

Addressing Housing Barriers for Home-based Childcare Providers

November 14, 2024

SPEAKERS

Laura Kohn

Laura is Vice President of Care and Education at Mission Driven Finance, where she launched [Care Access Real Estate \(CARE\)](#), a social impact real estate investment trust (REIT) that develops child care facilities across the United States. She joined Mission Driven Finance as a senior advisor in October 2020 then transitioned to full-time CARE leader in October 2021. In Laura's career, she has mobilized resources and partners from the government, nonprofit, philanthropic, and for-profit sectors to build socially just systems in education, early childhood, and workforce development. Prior roles include director of early workforce development at San Diego Workforce Partnership, where she produced the influential report [Workforce + Child Care](#); founding director of the Education Synergy Alliance, where David Lynn was her board chair; executive director of the New School Foundation in Seattle; director of education for the city of Seattle; advocacy lead for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and education policy advisor to Washington's governor. Laura has a BA in economics from Yale University and an MPA from the University of Washington.

Cynthia Melde

Cynthia Melde joined the LISC Phoenix office as a Senior Program Officer to launch the \$65 million-dollar Arizona Child Care Infrastructure Grant program. Cynthia brings over 20 years of experience working in community health and early childhood development previously serving in leadership roles in state government and non-profit organizations. As a mom of two, Cynthia knows how important access to high quality child care is for families, the workforce and the economy. Cynthia is committed to strengthening and investing in an early childhood system that meets the unique needs of each neighborhood across Arizona.

Natalie Renew

Natalie Renew is the executive director of Home Grown, a national initiative committed to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care. Natalie is an early childhood professional with extensive experience in the nonprofit and social service sector supporting children and families furthest from opportunity.

Prior to founding Home Grown, Natalie led the expansion of the early childhood education group at Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia. Natalie has

overseen the development of large programs, secured sustaining funding for major initiatives, and supported local systems change in the early learning sector. Early in her career, Natalie worked in child welfare and food access.

Natalie holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Flagler College and a master's in public administration from the University of South Carolina and College of Charleston.

Hayley Village

Hayley is the owner of It Take a Village Children & Family Services, LLC, and she has been a Family Child Care Provider for almost 20 years. She is a Board Member of San Mateo Family Child Care Organization, a Member of NAFCC and Bay Area Family Child Care Network, a Committee Member of the California Adult and Child Food Program, and many other roles as an advocate for children, families, and family child care providers.

She was born and raised in Birmingham England and has an AA in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelors in Human Services and Counseling.