

Prenatal-to-Three

County Leaders Academy



November 30-December 1, 2021



Prenatal-to-Three County Leaders Academy

November 30, 8:30am – 5:00pm | Courtyard Atlanta Decatur | Room: Mary Gay

Meeting Agenda – Day One

8:30 AM: Breakfast Meet & Greet

9:00 AM: Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 AM: Roll Call

9:45 AM: Federal Relief Supporting Families with Young Children from Prenatal to Age Three: Opportunities and Challenges During COVID-19

The global pandemic has impacted the child care industry, parents and young children. Despite these challenges, counties have played a key role in moving the country forward and connecting families with young children to services and supports that promote economic stability and increase their access to high-quality early care and education. Learn from national policy experts how counties are leveraging coronavirus (COVID-19) relief funds to support prenatal-to-three (PN-3) services and strategies for sustaining robust local policy efforts.

- Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director for Human Services and Education, National Association of Counties (moderator)
- Elizabeth Gaines, Executive Director, Children’s Funding Project
- Ngozi Lawal, Project Director, Prenatal-Three Initiative, Center for the Study of Social Policy

10:45 AM: Break

11:15 AM: Equitable Recovery for Child Care Post-COVID

As the child care sector recovers from the impact of COVID-19, counties can make critical investments that promote an equitable early childhood system for the early care and education workforce and children and families they serve. In this session, counties will share their local efforts in supporting child care providers and strategies for reopening and expanding services. Learn from and engage with a panel of county leaders helping to build the supply of child care in their community.

- Ashanti Bryant, Director of Early Childhood Services, IFF (moderator)
- Hon. Erica Crawley, Commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio
- Hon. Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County, Wash.

12:30 PM: Lunch and Networking

This networking lunch will allow attendees to connect with their peers and national experts.

1:45 PM: Coordinating Services for Children and Families

In this session, attendees will hear how counties have coordinated services to improve outcomes for families with young children. Attendees will then break into groups to discuss what programs and services exist for children PN-3 in their communities and how to help build and finance systems that coordinate and sustain these services.

- Hon. Derek Young, Council Chair, Pierce County, Wash. (moderator)
- Hon. Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.; 2nd Vice President, NACo
- Hon. Brenda Howerton, Commissioner, Durham County, N.C.

2:30 PM: First Breakout

Attendees will break into small groups to discuss opportunities and challenges with service coordination and share local strategies with their peers.

3:10 PM: Break

3:30 PM: Second Breakout

Attendees will break into new small groups to discuss opportunities and challenges with service coordination and share local strategies with their peers.

4:10 PM: Groups Report Out and Share Reflections from the Day

Attendees will reconvene and share key takeaways and closing thoughts.

4:45 PM: Closing Remarks

5:00-7:00 PM: Networking Dinner and Reception

Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the White Bull (123 E Court Square, Decatur, GA 30030). The White Bull is walking distance from the Courtyard.

Prenatal-to-Three County Leaders Academy

December 1, 9:00 – 11:30am | Courtyard Atlanta Decatur | Room: Mary Gay

Meeting Agenda – Day Two

9:00 AM: Breakfast

9:30 AM: Opening Remarks

9:45 AM: Building Public Will for Prenatal-to-Three Investments

County leaders have made significant investments in services and supports for young children and their families, even in light of the global pandemic and challenging economic times. Now, more than ever, the nation needs to hear from county champions to help lift up these stories and engage more local leaders in PN-3 policy conversations and investments. Learn how counties are developing strategic partnerships and building momentum for PN-3 investments across levels of government.

- Nicole Randle, BerlinRosen (moderator)
- Hon. Roy Charles Brooks, Commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas; Past President, NACo

10:45 AM: Break

11:00 AM: Debrief – Let’s hear from our champions!

Before the Academy concludes, attendees will reflect on highlights from the two-day event and share feedback with NACoRF.

11:20 AM: Closing Remarks

11:30 AM: Networking Lunch

Programming will end in time for attendees to join the optional LUC mobile tours starting at 1:00pm.

Speakers

[Hon. Roy Charles Brooks, Commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas; Past President, NACo](#)



Roy Charles Brooks stands at the forefront of one of the fastest growing urban counties in the United States. For over 30 years, Roy has represented his community, as a community volunteer, a city elected official, and now as County Commissioner. He embraces the core values of integrity, innovation and growth. Roy is committed to the health and welfare of the people. Since entering office in 2004, he is continuously addressing the healthcare issues in his community. He has worked diligently to provide Tarrant County constituents with numerous opportunities to sign up for healthcare through the Affordable Care Act.

In July 2015, Roy was elected 2nd Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) where he became President in July 2017. As NACo president, Roy championed his *Serving the Underserved* initiative, which showcased the critical role counties play in breaking multi-generational cycles of poverty, especially by focusing on early childhood development and the long-lasting impacts of adverse childhood experiences and trauma. Under his leadership, NACo saw a year of tremendous accomplishments. The organization participated in a ground-breaking partnership with the Pritzker Children's Initiative, which coordinates efforts to advance programs and policies focused on a healthy start for our young people by working with practitioners in communities across the country. As a Past President, he continues to serve on NACo boards and committees and bring Tarrant County to the forefront of conversations.

