

OCTOBER 26
2023

QUALITY CHILD CARE CREATES *futures*

A SUMMIT ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EARLY CARE & LEARNING

8:30 am to 1 pm | Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

AGENDA

8:30 AM SUMMIT BEGINS

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

- Monica Garcia-Itchoak, **thread** Board President
- Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom, State of Alaska
- Commissioner Heidi Hedberg, State of Alaska, Department of Health

SESSION 1: BRIDGING TO THE *future* ↗

Learn about the 2023 trends and needs in child care, including COVID-19 relief efforts and impact, current data from the field, and how you can join **thread** in bridging a future for quality child care.

Presented by:

- Stephanie Berglund, CEO of **thread**

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WELCOME

Welcome
to **thread's** 5th Summit
on the Economic Impact of Early
Care & Learning: Quality Child Care
Creates Futures. You are a part of creating the
future of quality child care—thank you for being
here.

Quality child care empowers today's workforce, while tomorrow's workforce gets a strong foundation for school and life. With quality child care, families are less stressed, businesses are more productive, and Alaska's economy grows.

Together, we can create a stronger future for quality child care.

Today, we invite you to listen, engage, and be inspired by what is possible to create a brighter future for Alaska's children through partnership, innovation, and commitment to positive change.



JONATHAN KING, Founder, Halcyon Consulting
Jonathan King is the founder of Halcyon Consulting, an organizational leadership and economic consulting firm. King's passion is helping leaders at all levels fly a little higher with less effort and stress. He currently serves on the **thread** Board of Directors.
EMCEE

SESSION 2: A GUIDE FOR THE *future*↗

Hear the latest early care and education economic impact data and participate in a discussion about how child care impacts our daily lives and our statewide economy.

Moderator: Kevin Berry, Associate Professor of Economics, College of Business & Public Policy, UAA; **thread** Board Vice President

Presented by:

- Katie Berry, President of McKinley Research Group, LLC
- Nolan Klouda, CECd, Executive Director of Economics and Research, University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (UA CED)
- Kirsten Shelton, Vice President of McKinley Research Group, LLC

SESSION 3: TRANSFORMING THE *future*↗

Get inspired by a panel of local and state leaders who are creating change for the future of child care. From city ordinances and borough investments to state planning and policy change, these leaders will share how they are shaping the future for quality child care.

Moderator: Olivia Foster, Registered Nurse, Providence Valdez Medical Center; **thread** Board Treasurer; Council member, City of Valdez

Presented by:

- Robert Barr, Deputy City Manager of the City and Borough of Juneau; **thread** Board member
- The Honorable Julie Coulombe, Alaska State House of Representatives
- Eric Croft, Assistant Professor in Legal Studies, UAA; Member of the Alaska State House of Representatives from 1997-2006
- Sara Mickelson, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, State of New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department
- Casie Warner, Program Director of HYPER, Seward Prevention Coalition

11:15–11:35 AM LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 4: PARTNERING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER *future*↗

Discover how businesses and communities can partner to strengthen policies in support of child care.

Moderator: Stephanie Berglund, CEO of **thread**

Presented by:

- Lori Capouch, Rural Development Director, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Kati Capozzi, President & CEO of the Alaska Chamber of Commerce
- Linda Smith, Director, Early Childhood Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center

1 PM CLOSE

SPEAKERS

thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

STEPHANIE BERGLUND, CEO, thread
Stephanie Berglund, CEO of **thread**, Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Organization, works to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of early care and learning. Berglund holds leadership positions focused on strengthening early care and education, has experience working on social public policy, and enjoys creating innovative partnerships. She holds a MSW from Colorado State University.



SESSION 1

KATIE BERRY, President of McKinley Research Group
Katie Berry is the President of McKinley Research Group. She leads the firm's economic impact analyses, including some of Alaska's most complex studies on the impacts of sectors such as oil and gas, mining, construction, seafood, and early care and education. In addition to her work on the economic impacts of early care, Berry is currently engaged in cost modeling for Alaska's Cost of Child Care study.



KIRSTEN SHELTON, Vice President of McKinley Research Group
Kirsten Shelton is the Vice President of McKinley Research Group. Since joining McKinley Research Group in 2010, Shelton has managed a range of complex projects, including economic impact analyses, needs assessments, community development analysis, and strategic planning.



