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QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

About the Speakers

Karen E. Lynch

Specialist in Social Policy, Congressional Research Service

Karen Lynch is a Specialist in Social Policy at the Congressional Research Service (CRS). In this capacity, Karen conducts objective, non-partisan legislative analysis and policy research for Members of Congress and their staff. Karen specializes in topics related to low-income children and families, particularly federal programs focused on early childhood care and education, such as childcare and Head Start. Karen also coordinates CRS products related to the annual appropriations process for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies. Prior to joining CRS in 2008, Karen spent several years as a program analyst in the Secretary's Budget Office at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was responsible for formulating and executing the budget for mandatory spending programs targeted to children and families. She also served as the education specialist for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Gulf Coast Recovery Office following Hurricane Katrina. Karen holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Boston College.

Mary Anne Snyder

Director, Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Department of Human Services

Mary Anne Snyder is Director of the Office of Early Childhood at the Colorado Department of Human Services. In this role, she brought together the Division of Early Care and Learning (DECL) with the new Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS). DECL provides childcare licensing, subsidy and quality initiatives. DCFS houses Early Intervention, Early Childhood Councils, Children's Trust Fund, home visitation programs, infant and toddler mental health programs, and child maltreatment prevention. The Head Start State Collaboration Liaison and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission Manager also operate within the Office of Early Childhood. The Office is also implementing a \$45 million Federal Early Learning Challenge grant. Prior to serving as the Director of the Office of Early Childhood, Mary Anne was the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund (2001-2012). She was the founding President of the Celebrate Children Foundation, which focuses on helping communities in Wisconsin create the most effective early learning systems for children from birth to age five. Mary Anne was a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Early Care and Education and was the co-chair of the state steering committee. She also served on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, of which she was President for four years.

Mary Graham

Executive Director, Children's Village Child Care Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mary Graham is Executive Director at Children's Village Child Care Center. Ms. Graham started her professional career at Children's Village as an Assistant Human Services Coordinator in 1976 and has spent the past twenty-four years as its Executive Director. Children's Village serves toddlers from 13 months, pre-schoolers and kindergarteners, and offers a School Age Program for children in kindergarten through 6 grade. Ms. Graham instituted the School Age Program in 2001 with 7 children; today the program serves 160 children with a wait list of 50. Children's Village has received the highest rating of 4 stars from the Pennsylvania Keystone Stars Program (a rating system for child care providers). Ms. Graham serves on the advisory committees of Philadelphia Community College's Early Childhood Education Department and the Nonprofit Facilities Fund. She has served on the board of the Pennsylvania Child Care Association since 1995, serving as President and other officer positions. Ms. Graham also sits on the Pre K Counts Advisory Committee with the School District of Philadelphia.