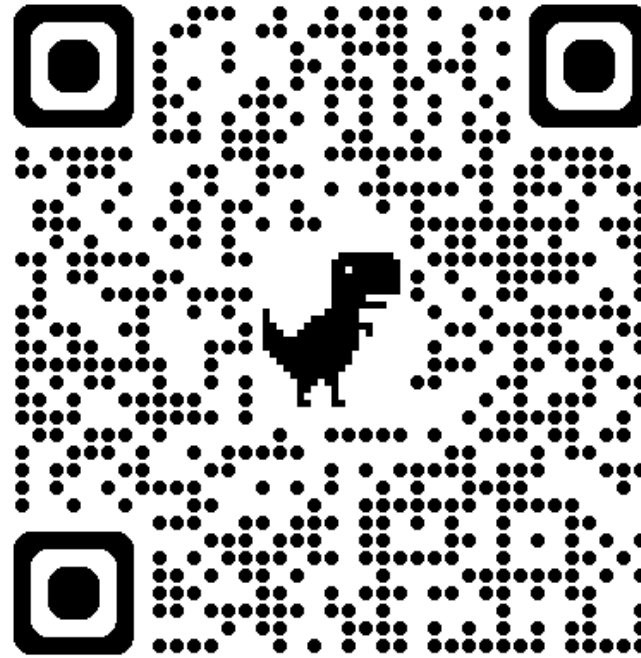
Please complete sign in  
**within 24 hours** of the meeting end  
if you would like to receive PQAS credit.

Here is the link and QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RfzSg97k7j>

**MARY GRAHAM,**  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**BUDGET & POLICY  
UPDATES**  
- FEDERAL -



**Tell Congress to  
stand up for ECE  
& families with  
young children**

<https://www.votervoice.net/NAEYC/campaigns/121909/respond>



**MARY GRAHAM,**  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**BUDGET & POLICY  
UPDATES**  
- FEDERAL -



Highlights from NAEYC Public Policy Forum

**CONTACT YOUR US SENATORS & TELL THEM WHAT MATTERS TO YOU!**



## **Senator John Fetterman**

### **Philadelphia Office**

☎ (215) 241-1090

📍 2000 Chestnut Street

### **Washington DC Office**

☎ (202) 224-4254

📍 142 Russell SOB



## **Senator Dave McCormick**

### **Philadelphia Office**

☎ (215) 405-9660

📍 2000 Market Street

### **Washington DC Office**

☎ (202) 224-6324

📍 SD-B40C Dirksen SOB

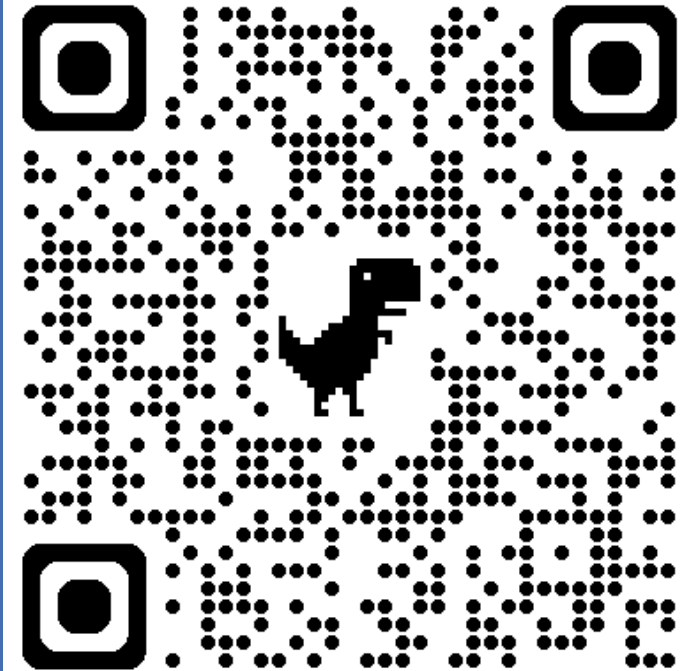
Help us get to  
2500 signers!

TYRONE SCOTT,  
FIRST UP

**BUDGET &  
POLICY UPDATES**  
- STATE & LOCAL -

**Sign the  
Petition!**

**#FixChildCare**



Take Action — Start Strong PA



Tell the PA General Assembly to prioritize child  
care in the final 2025-2026 PA budget!