SARA MICKELSON, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, State of New Mexico
Sara Mickelson is Deputy Cabinet Secretary at New Mexico's Early Childhood Education and Care Department, where she supports the state's programs that serve young children and their families. Prior to that, she served as Director of Early Childhood Initiatives for Harris County, the largest county in Texas. She has also served as chief of programs and chief of staff for the Oregon Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education and has worked for the Bainum Family Foundation, leading the policy strategy that resulted in the District of Columbia Birth-to-Three for All Act.



NOLAN KLOUDA, Executive Director, Center for Economic Development
As Executive Director, Nolan Klouda provides overall leadership for the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development (UA CED). He is a Certified Economic Developer (CECd) through the International Economic Development Council, and serves as chair of the Municipality of Anchorage Budget Advisory Commission. He lives in Anchorage with his partner Michelle, daughter Cecilia (age 4), and son Winston (age 2).



CASIE WARNER, Director, HYPER Seward
Casie Warner is a visionary leader from Seward. Starting with developing the Bloom home visiting program under Seward Prevention Coalition, she laid the foundation for transformative change. Warner advocated for local support to launch Happy Youth Programs and Educational Resources (HYPER) to strengthen the child care infrastructure and Seward workforce. Through her leadership, she not only built the HYPER program but also assumed the role of director, employing and supporting community members to create a robust child care infrastructure. Her efforts have fostered collaboration with the city and local governments for a stronger, more inclusive Seward.



SESSION 3 continued on back

SESSION 3 (continued)

THE HONORABLE JULIE COULOMBE, Alaska State House of Representatives



Representative Julie Coulombe has lived in Alaska for over 30 years. She raised her children in South Anchorage. Rep. Coulombe holds a BA in Journalism and Public Communications with a Minor in Political Science from the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She is on the Governor's Child Care Task Force and is leading child care conversations in the Legislature.

ERIC CROFT, Assistant Professor in Legal Studies, UAA



Eric Croft was born in Alaska in 1964 and made the mistake of leaving in 1982. He returned in 1992 with a BS from Stanford, a law degree from the University of California at San Francisco, and the love of his life, Joanna. He served as a State Representative and local member of the Anchorage Assembly and School Board. He is most proud of his children Shannon and Burke. Croft is the author of Proposition 14, the recently passed charter amendment that dedicates Anchorage's marijuana tax to pre-kindergarten education and is active in the efforts to implement it.

SESSION 4

LINDA SMITH, Director, Early Childhood Initiative, Bipartisan Policy Center



Linda K. Smith is the Director of the Early Childhood Initiative at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington D.C.-based think tank that promotes bipartisanship and actively works to find consensus and common ground on key challenges facing the nation. Smith is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Early Childhood Development at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. In this role she oversaw policy priorities for children from birth to five years old, including the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Child Care. Smith has served as executive director for Child Care Aware of America, supporting community-based agencies concerned with the care of children in their earliest years. Prior to this, Smith served as a professional staffer on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee under the Chairmanship of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Prior to this work, she was the director of the Office of Family Policy for the Secretary of Defense, where she was one of the primary architects of the military's child care program.

ROBERT BARR, Deputy City Manager, Juneau, thread Board member



Robert Barr is the Deputy City Manager for the City and Borough of Juneau and a **thread** Board member. In addition to leading a variety of government operations, Barr helps coordinate Juneau's annual investments in child care which is intended to bolster local capacity and quality by enabling providers to offer improved wages and benefits. He believes child care is a cornerstone of our educational system and economy, and that it requires public and private financial supports to function sustainably. Barr holds a MA from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in Library Science. He and his wife have four children.

KATI CAPOZZI, President & CEO, Alaska Chamber of Commerce



Kati Capozzi has served as the President and CEO of the Alaska Chamber since April 2019. Prior to her appointment at the Chamber, Capozzi served as the campaign manager for Stand for Alaska, the group that soundly defeated Ballot Measure 1 in 2018. Before leading the Stand for Alaska effort, Capozzi worked for five years as a communications and projects manager at the Resource Development Council. Her passion for advocacy work and promoting a healthy business environment in Alaska began in 2011 at the same organization she now leads, originally serving the Alaska Chamber as communications and events director.

LORI CAPOUCH, Rural Development Director, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives



Lori Capouch is a development professional who leads rural people through the grassroots development process, empowering them to create the businesses they desire in their communities. She is the rural development director for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) located in Mandan, North Dakota. Among her current efforts are projects related to rural food access, nonprofit, community-owned and cooperative child care facilities, and collectively owned meat processing plants.

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This project is made possible by funds from Preschool Development Grant Renewal – Birth through Five (PDG Renewal B-5) grant number 90TP0103.

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