



Collaboration for
Early Childhood

**LIFTING LITTLE VOICES 2021:
PLANNING FOR CHANGE
AN EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM**

February 18, 2021
6:30pm – 8:15pm

Agenda

Lifting Little Voices is a biennial community forum, hosted by the Collaboration for Early Childhood, to bring local leaders together to discuss the importance of early childhood in policy and leadership decisions.

6:30pm Welcome. *John Borrero*

6:35pm Overview of the Collaboration. *Sophie Grimes*

6:45pm Community Systems Development: What Does It Take? *Grace Araya*

7:05pm Panel Discussion: The State of Our Community with Questions and Answers.

Health and Development	Rebecca Barbato , <i>Loyola Center for Health</i>
Family Engagement	Whitney Brooks , <i>Collaboration for Early Childhood</i>
Equity and Opportunity	Jacqueline Moore , <i>Equity Team Oak Park</i>
Early Care and Education	Jill Pacyna , <i>Henry Wadsworth Longfellow School</i>
Business/Economic Impact	Bob Tucker , <i>Chicago Community Loan Fund</i>
Male Engagement	Raheem Young , <i>Welcome to Fatherhood</i>

7:50pm Implications for Policy and Advocacy. *Dana Garner*

8:10pm Next Steps/Closure. *Becki Streit*

8:15pm Adjourn/Exit Survey

Speakers & Panelists



Grace Araya
Illinois Action for Children

Grace Araya is the Director of Community Systems Statewide Supports at Illinois Action for Children. She leads a team that provides training and technical assistance to early childhood collaborations across the state.

Her work is focused on strengthening local communities' ability to develop and implement community-wide, collaborative strategies that improve outcomes for children and families.



Rebecca Barbato
Loyola Medicine

Dr. Rebecca Barbato, MD is a pediatric specialist with over 19 years of experience serving children and families in the Chicago area. She provides primary care services for children of all ages, from infants to teenagers.

She operates her medical practice at Loyola's North Riverside Family Health Center.



John Borrero
Collaboration for Early Childhood

John's career has been devoted to working on behalf of young children and families, with a focus on underserved communities. He is proud to have served in both national and local leadership roles across the early childhood landscape.

John is currently the Executive Director for the Collaboration for Early Childhood.



Whitney Brooks
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Whitney brings a unique perspective both as a parent of two children, and as a preschool teacher here in Oak Park. Whitney is heavily involved in community outreach and she helps to facilitate the Collaboration's annual Parent Leadership Training. She serves on the Family Advisory Committee for the Illinois Early Learning Council and holds a BA in Criminology and Sociology from Dominican University.

Whitney is currently a Community Ambassador for the Collaboration for Early Childhood.



Dana Garner
Illinois Facilities Fund (IFF)

Dana's vast career in non-profit management and Head Start has provided her with professional job opportunities that include positions as Early Childhood Education Program Manager, Director of Training, Executive Director, Quality Assurance Director, and Professional Leadership & Development Consultant. Dana received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Hampton University, and a Master's degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago.

Dana is currently an Early Childhood Education Program Manager with IFF in Chicago.



Sophie Grimes
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Sophie comes to Illinois from the NYC Department of Education in the Office of Teacher Recruitment & Quality, where she supported on impactful messaging, teacher recruitment campaigns, and managed a resource website for current NYC public school teachers. She brings a creative lens and a background in social media marketing to the role of Communications Coordinator for the Collaboration for Early Childhood.



Jackie Moore
E-Team

As a practicing psychologist, Jackie focuses on program development for family systems and child development in the context of poverty. Jackie earned MA and PhD degrees in Human Development from the School of Education at University of California, Los Angeles.

Jackie Moore is a member of the E-Team in Oak Park and the School Board President at Oak Park and River Forest High School.

Speakers & Panelists



Jill Pacyna
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow School

Jill Pacyna has been a Reflective Prekindergarten teacher for 19 years, as well as an Engaged Parent Advocate, and Dedicated Equality Activist.

Jill has a BS in Early Childhood Education and an MA in Reading with an ELL Endorsement.



Rebecca Streit
Collaboration for Early Childhood

Becki Streit is the Chair of the Collaboration's Board of Directors. A retired special education teacher and administrator, her career focused on early intervention for children with special needs, working with school districts to create and support access for students, and providing high-quality instruction to students with a variety of learning challenges.