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# Provider Spotlight

Hosted  
Rep. Sean Dougherty  
& Sen. Joe Picozzi



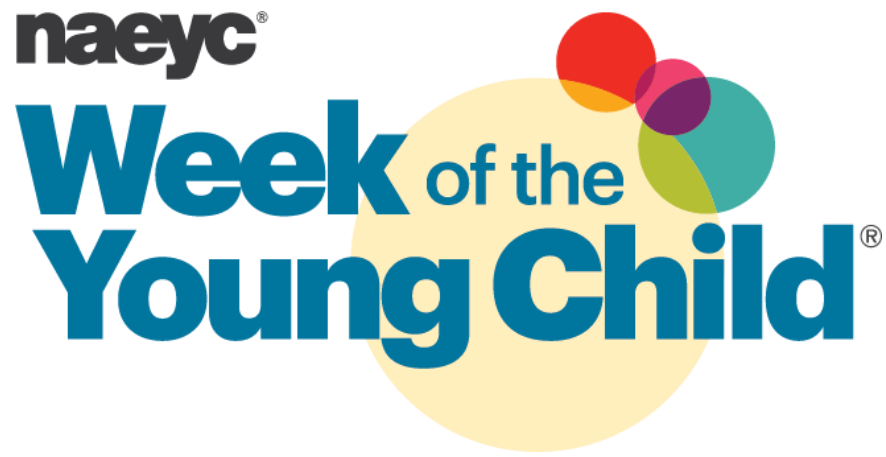
**MELODY CONNELL**

CORA EARLY YEARS

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**Nicole Fetherman**  
Executive Director  
LifeSpan School & Daycares





APRIL 5-11, 2025

[HTTPS://WWW.NAEYC.ORG/EVENTS/WOYC/PLAN-YOUR-EVENT](https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc/plan-your-event)

MUSIC MONDAY

TASTY TUESDAY

WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY

ARTSY THURSDAY

FAMILY FRIDAY

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**Shineal Hunter**

**Khadijah Sabir**

Email: [voicesofece@gmail.com](mailto:voicesofece@gmail.com)



**VOICE OF ECE**

An Advocacy Organization  
Partnering with ECE Stakeholders

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**DAY WITHOUT  
CHILD CARE**

RETURNS

**MAY 12, 2025**





**VOICE OF ECE**  
An Advocacy Organization  
Partnering with ECE Stakeholders

Join Us for

# CHILDCARE CRUNCH

*Child care is the business supporting every workforce, playing a crucial role in positively impacting our nation's economy*

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A DAY WITHOUT CHILDCARE RALLY

	<b>MONDAY, MAY 12TH</b> <b>FROM 9AM-11AM</b>	 RSVP using this QR code
	CITY HALL, MARKET STREET SIDE	

### List of Our Demands

- **True Cost of Care:** Ensure adequate funding for safe, nurturing, and high-quality early childhood education.
- **Pay Parity with K-12 Teachers:** Fair compensation for early childhood educators to attract and retain top talent.
- **Affordable Childcare for Families:** Make childcare affordable and accessible for all families, especially those with low incomes.
- **Increased Early Intervention and Behavioral/Mental Health Supports:** Expand support for developmental, behavioral, and mental health needs in early childhood.



Scan the QR Code to  
RSVP to Join us in  
Solidarity on  
Monday May 12,  
2025.

# ADVOCACY INFO SESSIONS

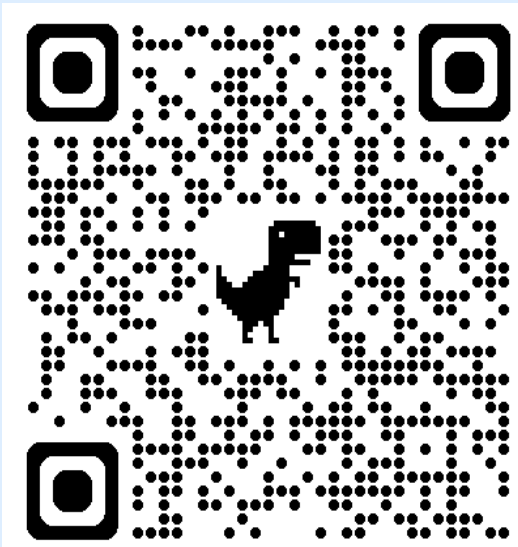
**TONIGHT**

**March 25, 2025**

**6:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

Week of the Young Child &  
Day Without Childcare

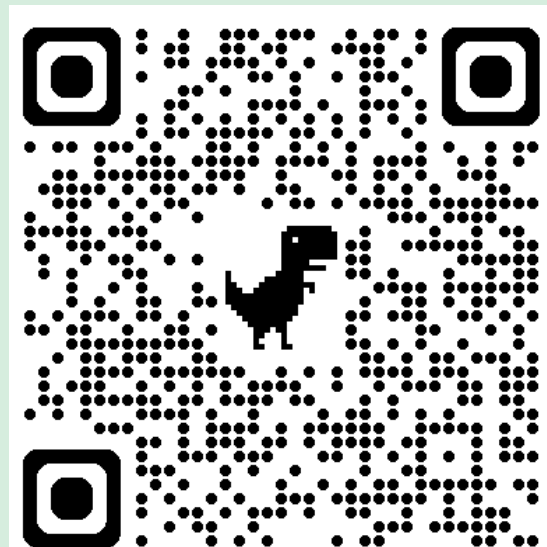
Join Rosanna Matos & Perrinda Williams



**April 3, 2025**

**12:30 PM – 1:00 PM**

Adopt-A-Legislator  
Join Jackie Groetsch & Sim Loh



**children first**  
ACTION FUND



**KEVIN BURGESS**

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
MANAGER

[KEVINB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG](mailto:KEVINB@CHILDRENFIRSTPA.ORG)

