

Investing in Our Future: Using Economic Well-Being Innovation to Create Systemic Change in Child Care

Asset Funders Network Webinar

June 14, 2023

Natalie Renew

Director, Homegrown

Natalie Renew is the director of Home Grown, a national initiative committed to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care. She is an early childhood professional with more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit and social service sector supporting children and families furthest from opportunity. Prior to joining Home Grown, Renew led the expansion of the early childhood education group at Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia. She 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, she worked in child welfare and food access.

Alexandra Patterson

Director of Policy and Strategy

Alexandra Patterson is the Director of Policy and Strategy for Home Grown, a national funder's collaborative committed to building quality and access to home-based childcare.

For over 15 years Alexandra has worked in the early learning sector in a variety of roles including early childhood classroom teacher, case manager and supervisor in Pennsylvania's QRIS system, professional development and technical assistance instructor and Intermediary Director for Philadelphia's city funded prek program, PHLpreK.

Alexandra holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware in Early Childhood Education and a Master's degree in Education from Bank Street College in New York City.

Jessica Cafferty

Child Care Policy Lead, King County

Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty is the Child Care Policy Lead for King County and Best Starts for Kids. Her background includes work in child care health consultation, early learning, and inclusion in child care settings, and she brings a deep commitment to equity and justice. Jessica is mama to Varden and Luther, and in her free time enjoys gardening, eating great food, and adventuring with her family.

Krista Star Scott

Senior Program Officer

Krista Scott, a child health expert working at the forefront of policy, advocacy, and equity, joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2019. Her wide-ranging expertise in public health and education encompasses early childhood health, mental health, special education, and program development and support. Throughout her career she has used practice and research to inform and strengthen policy, and at RWJF she continues to promote policies and programs that give all children a healthy start to life and advance the Foundation's work in creating a national Culture of Health. She praises RWJF's "continued commitment to health equity, and its capacity for learning and adapting as it opens new opportunities to health and well-being nationwide."

Previously, Krista served as senior director for Child Care Health Policy at Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) in Arlington, Va. In that role, she oversaw policy initiatives to make child care settings healthier communities for children and providers. She led a multidisciplinary team that focused on using data to build equitable access to child care; increased staffing and expanded CCAoA's portfolio funding by 250%; and created a respected monthly newsletter for child care staff, trainers, and advocates.

Krista's earlier experience included serving as supervisory coordinator for the Washington, D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education. In that role, she developed a system of general supervision/quality assurance for Early Intervention Programs in the District of Columbia, which, combined with key changes in practice and policy, resulted in the program meeting federal requirements for the first time in its history. She also established and

implemented child outcomes data collection process for children in preschool special education; integrated the use of monitoring data into the technical assistance system; and was a key collaborator in writing and promulgating updated regulations and guidance for the Early Intervention Program.

As director of social services for Rosemount Center, a dual language (English and Spanish) early childhood education center in the Mount Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, D.C., she provided comprehensive supports to more than 200 children and families, including disabilities services, family resources and supports, and disabilities services.

Krista earned her BA in political science from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn., and an MS in social work from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to her systems-level work, Krista worked in direct service at many nonprofits serving children and teens. She says her most rewarding moment was as a college preparation coach, working with eight low-income first-generation Hmong high school students during their junior and senior years. All eight students were accepted into college; one student, who had the biggest jump in her GPA and ACT scores, was accepted into and attended her first-choice school.

A native of Phoenix, Krista now resides in Yardley, Pa. She enjoys spending time with her family, walking outdoors, and enjoying a good book as she “reads into a nap.”