

Early Childhood Funders Learning Circle
Facilities Presentation
2022 06 06

Speaker Bios

Joe Fretwell, jfretwell@liifund.org

Joe Fretwell is a Program Officer for Early Care and Education at the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF). At LIIF, he works with state and local agencies, developers, and researchers on expanding supply of early childhood facilities, especially those co-located with affordable housing developments.

Prior to joining LIIF, Joe worked for EducationCounsel on early childhood policy and advocacy, specifically around leveraging federal education resources to enhance systems of support for children from birth through third grade. He was also a Housing Policy Analyst with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the state's housing finance and community development agency. At DCA, Joe wrote and evaluated policies affecting state affordable rental housing resources and led technical assistance efforts in rural and small towns through the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing.

Joe is based in Washington, DC, but grew up in South Carolina. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Furman University.

Rachel Langford, rachel@svpportland.org

Rachel has spent the last 20+ years of her career advocating for children and families in a variety of ways, from direct service to teen parents and domestic violence survivors, to environmental justice, clean air and K-12 education policy and advocacy.

She most recently spent 10 years working for Home Forward, Multnomah County's public housing authority and Oregon's largest affordable housing provider, where she focused on aligning housing services with education and support services for families, with a particular emphasis on early childhood. She is currently contracted with Social Venture Partners Portland to lead their Child Care Facilities Initiative, which is aimed at shifting the child care facilities market in the Portland metro area to more efficiently and effectively connect child care entrepreneurs to the facilities they need with minimal subsidies and interventions.

As a systems change thinker and social and racial justice advocate, Rachel is always seeking to understand the ways our service systems create and perpetuate oppression and grow the ways that we humbly and authentically partner with community to deliver transformational support that meets families where they are and where they dream.

Robin Hill-Dunbar, rhodunbar@tfff.org

Robin is a senior program officer in the Children, Youth and Families Department, at The Ford Family Foundation. She is part of a close-knit team working to shape and execute the Foundation's strategies to support strong families and healthy children of all ages. She works to ensure all children and families receive the care and support they need to thrive with particular attention to behavioral health strategies.

Robin joined the Foundation in March 2016. Prior to coming to the Foundation, she served as the home visiting workforce development coordinator at the Oregon Health Authority. While there, she created a comprehensive workforce development plan that included the development of home visiting competencies for Oregon's home visiting field and helped embed the Infant Mental Health Endorsement in Oregon.

Her extensive background includes work in early Intervention/early childhood special education, home visiting, parenting education, early learning local and statewide program management, and training and technical assistance in the early learning field.

Robin holds a master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Portland State University with a graduate certificate in infant toddler mental health and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Oregon.

Dana Bleakney-Huebsch, bleakneydana@gmail.com

Dana Bleakney-Huebsch works as a consultant in the field of early care and education and is currently the Infant and Toddler Program Specialist at the Early Learning Division. At the Division, she oversees the implementation of Baby Promise and leads the statewide network of Infant and Toddler Specialists housed at the regional Child Care Resource and Referral offices. Dana previously worked for The Research Institute at Western Oregon University, where she oversaw the daily operations of Spark, Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Dana developed a rich understanding of the early childhood care and education field from a variety of experiences. She has a Master's degree in Child Development, has worked as a birth-to-three teacher, and has completed research on children's language development.