445-888-2542

# CHILD CARE VOTER – MARCH 25TH SPECIAL ELECTION

- Today is the Special Election for HD 35 & SD 36
- Child Care Voter surveyed all candidates running for office
- See their responses here
  - <https://childrenfirstactionfund.org/candidate-responses-2025/>
- Find your polling place here
  - <https://www.pa.gov/services/vote/find-your-local-polling-place.html>





# CHILD CARE VOTER – REPEAL OF PHILADELPHIA SODA TAX

- Philadelphia Soda Tax — which funds PhilPreK, Rebuild, and Community Schools — is under attack
- City Council is debating the future of this funding stream
- How has the soda tax benefited Philly kids?
  - 5,215 kids attending PhilpreK in 2024-25
  - 36 recreation center, park, and library Rebuild projects completed; 10 under way
  - 1,600+ early learning jobs created
- The repeal of the Soda Tax **will hurt Philly kids!**
- **Take Action Today – Contact City Council and tell them to protect Philly kids' programming!**
  - [bit.ly/ContactPHLCityCouncil](https://bit.ly/ContactPHLCityCouncil)



# THE FUTURE OF CHILD CARE VOTER & OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Tell Your State Legislators to Invest in Early Learning
  - [bit.ly/ChildCareVoter\\_ContactYourStateLegislators](https://bit.ly/ChildCareVoter_ContactYourStateLegislators)
- Social Media
  - Like our new Facebook page!
    - [Facebook.com/ChildCareVoter](https://www.facebook.com/ChildCareVoter)
  - Join existing Facebook group
    - [Facebook.com/groups/www.childcarevoter.org](https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.childcarevoter.org)
  - Also on Instagram
    - <https://www.instagram.com/childcarevoterspa/>
- Request a visit from the Child Care Voter Van
  - Great for pick-up and drop-off
  - Engage parents with give-a-ways (t-shirts etc.) and information
  - Please reach out if interested!





# OCDEL, DHS & ELRC Announcements

JANETTA RADZINSKIV- OCDEL  
[C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV](mailto:C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV)

ASIA M. SHEPPARD - DHS  
[ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV](mailto:ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV)

JAMILA DASHIELL - DHS  
[JDASHIELL@PA.GOV](mailto:JDASHIELL@PA.GOV)

ANGELA SOMOGYI  
[ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG)

# JANETTA (NETTA) RADZINSKI

EXTERNAL  
ENGAGEMENT  
SPECIALIST, OCDEL  
C-JRADZINS@PA.GOV



Pennsylvania  
**Office of Child Development  
and Early Learning**



**ASIA M. SHEPPARD  
- DHS**

[ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV](mailto:ASSHEPPARD@PA.GOV)

**JAMILA DASHIELL -  
DHS**

[JDASHIELL@PA.GOV](mailto:JDASHIELL@PA.GOV)



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# ANGELA SMOGYI

REGIONAL DIRECTOR,  
ELRC REGION 16  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
FOR CHILDREN

[ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG](mailto:ASOMOGYI@CSCINC.ORG)



## EARLY LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER



OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY LEARNING

## KEYSTONE STARS CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT

- All Expense reports must be received by no later than March 28th, 2025.
- Retain all original receipts and documentation of all expenses and purchases made with award funds.

## ELRC 15 UPDATES- DELAWARE COUNTY

**LOCATION:** 2098 WEST CHESTER PIKE SUITE 102   **TOLL FREE:** 888-535-2217   **MAIN:** 610-480-3191

- ELRC 15 Welcomes Amanda McHale as the new Resource and Referral Coordinator.
- ELRC 15 is hosting Continuing Conversations Provider Meetings on critical issues facing the Early Childhood Community email: [ELRC15STARS@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15STARS@phmc.org) for additional information.
- ELRC 15 will be partnering with the DCIU, LICC and CCPN for an Early Childhood Community Day event on April 26, 2025 (Rain or Shine) 9am – 12pm at the DCIU, 200 Yale Ave Morton, PA 19070. Hope to see you there!

### **ELRC 15 Contact Information:**

- ✓ Ongoing Family Case Needs: [ELRC15Family@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15Family@phmc.org)
- ✓ Provider Needs: [ELRC15Provider@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15Provider@phmc.org)
- ✓ Quality Supports: [ELRC15STARS@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15STARS@phmc.org)
- ✓ New APPLICATION submissions and updates: [ELRC15Intake@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC15Intake@phmc.org)



# ELRC 16 UPDATES – BUCKS COUNTY

Email: [elrc16@cscinc.org](mailto:elrc16@cscinc.org)

Phone: 215-486-2524 or Toll Free: 833-229-6928

Website: <https://elrc-csc.org>

- **Rapid Response Team**

- Supports child care providers and families in efforts to reduce suspension and expulsion of children with challenging behaviors.
- Collaborative approach, includes provider staff, parents, and observers in developing strategies and providing referrals to outside services when appropriate
- Ongoing Communities of Practice convened to support directors and classroom staff
- To make a referral go to: [RRT Referral Form](#)