Bob Tucker
Chicago Community Loan Fund

Bob Tucker joined the Chicago Community Loan Fund in June 2015 as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Programs. He leads internal operations and provides strategic leadership to ensure CCLF executes its business plan and fulfills its mission to provide flexible, affordable and responsible financing and technical assistance for community stabilization and development efforts and initiatives that benefit low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. He was a Village Trustee on the Village Board of Oak Park, Illinois, from 2011-2019.



Raheem Young
Welcome to Fatherhood

Raheem Young works as a Youth Interventionist with Oak Park Township and co-founded a non-profit called Welcome to Fatherhood where he works with dads to help them cope with some of the pressures and stresses of fatherhood. Raheem is a husband and father of three. He created Welcome to Fatherhood to assist other dads in their fatherhood journey by sharing with them his challenges and triumphs.

About the Collaboration



Collaboration for
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Who we are: The Collaboration for Early Childhood is a public/private partnership that works to narrow the opportunity gap that begins in the first few years of a child's life.

What we do: Utilizing an equity lens, we partner with families, educators, health professionals and community members to ensure that our children enter kindergarten healthy, eager to learn, and ready to thrive.

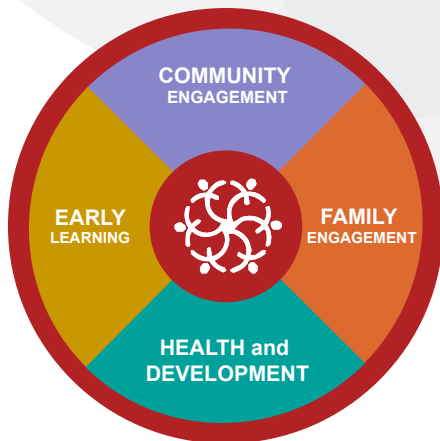
Our Program Service Areas:

Early Learning: Strengthening the success of the preschool classroom experience through professional development and support of our early childhood leaders and educators.

Health and Development: Providing support to child health practitioners and administering vision, hearing, and developmental screenings to our children.

Family Engagement: Helping families to be advocates for their children and share early childhood knowledge across the parent and caregiver community.

Community Engagement: Spreading awareness of early childhood issues and streamlining connections to resources in our community.



Learn more about our work. Partner with us. Be a champion for children. Visit: www.collab4kids.org

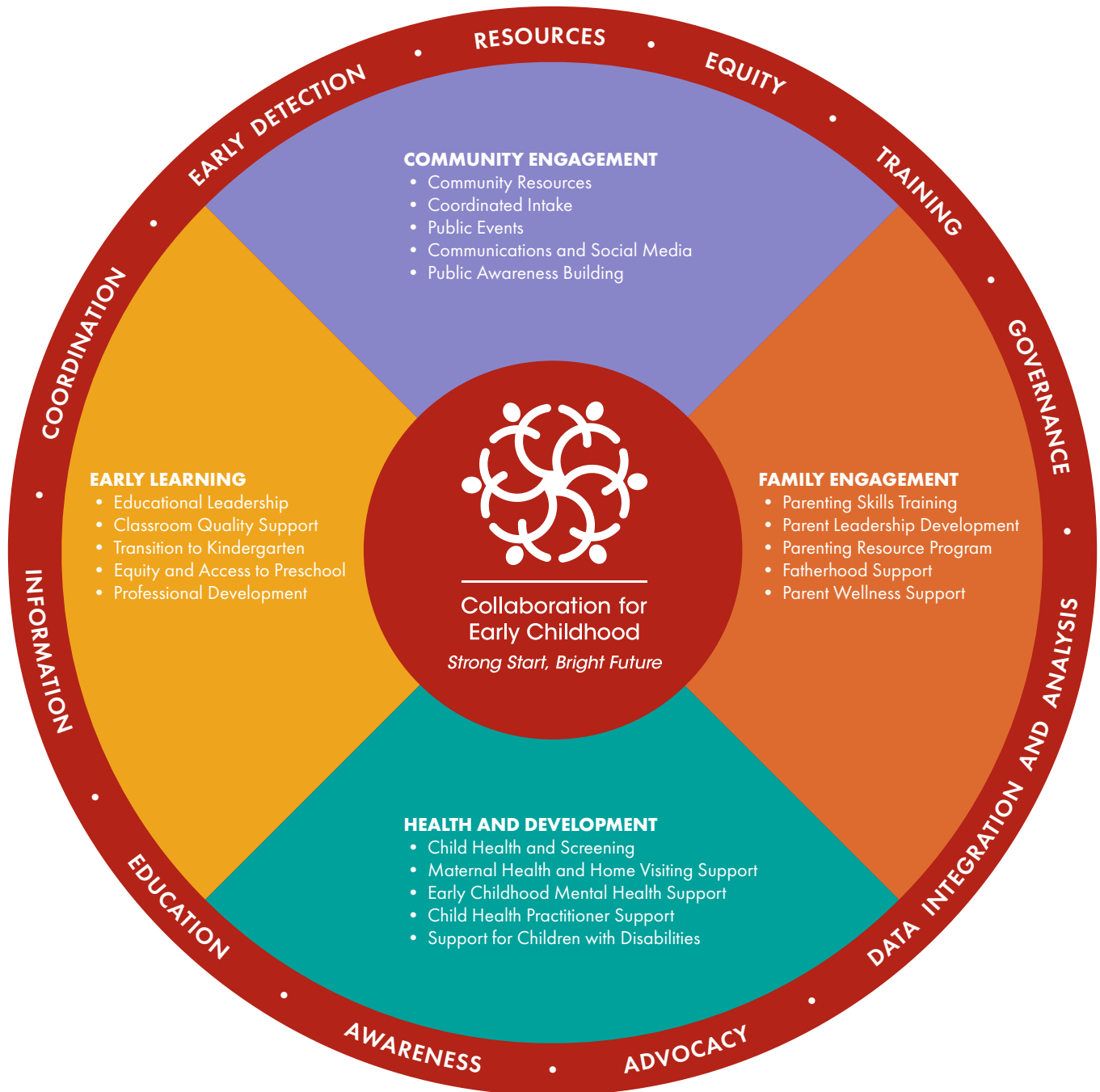
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About the Collaboration