[Ashanti Bryant, Director of Early Childhood Services, IFF](#)



Ashanti Bryant serves as Director of Early Childhood Services, overseeing IFF's early childhood education work in communities across the Midwest. This body of work focuses on catalyzing investment into safe and inspiring learning environments and programs for all children. Ashanti is an experienced leader with years of school administration service in early childhood education, public, charter and independent private schools. A fierce advocate for equitable access to high quality, early care and education, Ashanti

believes in a data-informed and comprehensive approach that prepares children to be Kindergarten-ready, positions them to break cycles of poverty and low achievement, and anchors the ability for families to participate in their community's economy and workforce.

Hon. Dow Constantine, County Executive, King County, Wash.



Serving his third-term as King County Executive, Dow Constantine leads one of the largest regional governments in the United States. His priority is that every person be able to thrive, be economically secure, and contribute to the life of our community. He is focused on meeting two of the greatest generational challenges of our time: building equity and opportunity, and confronting climate change. County Executive Constantine led the creation of Best Starts for Kids, a King County voter-approved initiative to support every baby born or child raised in King County to reach adulthood happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.

Hon. Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio



Commissioner Erica C. Crawley is a mother, advocate, and veteran. She is the first Franklin County Black woman Commissioner and is a U.S. Navy Veteran. She is also a proud first-generation college graduate, holds a J.D. from Capital University Law School and M.P.A from Walden University. Before her service as a Franklin County Commissioner, Crawley served in the Ohio House of Representatives representing the 26th District. There, she worked on maternal health, infant mortality, birth to five initiatives, housing and food insecurity, and veterans' issues. She also served as the Ranking Member on the House Finance Committee, among other legislative committees. She was previously appointed to the Governor's Commission on Infant Mortality, the Commission on Minority Health, the State Controlling Board, the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, and is a founding member of Ohio's Black Maternal Health Caucus. Prior to her service in elected office, Commissioner Crawley worked on behalf of children and families as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children (CASA), and in positions with the YWCA Head Start/Early Start Program and the Black Child Development Institute.

Elizabeth Gaines, Executive Director, Children's Funding Project



Elizabeth is the founder and executive director of Children's Funding Project. Begun in 2018, Children's Funding Project is the response to Elizabeth's 25-year career in child advocacy that persistently led her to question whether adequate resources were being directed to children. As an expert on children's policy at the state and local level, Elizabeth has worked with communities in nearly all 50 states to establish children's cabinets, conduct fiscal maps, and pursue dedicated funding for youth. Since 2018, Elizabeth has guided Children's Funding Project through over 40 projects with national networks, state and local governments, advocates, and youth leaders.

[Hon. Brenda Howerton, Commissioner, Durham County, N.C.](#)



Commissioner Brenda Howerton is the chair of the Durham Board of County Commissioners and is presently in her fourth term. She is the past president of the North Carolina Association of Counties. She was the first Durham County commissioner to be elected to a statewide senior leadership office. Her tenure as president focused on the initiative "*100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive.*" Commissioner Howerton has served as Vice Chairman of the County Commissioner from 2012 until 2016. She also serves or has served on a number of local, state and national boards and commissions. She is also appointed by the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) as Vice Chair of both the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board and Work Force Subcommittee for the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee and a member of the Large Urban Caucus committee.

[Ngozi Lawal, Project Director, Prenatal-Three Initiative, Center for the Study of Social Policy](#)



At the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Ngozi directs the Prenatal to Three Initiative, which is aimed at increasing the number of young children on track for kindergarten by age three. She supports communities in their efforts to provide pregnant women and young children with high quality, accessible health services, family support, and early childhood education. She previously served as a Senior Policy Analyst for the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

[Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director – Human Services and Education, National Association of Counties](#)



Rachel serves as associate legislative director for human services and education. In this role, she staffs NACo's Human Services and Education Policy Steering Committee and works with county officials from across the nation to advance organizational priorities and policies related to children's issues, foster care, public assistance and income support, services to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, immigration policy, social services, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education. Before joining the team at NACo she spent over two years serving as the Director of Policy and Research at First Focus, a bipartisan child advocacy organization, where she specialized in policy analysis and government relations related to federal budget and appropriations policy, child hunger and nutrition and family tax policy. Rachel has her Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

[Hon. Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.; Second Vice President, NACo](#)



Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire was elected NACo 2nd Vice President this past July (2021). She has been a Ramsey County Commissioner in Minnesota since 2012. Prior to the County Board, Mary Jo served 16 years in the Minnesota State Legislature, serving in both the House and Senate. Commissioner McGuire is a member of NACo's Executive Board and serves on its Financial Services Corporation and the Audit and Finance Committee. She also serves on NACo's Health Policy Steering Committee, Healthy Counties Advisory Board, Programs and Services Committee, and Arts and Culture Commission. She is also active in her state, serving in leadership at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and is a member of its Public Safety Policy Committee and Education and Research Committee. In her own county, Commissioner McGuire chairs the County's Legislative Committee, Active Living Ramsey Communities, Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative, and serves on a number of Boards and Commissions including as a member of the Extension Committee, Ramsey County League of Local Governments, the Transportation Advisory Board, the Recycling and Energy Board, and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District Board.