- **In-Person Monthly Directors' Network Meetings**

- All providers are invited to join community partners and Quality Coaches for networking, news and important updates

- **Monthly Provider Link Newsletter:** [ELRC 16 PROVIDER NEWSLETTER](#)

- The ELRC will be hosting **two conferences** for providers in Regions 11, 12, 13, 14 & 16 in May. Providers may select to attend either option, one at Lehigh University and one at Mohegan Sun in Wilkes Barre. Six hours of professional development will be offered on “Decoding Difficult Behaviors and Applying Strategies” as well as “Holding Difficult Conversations”. Conference days are free to providers and funded by the Preschool Development Grant and OCDEL, as an extension of the Rapid Response Team work. All Bucks County providers received the registration flyer on Thursday via Constant Contact. If you have questions, please contact your Quality Coach.

# ELRC 17 UPDATES- MONTGOMERY COUNTY

EMAIL: [ELRCREGION17@PA.GOV](mailto:ELRCREGION17@PA.GOV)

PHONE: 610-278-3707

FAX: 610-278-5161

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://MONTCOPA.ORG/ELRC](https://montcopa.org/elrc)

- ELRC 17 will be hosting a Child Care Provider Appreciation Day on Friday, April 4th from 10AM-2PM. This event is for Montgomery County providers only. Please RSVP to your Quality Coach!
- ELRC 17 next Local Leadership Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 9th from 1-3pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. All Community Partners, Stakeholders and Child Care Providers in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend. To Register: [Click Here](#)
- ELRC 17 next Health & Safety Regional Taskforce Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 14th from 1-2:30pm. This meeting is held in a hybrid format. All Community Partners, and Child Care Providers in Montgomery County are encouraged to attend. To Register: [Click Here](#)
- ELRC 17 Monthly Newsletter is sent via our Quality Coaches each month. Our newsletter is posted on our website: [www.montcopa.org/elrc](http://www.montcopa.org/elrc)

## ELRC 18 UPDATES - PHILADELPHIA

- Virtual Provider Network Meetings were completed for March, concluding last Thursday. Slide decks will be posted on the ELRC 18 website for reference within a week.
- Content included updates from Provider Services, Quality Team, and Family Services.
- Community Partner updates were also shared and can be noted in posted content.
- Reminder-Providers who were awarded CQI Grants this FY must submit Final Expense Reports (FERS) to [ELRC18Grant@phmc.org](mailto:ELRC18Grant@phmc.org).

## ELRC 19 UPDATES – CHESTER COUNTY

- **ELRC 19 Summer Kick Off** – Date and Time TBD – an open house celebration for all Chester County Providers to attend. More information to come.
- **Chester County early Childhood Collaborative Connections Meeting – June 17, 1-3p in person at the Chester County Library in Exton.** We're professionals and parents working together to enrich the lives of families and enhance the quality of services by collaborating with agencies, families, and the community. Our mission is to ensure that young children in Chester County of all needs have access to high quality early care, supports and education to support their growth and development.
- **ELRC 19 Weekly Newsletter** – This provider newsletter is delivered weekly to your inbox with current announcements, OCDEL news, Keystone STARS and CCW updates and information about regional services and events. To subscribe please contact your Quality Coach or email directly the Director, Susan Moylan @ [smoylan@phmc.org](mailto:smoylan@phmc.org)

**SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION:**

MELANIE BRENNAN  
KIA DOUGLASS  
MARY GRAHAM  
NORMA FINKLESTEIN  
ZAIRA VELEZ

# Staffing Challenges & Some Possible Supports





SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION:

**MELANIE BRENNAN,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EARLY LEARNING  
PROGRAMS,  
**KENCREST SERVICES**

# Parkway West High School ECE program



**KenCrest**

Your Dreams. Our Mission.

# What is Career and Technical Education?

Through a combination of academic classes and hands-on learning experiences, students enrolled in CTE programs gain academic, employability, technical, and real-world skills - and graduate high school prepared for college, a career, and their community.



**Experienced industry professionals teach students in learning spaces using state-of-the-art equipment.**



**Programs integrate with academics in a rigorous and relevant curriculum.**



**Students may be able to earn college credits and industry credentials before graduating from high school.**

# Parkway West: Preparing Tomorrow's Educators





# “One Soul” New Program at Parkway High School



SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION:

**KIA DOUGLASS,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ACCLAIM ACADEMY



# TEACH CDA to Associates Success



SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION:

**MARY GRAHAM,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**NORMA FINKELSTEIN,**  
ECE CONSULTANT



# Building a Pathway to Regularly Recruiting and Effectively Training ECE Staff

## What we will cover:

- Children's Village model for 'growing our own' staff
- How this model was expanded through grant funding
- Critical components of our employee training program
- Outcomes & Lessons we learned about effectively recruiting and training staff

## CV History of “Growing our Own Staff”

**Recruit** - individuals new to ECE with high school degree and interest in and passion for working with children; parents, friends or family of staff, neighborhood residents