Collaboration for Early Childhood Program Services Model

We champion high quality early childhood care and learning experiences and support for families so all children develop their full potential.



Next Steps



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GET INVOLVED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

IN OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST

1. **BE A PARENT LEADER.** Families First | La Familia Primero is a bilingual parent-led team supported by the Collaboration for Early Childhood. The group works together to build stronger families and make our community better for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Todos son bienvenidos!
2. **VOLUNTEER AT COMMUNITY EVENTS.** Every February, we host an Early Childhood Symposium where teachers and parents from Oak Park and our surrounding communities come together for a day of learning and professional development. We also host and take part in events for the community. We always welcome helping hands.
3. **JOIN A COMMITTEE.** The Collaboration's work is guided by committees, which are made up of teachers, providers, parents, and other members of the community. Committees meet several times a year and help steer the direction of the Collaboration. Anyone who wants to support our work is welcome.
4. **BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board of Directors oversees all of the operations of the Collaboration. We are always looking for people to join future Board cohorts. Dedicate your time and energy to making a difference in the lives of children under five in our community. Our search for future Board members is ongoing.
5. **VISIT OUR FATHERHOOD GROUP.** Welcome all father figures! Welcome to Fatherhood is a supportive men's group where you can share wisdom and borrow wisdom with fathers in Oak Park and surrounding communities. Become part of this important dialogue.
6. **LEAD A WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OR PARENTS.** Are you a professional in the field with a skill that families or teachers can use? Apply to share your knowledge as part of our yearly workshop programming.
7. **PARTICIPATE IN THE OAK PARK/RIVER FOREST FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM.** The Foster Grandparent program partners senior citizens with local preschool programs. The volunteer "Foster Grandparents" have regular work schedules in classrooms, they help out teachers and spend quality time with young folks. And they can earn a stipend as well (from the Chicago Foster Grandparent office).
8. **INVEST IN CHILDREN'S HEALTH.** Attend a Physicians' Network Gathering, Professional Development or other community screening event related to supporting the health of children under five and their families.
9. **NO TIME TO VOLUNTEER?** Join the magic-makers in the community who donate to us so that we can expand the services we provide to all of our children.

For more information about these and other opportunities, contact the Collaboration at info@collab4kids.org

Next Steps

Let us know what you thought about the event. Your responses will help us plan future early childhood programming that matters to you.

Complete the Feedback Form



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Strong Start. Bright Future