

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CAPITOL DAY 2022: AGENDA

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 - 11:00am - 5:30pm

Time	Session Description	Session Host
11:00 - 11:25	<p>Welcome! Opening comments, introductions, and overview of the day.</p>	<p>Dr. Angela Bass <i>Mississippi Early Learning Alliance</i></p>
11:25 - 12:10	<p>Networking Sessions Lunchtime discussion and networking sessions – participants choose which session they would like to attend, bring their lunch, and join one of five different breakout rooms.</p>	
	<p>Option 1: Making the Child Care Payment Program Work Better for Families & Providers This session will share what is happening in Mississippi’s Child Care Payment Program (CCPP). We’ll focus on exploring ways we can work together to remove red tape and make it easier for low-income families (especially single parent households) to access and retain child care assistance. This session will also explore how to make this program work better for participating providers and promote their financial stability.</p>	<p>Carol Burnett and Team <i>Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative</i></p>
	<p>Option 2: Project ECHO for Childcare Providers: Connecting Childcare Providers with Child Health & Development Specialists Project ECHO for Childcare Providers connects early care and education providers with behavioral and healthcare specialists such as child psychologists, speech-language pathologists, social workers, and pediatric nurse practitioners via virtual visits. This session will share information about how Project ECHO works and how it can benefit childcare providers, children, and families.</p>	<p>Lisa Long <i>Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning</i></p>
	<p>Option 3: Power and Potential: Advancing Afterschool and Summer Programs in Mississippi At this moment in time, we are facing a once-in-a-generation opportunity and obligation to address inequity in bold and innovative ways. By creating and expanding afterschool and summer learning opportunities, we have the potential to engage, enrich, and exponentially change the lives of young people, particularly those in underserved communities. Session participants will discuss how to maximize the tools and resources the MS Statewide Afterschool Network has created to support this work, and offer insights on how to advance afterschool and summer programs.</p>	<p>Amber May <i>Mississippi Statewide Afterschool Network</i></p>
	<p>Option 4: Obesity Prevention in the Early Care & Education Setting Increasing access to local gardens, fresh food sourcing, and agriculture education promotes family wellness and enhances educational experiences within early care and education (ECE) settings. This session will explore how the farm to ECE movement improves access to healthy, locally-grown foods; gardening opportunities; and food-based learning activities in all types of ECE settings. This session will also highlight programs and resources ECE programs can use to implement evidence-based practices that promote healthy eating and physical activity.</p>	<p>Taylor Henderson <i>Mississippi State Department of Health / Mississippi Farm to School Network</i></p>
	<p>Option 5: Maximizing Your Child Care Strong Stabilization Grant Spending This session will discuss how childcare providers can spend the money they receive from Child Care Strong Grants effectively and strategically.</p>	<p>LaTasha Hadley <i>Loving Hands, LLC</i></p>

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Time	Session Description	Session Host
12:10 - 1:05	<p>Choose Your Own Adventure: Workshops & Trainings Participants decide which policy-focused workshop aligns best with their experience, expertise, and interests. For those who are new to advocacy or legislative processes, we recommend our Childcare Policy 101 workshop. For those who are more experienced in advocacy, or for those who are very familiar with Mississippi policies already, we recommend the Federal Childcare Policy workshop.</p>	
	<p>Childcare Policy 101: Provides an overview of existing Mississippi policies related to childcare. This session will also help to explain the existing state and federal funding structures in place for childcare and early childhood education.</p>	<p>Mississippi State University:</p> <p>Dr. Devon Brenner <i>Interim Director of the Social Science Research Center</i></p> <p>Dr. Jeffrey Leffler <i>Asst. Professor and Graduate Coordinator, Division of Education</i></p>
	<p>Federal Childcare Policy & Federal Relief for Childcare Join Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) for an update on federal child care policy, including federal relief implementation efforts across the country and the status of the Build Back Better Act. During this presentation, CCAoA will share resources related to American Rescue Plan Act implementation, advocacy toolkit materials, and a resource for providers to help them work through relief grant spending considerations.</p>	<p>Child Care Aware of America:</p> <p>Christina Koch <i>Federal Policy Analyst</i></p> <p>Diane Girouard <i>State Policy Analyst</i></p>
1:05 - 1:15	10 MINUTE BREAK	
1:15 - 1:45	<p>Mississippi Childcare Video Screening MELA created a short video to elevate the voices and perspectives of childcare providers. The video highlights key issues affecting the childcare system in Mississippi, shares how providers are overcoming challenges, and explores the kinds of supports childcare providers and families need.</p>	MELA Team
1:45 - 2:15	<p>Mississippi Legislator Panel Screening MELA facilitated a panel discussion about childcare with Mississippi legislators, and recorded it to share during this event.</p>	MELA Team
2:15 - 2:30	WRAP UP AND QUESTIONS	
2:30 - 5:30 (20 minute sessions)	<p>Regional Discussion Sessions with Legislators Participants are invited to join region-specific sessions to hear from elected representatives in their communities! These 20-minute sessions will take place between 2:30pm and 5:30pm. Session-specific Zoom links are provided on the next page.</p>	MELA Team & Partners will facilitate these sessions