**Support** – provide a very supportive entry into the classroom- in seat training and classroom experience under supervision and mentorship of experienced teachers with similar life experiences

**Build skills-** through classroom experiences; working with different age groups to find their ‘niche’

Encourage movement up ECE Career Ladder – TEACH and other PD opportunities

**With support, incentives, and educational opportunities, people stay.**

## Expansion of “Grow Our Own” as support to larger ECE community- William Penn Foundation

- WPF awarded CV a two year grant (prior to COVID) to expand our in-house staff recruitment and training model to help other centers
- Post COVID grant project pivoted to focus on developing a ‘pipeline’ to bring a broader group of jobseekers into the ECE sector and effectively train them for employment at CV or other high quality ECE programs
- Offset costs of time administrators spent on staff recruitment and training and supported a part-time project consultant
- Provided funding for obtaining applicant’s clearances, short term health insurance for new hires and hourly rates for new hires while they were in training
- Provided funding to support mentor hours and incentives for hours worked

**CV continues to cover these costs through our practice of braiding funding as these supports are critical to success.**

## **Building partnerships with Workforce Development Agencies - CareerLink, JEVS (Jewish Educational and Vocational Services), & Urban League**

- Partnership means - more than posting a job announcement
- Partnership means connecting directly with staff at these agencies to:
  - Provide application materials and outline staff requirements - screening checklist more specific to ECE than general screening interviews
  - Attend their “meet the employer” information sessions to educate jobseekers about the ECE career ladder and conduct on site interviews with appropriate candidates
  - Conduct case management meetings with Workforce Development staff to discuss candidate referrals, challenges, accomplishments and to identify and connect individuals with supports e.g.- housing, childcare, counseling
  - Explore opportunities to leverage public workforce funding to support job attainment –e.g. payment for clearances



## Comprehensive Training and Mentoring

Once individuals complete the application process - they enter a paid employee training program before being considered in classroom ratio:

- 320 hours of training - 24 hours of 'in seat' trainings, e.g. mandated reporter training, state required health and safety training, first aid and infant/child CPR training
- 296 hours of supervised in-classroom training in Children's Village's infant, toddler, preschool and school age classrooms
- Direct supervision and 1:1 mentoring with defined goals. We developed a Mentor Teacher outline and "Training Passport" to ensure consistency in content and learning goals for individuals

## Outcomes

July 2022 through September 2024.

**80** individuals applied

**71** individuals advanced through the screening process and participated in the onboarding (training, observation and ancillary clearance) process

**66** (93%) completed on boarding;

3 didn't get all of their required clearances;

2 didn't complete all in seat and observational training

**More than 75% (75.75%) of those that completed the onboarding continue to work at Children's Village on a full-time or part-time basis.**

## **Through partnering with Career Link, JEVS and Urban League CV developed non-traditional staff recruitment strategies to tap into more candidates.**

- Non-traditional staff includes men, people who have not worked in ECE before,
- People who have not been in workforce before
- People new to the country.

CV also helped address barriers to entering the workforce, from helping to pay for clearances, to helping staff with housing insecurity, helping with other life challenges, and childcare. This is where partnerships are ESSENTIAL!

## Outcomes

The current 44 full-time teaching staff at CV illustrate the effectiveness of this approach:

- 16% are male
- 36% are immigrants
- 18% had no prior work experience at hire
- 61% had no prior early childhood education experience at hire.

Nationally (2019 data released in 2021):

- 3.3% are male
- 10% are born from outside the US
- 53.3% have Childcare Development Associate certificate
- 51.8% have associates degree or higher, 73.8% report a degree related to ECE and education

These figures are from the National Survey of Early Care and Education (NSECE). The previous survey was conducted in 2012 and released in 2014. Statistics derived from dataset and analyzed through SDA tool.

## Lessons Learned

- Effective Screening of Jobseekers for ECE work - CareerLink Checklist
- Find resources to reduce barriers to the application process
- Structured onboarding process - Establishing Expectations, Mentoring Checklist
- Anticipate 'Soft Skills' training needs
- Instructional Joint Leadership







A Model of Excellence in Infant, Toddler,  
Preschool, and School-Age Care and Education

# Questions?

SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION:

**ZAIRA VELEZ,**  
ECE-PDO WORKFORCE  
ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



# Early Childhood Education Professional Development Organization At PHMC

# DEGREE AND CREDENTIAL PATHWAY RESOURCES

- Coordinating Career Pathway services for eligible members of the incumbent workforce in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties
- Offer Career Advising Resources to support Career Pathway goal attainment
- Funds CDA, AA and BA programming, including Apprenticeship and Learn and Earn pathways with regional Professional Learning Organizations and Institutions of Higher Education
- Offers funded resources to reduce or remove equity-based gaps, including coursework offerings that are designed for early learning professionals and supports are in place to promote persistence and completion

# ECE PDO HIGH SCHOOL PIPELINE

- ECE Career Pathway pipeline resources available through Professional Development Grant (PDG Funding)
- ECE PDO at PHMC supporting High School students achieve Career Pathway Level A through:
  - Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to bridge CDA attainment
  - High School Dual Enrollment/Concurrent Enrollment programs to provide college coursework for credit

# ECE PDO HIGH SCHOOL PIPELINE

- Spring enrollment highlights include:
  - More than 50 high school enrollments from Philadelphia Charter Schools, Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery County School Districts
    - Shippensburg University
    - LaSalle University
    - Delaware County Community College
- Other FY25 Partners include:
  - Holy Family University
  - Child Care Professional Network
  - First Up Learn and Earn Program
- Next steps: bridging employer connections!

