Early Childhood Coffee & Conversation

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
Breakfast available at 8:30 a.m.

Agenda

Welcome & Opening Remarks
Orlando Watkins, Vice President for Programs, The Boston Foundation

Overview of TBF’s Early Childhood Strategy
Elizabeth Pauley, Associate Vice President, Education to Career, The Boston Foundation

Presentation
Prabal Chakrabarti, Senior Vice President & Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Panel Discussion on Early Childhood Workforce
Marie St. Fleur, Principal, St. Fleur Communications, Moderator
Megan H. Bair-Merritt, MD, MSCE, Executive Director, Center for the Urban Child & Healthy Family; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Division Chief, General Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center
Dianne Curtin, Vice President of Child and Family Services, The Dimock Center
Dr. Allison Matthews, M.Ed., Ed.D., Adjunct Professor, Urban College of Boston

Closing Remarks
Elizabeth Pauley, Associate Vice President, Education to Career, The Boston Foundation
Seeding Innovative Partnerships

**Boston Medical Center:** Economic Mobility for Pregnant and New Mothers

**Partners:** BMC Pediatrics Center for the Urban Child and Healthy Family, BMC Vital Villages, Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)

This partnership will establish a design for the application of EMPath’s mobility mentoring approach in the context of health service delivery for pregnant women and their infants and toddlers at BMC and Vital Village. *Contact: Megan H Bair-Merritt at Megan.Bair-Merritt@bmc.org.*

**The Dimock Center:** Dimock/Urban Edge Collaborative for Innovative Partnerships

**Partners:** The Dimock Center, Urban Edge

The Dimock Center and Urban Edge partnership was formed to leverage both organizations’ complementary core strengths of providing health care, education and housing support services to expectant mothers and families, living in affordable housing, with children under three. *Contact: Dianne Curtin at dcurtin1@dimock.org.*

**Roca, Inc.:** It Takes a Village

**Partners:** East Boston Social Centers, North Suffolk Mental Health Association (Harbor Area Early Childhood), East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, Department of Transitional Assistance, Department of Children and Families, Department of Public Health

Roca’s partnership’s goal is to streamline access to early childhood services for East Boston’s young parents (ages 15–24), of whom the vast majority are immigrants from Central America, by changing the way systems and programs work together for critical supports. *Contact: Allie Livezey Maynard at allie_maynard@rocainc.com.*

**United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley:** Boston Early Childhood Shared Services Alliance

**Partners:** UMass Boston, Nurtury, Project Hope, East Boston Social Centers, United South End Settlements, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston, Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Crispus Attucks

The goal of this partnership is to ensure the financial stability of providers serving low-income children through training, coaching, convening, and access to tools/resources to save time and money and strengthen quality. *Contact: Sunindiya Bhalla at sbhalla@supportunitedway.org.*

**Urban College of Boston:** Strengthening Supports for Spanish- and Mandarin-Speaking Family Child Care Providers

**Partners:** Boston Medical Center’s Vital Village Network, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Asian American Civic Association, ABCD’s Child Care Choices of Boston

This partnership aims to create a robust network of organizations that support Spanish- and Mandarin-speaking family child care providers in Boston and provide resources to help those providers serve families as effectively as possible. *Contact: Caitlin Callahan at caitlin.callahan@urbancollege.edu.*
Expanding Innovative Partnerships

**Family Nurturing Center**: Expanded Partnership for Allston-Brighton Family Support and Engagement

**Partners**: Charles River Community Health Center, Jamaica Plain Brighton WIC, The Basics

FNC will bring an experienced, informed Parent Partner Liaison to the Charles River Community Health Center (CRCHC) and Jamaica Plain Brighton WIC (JPBWIC) for consistent, weekly hours to meet with parents, make individual connections to resources, schedule child developmental screenings (ASQs), take referrals for Welcome Baby and other FNC programs, and share child development information, using the Boston Basics framework and themes. A Parent Advisory Committee will share challenges and questions faced by parents with young children in the neighborhood. **Contact**: Valerie Bean at vbean@familynurturing.org.

**Horizons for Homeless Children**: Strengthening Social and Emotional Development

**Partners**: Horizons for Homeless Children, Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Young Audiences of Massachusetts, Brazelton Touchpoints Center

The expansion of Horizons’ partnership with Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Young Audiences of MA, and the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, will build on the Touchpoints guiding principle of the parent-child relationship as key to the social and emotional development of a child. Through the Circle of Security, JF&CS will provide a group-based intervention to increase attachment and security, thus supporting and strengthening the parent-child relationship. The attachment will be further reinforced by supporting the parent/child bonding experience through music. **Contact**: Sheila O’Neil at soneil@horizonschildren.org.

**Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)**: Developing and Piloting a System to Prioritize Mental Health Services for DCF-Involved Infants, Young Children and Families

**Partners**: Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health (MassAIMH), Massachusetts Head Start Association (MHSA); Massachusetts, Department of Children and Families (DCF)

This Partnership brings MSPCC’s clinical expertise and our experience supporting DCF-involved children together with our partners and coalitions that are working to enhance the IECMH workforce and ultimately improve access to high-quality services for vulnerable children. With MassAIMH, MHSA, DCF, and the members of the IECMH Workgroup of the Children’s Mental Health Campaign, we will develop and pilot a model of expedited access to evidence-based, trauma-focused behavioral health screening, assessment, and interventions for DCF-involved children ages birth to three. **Contact**: Megan Hempstead at mhempstead@mspcc.org.

**Smart from the Start**: Family Strength and Wellness Initiative

**Partners**: Smart from the Start, Brazelton Institute, Boston Housing Authority

BTC will train Smart’s clinical and early childhood staff on the Touch Points Therapeutic Parenting Program, which will build their capacity to provide high quality, trauma informed programming to parents and young children in public housing. Boston Housing will play an instrumental role in assisting us with recruitment of caregivers residing in their developments, providing free access to—and utilization of space for—programming, assistance and support with outreach and program coordination. **Contact**: Cherie Craft at cherie.craft@smartfromthestartboston.org.
Marie St. Fleur, Principal, St. Fleur Communications, Moderator
Marie has been a lawyer, legislator, policy maker and motivational speaker. She has created on the ground outreach and engagement approaches: spearheading the establishment of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care; launching the Put MA Kids First Coalition, a multi-year campaign to increase state investment in Early Education and Care and out of School Time in Massachusetts; and creating the Early Education Small Business Innovation Center in Boston. She served as a Massachusetts State Representative, a Cabinet Chief for the late Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, an Assistant State Attorney General, Chair of the Advisory Council for the Haiti Fund at the Boston Foundation, and President and CEO of a nonprofit.

Prabal Chakrabarti, Senior Vice President & Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Prabal is Senior Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston in the Regional and Community Outreach department. He has published research on community development topics such as affordable housing, venture capital in secondary cities, and urban business development. He plays a key role in designing and implementing a competition to revitalize smaller cities called the Working Cities Challenge. Previously, Prabal was at the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, where he led a research effort to measure economic competitiveness in America’s inner cities. Prabal previously served in the U.S. Treasury in economic policy, and currently serves on the Marshall Scholarship Selection Committee and on the board of directors of the Children’s Investment Fund.

Dianne Curtin, Vice President of Child and Family Services, The Dimock Center
Dianne Curtin joined The Dimock Center in 2015 as the Vice President of Child & Family Services. Under Dianne’s leadership, Dimock provides Early Head Start, Head Start, and Early Intervention services to over 800 children and families each year. Prior to joining Dimock, Dianne served as the Vice President of Program Services at United South End Settlements and spent over 20 years working on behalf of families with young children in low income communities in Oregon and the Commonwealth.

Dr. Allison Matthews, M.Ed., Ed.D., Adjunct Professor, Urban College of Boston
Dr. Allison Matthews is the new Dean of Enrollment at Urban College of Boston. She has been an adjunct faculty member for the past 11 years at UCB and has also taught at Eastern Nazarene College. Prior to this position, Dr. Matthews has been an Early Childhood director for over 15 years and a school principal for 5 years. She continues to provide consulting services to childcare programs and mentoring to directors.

Megan H Bair-Merritt, MD, MSCE, Executive Director, Center for the Urban Child and Healthy Family; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Division Chief, General Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center
Megan H Bair-Merritt, MD, MSCE is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of Boston Medical Center Pediatrics’ Center for the Urban Child and Healthy Family. She is a general pediatrician and child health services researcher. Her research has focused on the impact of family violence on child health as well as ways to partner with families to promote resilience and child well-being. She has conducted social epidemiology and intervention research for over 10 years. To date, Dr. Bair-Merritt has published 69 scientific and/or invited articles, 11 letters/editorials, and 10 book chapters that predominantly focus on family violence and child health. She has continuously funded her work through federal and foundation grants.