

Early Education and Care in Massachusetts: Renegotiating a New Social Contract

Thursday, July 16

3-4 pm

About our Panelists:

Amy O'Leary, Director, Early Education for All

Amy O'Leary is the Director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children, an advocacy and policy organization that works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed for all children, from birth to age five, to access high-quality early education programs that prepare them for success in school and life. Prior to joining SFC, Amy worked as a preschool teacher and program director at Ellis Memorial in Boston. Amy just completed her term as the President-elect of the NAEYC Governing Board. Amy was previously elected to a four-year term on the NAEYC Governing Board in 2011. She serves as an adjunct faculty member at BU Wheelock College of Education and Human Development in Boston and Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. Amy is a member of the Massachusetts Early Literacy Expert Panel, the Massachusetts Birth through Grade 3 Advisory Group, and the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Advisory Committee. In addition, Amy presents at national, state, and local conferences and provides technical assistance to advocates and legislators in other states.

James Morton, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston

The YMCA of Greater Boston is one of the largest private social services provider in Massachusetts, offering programs and services that nurture the potential of every child and teen, supporting healthy living and well-being, and promoting social responsibility. James Morton also has a deep personal and professional connection to work force development and education having served as a leader of two work force development agencies and as an educator in the Springfield (MA) Public Schools, before joining the YMCA movement in 2002. Morton serves on numerous boards and committees, including the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, My Brother's Keeper Advisory Board, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Board of Overseers, and Boston After School and Beyond. In addition, he is and has been an active participant on numerous Y-USA committees on youth development, executive leadership development and multiculturalism.

Turah Dorsey, Foundation Fellow, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation

Turah Dorsey is a researcher, policymaker and strategist whose career has focused on systems change and civic innovation. Dorsey is currently a Foundation Fellow with the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation focusing on the transformation of early care and learning systems. Additionally, he is the co-founder of Change Agency Ltd., a consulting firm whose mission is to build the community-level agency required to promote racial justice and ecological sustainability. Finally, Dorsey is the former Chief of Education for the City of Boston, having served in Mayor Martin J. Walsh's cabinet from September 2014 to November 2018.

Beth Mattingly, Assistant Vice President, Community Development Research, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Beth is part of RCO's leadership team, managing the planning and execution of research projects and other efforts in support of the department's focus on low- and moderate-income populations across New England. Previously, Beth directed the Vulnerable Families Research Program at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey School of Public Policy, where her work centered on key issues confronting poor and low-income families including financial instability, safety-net policies, and challenges for low-wage workers. Beth also served as a research consultant at the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, where she worked closely on projects to better measure and understand poverty including the California Poverty Measure and the American Voices Project.

Moderator: Pratima Patil, PhD Student, CPAHD Boston University Wheelock and Research Fellow, Boston Opportunity Agenda