# RESOURCES



**ECE PDO**  
a PHMC program

- Email our team for Career Advising services: [ECEPDO@PHMC.org](mailto:ECEPDO@PHMC.org)
- Visit our website for participating program information and resources and to apply: [ECEPDO.PHMC.org](http://ECEPDO.PHMC.org)
- Sign Up for our weekly E-Newsletter: [ECEPDO.PHMC.org](http://ECEPDO.PHMC.org)
- Find more resources for IHEs, ECE Employers and Students at [ECEHigherEd.org](http://ECEHigherEd.org); [ECEHire.com](http://ECEHire.com)
- Call us! 267-546-4184 or Toll Free: 1-877-201-6899



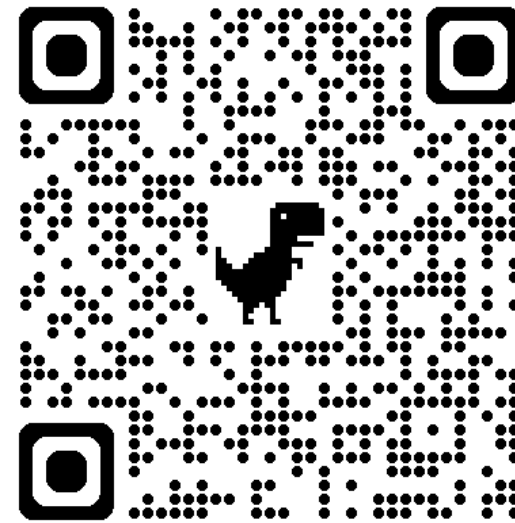
# Public Policy Partners

**Shineal Hunter**

Family Circle Academy

**Mercedes Fleet**

Bright Little Scholars Early  
Learning Center



**Let's Talk  
ChildCare**  
*A Newsletter by Providers, For Providers*



<https://secure.smores.com/n/nv9tw>



# Community Partner Resources



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**Michael Brix,**  
Executive Director

michael@treehousebooks.org  
215-236-1760

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# Our Mission:

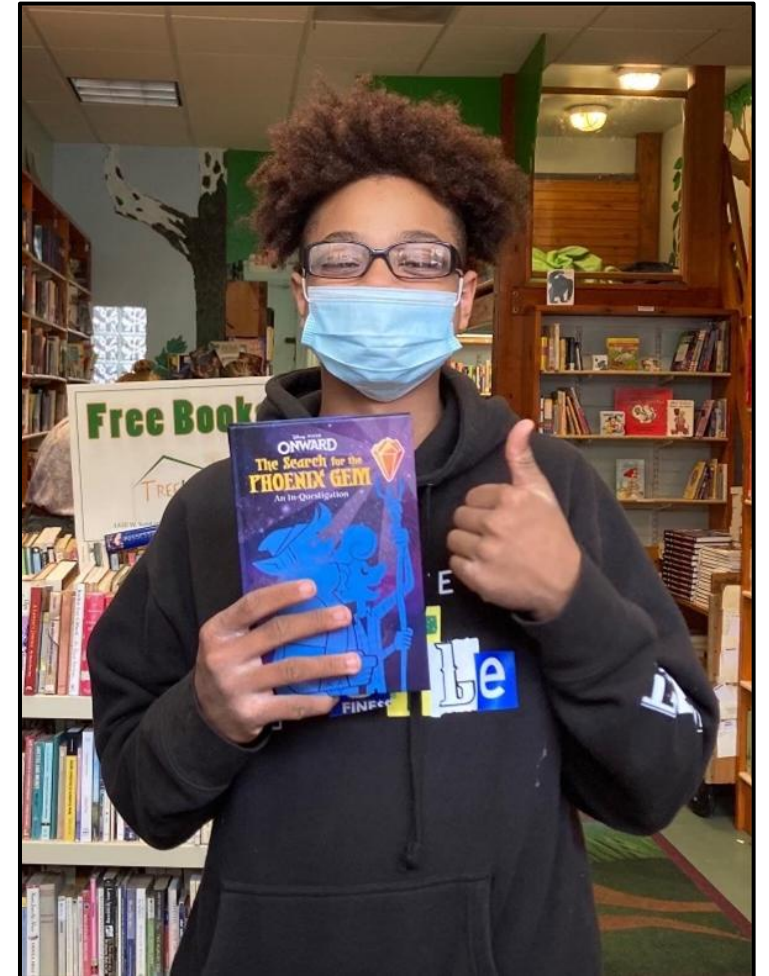
To create and sustain  
a community of  
readers, writers, and  
thinkers in North  
Philadelphia



