



Speaker Bios

EPR Webinar 2: Subsidy Issues: Planning for Continuation of Child Care Services

Gail Kelso



Gail B. Kelso is a new member of the Child Care State System Specialist Network and serves the Region VI states. Previously she was Louisiana State CCDF administrator also responsible for management of the statewide QRIS, Quality Start, the School Readiness Tax Credits, and oversight of the child care resource and referral agency and the professional development system contracts. In addition her duties included development of the LA CCDF State Plan, CCDF reporting, and ongoing development of the child care emergency preparedness and response plan. Ms. Kelso has extensive experience in child development, child care, family engagement, and the federal, state, and local systems that touch them. A native Floridian, Kelso received her bachelors in Early Childhood Education from Florida State and her Masters in Child Development from Virginia Tech.

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Patty Butler



For the past 37 years, Ms. Butler has been deeply committed to the Early Childhood profession, first as a provider in her home and then as a Director of a Child Care Center she opened and developed. Children and families are her passion. In the last 2 years she has moved into the role of Bureau Chief at Early Childhood Services, still advocating for the youngest Montanans. When not working she like to play with my seven grandchildren, walk, read, and play a little tennis.

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Sarah Adams



Ms. Adams has lived in Montana for nine years, although she still calls her hometown of Portland, OR, her second home. When she is not at work, you can find her outside fishing, hiking, biking, and climbing – and everything in between. She is also an active member in our county’s Search and Rescue unit, so emergency planning and preparedness is a strong passion of hers. Helena is a wonderful town to live in! Ms. Adams loves the work she does here and the great impact it has on the families in her community and state.

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Cheryl Vincent

Cheryl Vincent is a Program Specialist with the Office of Child Care (OCC) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As a member of the policy division her responsibilities include developing regulations, program instructions and guidance on statutory, budgetary and policy issues concerning the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. Ms. Vincent has a Master’s in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University. She is a class of 2004 Presidential Management Fellow (PMF) graduate and completed the American University Key Executive Leadership program in 2010.

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Jennifer M. Johnson



Jennifer M. Johnson is the Education and Quality Initiatives Section Chief with the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education, holds a MEd Special Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a BS in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has taught in the community college system for nineteen years. Prior to her experience at this level, Jennifer has taught in public and private schools in Greensboro, Graham, Raleigh, and Charlotte. She was the director of a drop-in child care facility for 3 years and prior to that kept children in her home.

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Tamara Hall



Tamara Hall is the Program Director of Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. During her 18 year tenure with the CAPS subsidized child care program, she has filled a variety roles ranging from Case Manager to Business Operations Specialist. She led the implementation of the Federal Error Rate process in Georgia, and the statewide expansion of the current automation used by case managers to determine eligibility for CAPS services. She provides direct oversight for multiple contracts administered under the CAPS program. Her mission is to make sure all children have access to the high quality child care, regardless of socio-economical backgrounds. Tamara is married with three children.

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Don Beltrame



Don Beltrame is a Senior Research Associate with Walter R. McDonald and Associates, Inc., with over 34 years of experience in implementing and managing Social and Human Service programs and applying a strong expertise in data-driven, long-term strategic planning. He is the Project Lead of State, Territory and Local Innovation Team for the National Child Care Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability. Prior to joining WRMA, Don was senior policy consultant for the Connecticut Department of Social Services, where he managed the state's child care subsidy program for low and moderate income families, Care 4 Kids. Don has extensive experience in fiscal and contract management, technical writing, market rate setting, quality control methods, fraud prevention and detection and developing information and technology systems.

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