[Nicole Randle, Vice President, BerlinRosen](#)



Nicole Randle is a vice president with BerlinRosen, a leading national public relations and strategic communications firm named one of America's best PR agencies by Forbes. Nicole has a decade of experience driving integrated advocacy campaigns for nonprofit, health and social justice clients who are fighting to advance equity, fairness, and justice across today's most urgent issues. She has deep experience implementing strategies to influence policy, changing public narratives and building movements to advance priorities for infants and toddlers.

[Hon. Derek Young, Council Chair, Pierce County, Wash.](#)



In 1997, at the age of 21, Derek was first elected to the Gig Harbor City Council. Winning reelection three more times, he spent 16 years leading locally and regionally on growth, transportation, and budget policy. In 2015 Derek was elected to the Pierce County Council, winning reelection in 2019. As a member of the Council, Derek represents District #7, which covers the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas, Islands, and parts of North and West Tacoma. In 2021 Derek's peers chose him to serve as Council Chair. He previously served as Executive Pro Tem in 2020. Derek is a member of the Community Development and Public Safety committees and serves as Chair of the Human Services Committee. As Council Chair is also a member of the Rules and Operations Committee. Externally, Derek serves on

several boards and commissions, including Chair of the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health and the NACo Medicaid and Indigent Care Subcommittee. He also co-chairs the Washington State Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee.

Attendees

County Leaders

Dr. George Askew, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services and Education, **Prince George's County, Md.**

Hon. Roy Charles Brooks, Commissioner, **Tarrant County, Texas**; NACo Past President

Hon. Dow Constantine, County Executive, **King County, Wash.**

Hon. Erica Crawley, Commissioner, **Franklin County, Ohio**

Ms. Dena Diorio, County Manager, **Mecklenburg County, N.C.**

Hon. Sonya Fischer, County Commissioner, **Clackamas County, Ore.**

Hon. Brenda Howerton, Chair of Board of County Commissioners, **Durham County, N.C.**

Ms. Christiana Johnson, Administrative Coordinator/Analyst, **DeKalb County, Ga.**

Ms. Carrissa Jones, MORE Initiative Supervisor, DeKalb County Board of Health, **DeKalb County, Ga.**

Ms. Calli Knight, External Relations Director, **King County, Wash.**

Ms. Sharon Ledner, Chief of Staff, **Montgomery County, Md.**

Hon. Deborah Lieberman, Commissioner, **Montgomery County, Ohio**

Hon. Mary Jo McGuire, County Commissioner, **Ramsey County, Minn.**; NACo Second Vice President

Hon. John O'Grady, Commissioner, **Franklin County, Ohio**

Mr. Kevin Pangrace, Policy Director, **Franklin County, Ohio**

Ms. Charuni Patibanda, Economic Development Director, **New Castle County, Del.**

Hon. Craig Rice, Councilmember, **Montgomery County, Md.**

Hon. David Stout, Commissioner, Precinct 2, **El Paso County, Texas**

Hon. Denise Winfrey, County Board Member, **Will County, Ill.**; NACo First Vice President

Hon. Derek Young, Councilmember, **Pierce County, Wash.**

Partners

Mr. Ashanti Bryant, Director of Early Childhood Services, **IFF**

Ms. Allie Farrell, Partnerships Associate, **Children's Funding Project**

Ms. Elizabeth Gaines, Executive Director, **Children's Funding Project**

Ms. Ngozi Lawal, Project Director, Prenatal-Three Initiative, **Center for the Study of Social Policy**

Dr. Margareth Legaspi, Chief Education Strategy Officer, **Verite Group, Inc.**

Ms. Kathy Stohr, Project Officer, **Pritzker Children's Initiative**

National Association of Counties Research Foundation Staff

Ms. Ophelia Bitanga-Israel, Senior Program Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ms. Rashida Brown, Associate Program Director, Children, Youth & Families,

Ms. Ashleigh Holand, Director of Programs and Practices

Ms. Rachel Mackey, Associate Legislative Director, Human Services and Education

Ms. Arabella Pluta-Ehlers, Program Manager, Children, Youth & Families

Mr. Kevin Shrawder, Associate Economist


Ms. Teryn Zmuda, Chief Economist and Director of the Counties Futures Lab

We would like to thank our partners for their generous support of the Counties for Kids initiative.





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