# OUR IMPACT

In 2024:

- 95,896 books distributed
- 12,591 Giving Library members
- 313 Bookmobile stops





# WHAT WE DO:

## Access to Books (Building Home Libraries) & Literacy Programming

### Access to Books

- Words on Wheels summer program
- Giving Library
- Traveling Tree House (bookmobile)
- Branches



### Literacy Programs

- After School Literacy Studio
- Summer Literacy Studio
- Teen Programming





# HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

- Tell someone! (Each one, reach one!)
- Visit - come see our work in action
- Have the Traveling Tree House come to you! (Fill out the online form - it's free!)
- Volunteer
- Follow on Social Media & Share
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Collect books - we're always in need of new and gently used books - especially children's books
- Host a fundraiser

# THANK YOU!

## Tree House Books

[www.treehousebooks.org](http://www.treehousebooks.org)





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**Mia N. Renwick, RN, BSN,  
MPH**

Covid-19 Containment Clinician  
Division of COVID Containment

**Tanya Dhingra**

Pediatric Partnerships Program  
Manager



Champions for Early Education

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**Alix Lauren Cozen**

Senior Instructor

**2025 FIRST UP CONFERENCE**

[alix.cozen@firstup.org](mailto:alix.cozen@firstup.org)



Champions for Early Education



# 2025 First Up Conference

Beyond the Classroom: Inspiring Lifelong Learning and Development

APRIL 25-26, 2025 8:00AM - 4:30PM EST | THE HILTON PHILADELPHIA CITY AVENUE | (REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7:00AM EST)

**Where & When** | Participants are invited to attend a 2-day, in-person conference at The Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This year's conference is titled ***Beyond the Classroom: Inspiring Lifelong Learning and Development.***

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Tickets for both  
days are selling  
quickly.

**Get Yours  
Today!**

**SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER**





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# 2025 First Up Conference

Conference Growth Pathways | 1–1/2-hour sessions

- Learning about **me**
- Learning about **my classroom**
- Learning about **others**
- Learning about **leadership**
- Learning to **take action**

*The First Up Conference is more than professional development, it's a chance to invest in your own growth!*

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# 2025 First Up Conference

## Conference Intention

Think of this time as a gift—a chance to expand your perspective, deepen your skills, and spark ideas that will stay with you long after the conference is over. By focusing on your personal and professional growth, you're not just impacting yourself—you're creating ripples that will inspire the children, the families, your colleagues, and your community.

**So, lean in. Be curious. Reflect. Connect. And know that every moment you invest in yourself today will empower you to make a greater impact tomorrow.**

*Let's go beyond the classroom together!*



Champions for Early Education

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**Tieisha Young**

Early Learning  
Specialist

FIRST UP



Champions for Early Education



## Learn and Earn

### Lunch and Learn Information Sessions

Do You Have Questions About the Learn and Earn Program?

Are you interested in applying but don't know where to start?  
Join Our **FREE** Lunch and Learn **Virtual** Information Sessions!

#### Lunch and Learn Sessions Will Take Place:

Wednesday, Jan 22, 2025 01:00 PM  
Wednesday, Feb 19, 2025 01:00 PM  
Wednesday, Mar 19, 2025 01:00 PM

Wednesday, Apr 16, 2025 01:00 PM  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 01:00 PM  
Wednesday, Jun 18, 2025 01:00 PM

#### Learn and Earn Program Highlights

-  Earn College Credit While You Work
-  Join a Supportive Cohort
-  No Cost to You
-  Elevate Your Career Path

**REGISTER TODAY**

<https://shorturl.at/YZVoU>

SCAN HERE



# LEARN & EARN PROGRAM

INFORMATION  
SESSIONS:

APRIL 14, 2025  
MAY 21, 2025  
JUN 18, 2025

# SPEAK OUT FOR SEPECC ON FACEBOOK!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the Facebook group page for "SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition". The browser's address bar shows the URL "https://www.facebook.com/groups/sepecc". The Facebook interface includes a search bar, navigation icons, and a sidebar with group management tools like "Admin Assist", "Badge requests", and "Pending approvals". The main content area features a large banner with the group's logo, which consists of a circular arrangement of the text "SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION" surrounding an orange handprint, with the acronym "SEPECC" in large blue letters to the right. Below the banner, the group's name "SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition" is displayed, along with its status as a "Public group" with "311 members". A row of member profile pictures is shown, followed by "Invite" and "Share" buttons. At the bottom, there are tabs for "Discussion", "Featured", "Events", "Media", "Files", and "People".

Browser tabs: (20+) SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition, Google

Address bar: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sepecc>

Facebook search bar: Search Facebook

Group name: SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition

Group type: Public group · 311 members

Group description: SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition

Group banner image: SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION SEPECC

Group members: 311 members

Group actions: + Invite, Share

Group tabs: Discussion, Featured, Events, Media, Files, People



# SUPPORT SEPECC ON FACEBOOK!



SEPECC, the Southeastern PA Early Childhood Coalition



Eleanor Levie is with Sim Loh-Garbarino and 2 others.

Admin ★ 898 points · February 21 at 3:46 PM · 🌐

Powerful conference this morning to state that quality infant, toddler, and childcare is not a welfare issue but a workforce issue.



Senator Judy Schwank

April 9, 2024 · 🌐

Today, the Early Childhood Education Caucus rallied in the Capitol Rotunda to support Pennsylvania's early childhood educators!


My co-chairs, [Senator Pat Stefano](#), Rep. Pat Harkin, [PA State Rep. Shelby Labs](#), and I understand that we need to work at the state level to improve child care. Low pay for




# SIGN A PETITION FROM THE SEPECC FB PAGE!





# SHOW OFF YOUR ADVOCACY ON SEPECC'S FB


 Community home


 Overview


Admin tools


 Admin Assist  
2 actions, 2 criteria


 Badge requests  
0 new today

 Pending approvals  
0 new today


 Potential spam  
0 new today

 Scheduled posts


 Activity log


 Create a chat

Happy Spring! Doncha love this huge banner made by Tracia Walz at Kinder Academy?




Anyone can see who's in the group and who posts.

 Visible  
Anyone can find this group.


 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

[Learn more](#)

Recent media



[https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=9984178078272767&set=pcb.662774066331287&\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZU9Yv6UePor-L45HqmU\\_qTb0s8ONITzqINwQ81Jk3IYO-2pP8iB3voEeLtb0QY7Y5044-Ng6N4b1Vlv0WkSfD7corCq7y](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=9984178078272767&set=pcb.662774066331287&_cft__[0]=AZU9Yv6UePor-L45HqmU_qTb0s8ONITzqINwQ81Jk3IYO-2pP8iB3voEeLtb0QY7Y5044-Ng6N4b1Vlv0WkSfD7corCq7y)



# SHOW WHY WE MUST INCREASE WAGES ON SEPECC'S FB

That this situation still exists for child care teachers is just WRONG and needs to change.



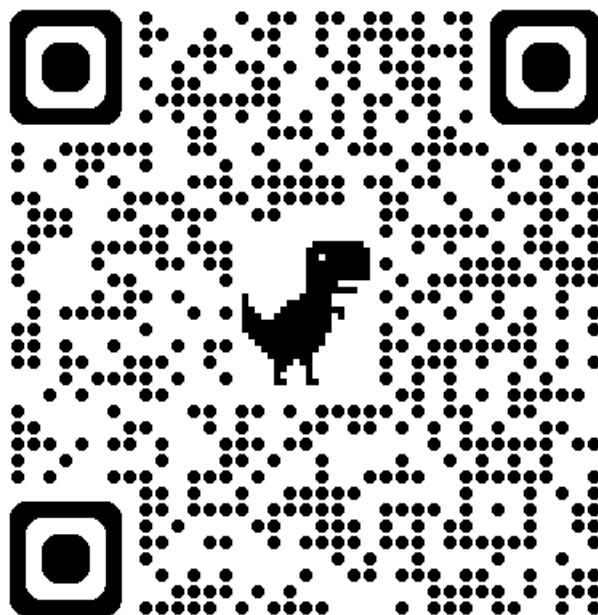
HECHINGERREPORT.ORG

**Child care wages are so low, 2 out of 5 workers in the field need public assistance to support their families**



# JOIN SEPECC FACEBOOK GROUP TODAY!

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/SEPECC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/SEPECC)



## SEPECC

Advancing quality early care  
and education in Bucks, Chester,  
Delaware, Montgomery and  
Philadelphia Counties



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and education in Bucks, Chester,  
Delaware, Montgomery and  
Philadelphia Counties

**SEPECC**

## 2025 SEPECC COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

### **Steering Committee**

Zakiyyah Boone (Co-Chair)  
Jackie Groetsch  
Melody Connell  
Kia Douglass  
Latonta Godboldt  
Laverne Cheeseboro  
Mary Graham  
Melanie Brennan  
Minette Taylor  
Sharon McClafferty  
Shineal Hunter  
Tracey Davis

### **Advocacy Workgroup**

Eleanor Levie  
Jowanna Gordon  
Laverne Cheeseboro  
Lisa Iliopoulos  
Monique Roye  
Nicole Dyson  
Nicole Fetherman  
Shineal Hunter  
Sim Loh  
Shirlee Howe  
Velda Wilson

### **Advisory Council**

Diane Getzinger  
Elizabeth Ozer  
Khadijah Sabir  
Maddy Malis  
MaryKay Mahar  
Norma Finkelstein  
Pamela Haines

### **Social Media Workgroup**

Shar'ron Brown Carroll  
Eleanor Levie  
Sim Loh  
Jowanna Gordon

**WE ♥ OUR  
VOLUNTEERS**

- **30-Second Exit Survey:**

<https://forms.gle/f3XY253EVSzS4hBN6>



- **Upcoming Meetings: (12:30 – 2:30pm)**

- April 22, May 27 & June 24

- **Meeting Registration Links** on First Up/SEPECC

Webpage: <https://www.firstup.org/sepecc/>

