

VERMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD GRAND ROUNDS

EQUITY-FOCUSED DATA EFFORTS



Panelist Bios



IHEOMA U. IRUKA, PHD (Pronounced EE-OMAH EE-ROO-KAH)

Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition

<https://equity-coalition.fpg.unc.edu>

LinkedIn & Twitter: @IheomaIruka @FPGInstitute @UNCPublicPolicy @unccollege

Facebook: @iuiruka | Instagram: @irukathompson | #FPGEquityCoalition

Iheoma U. Iruka, Ph.D., is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy and the Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Iruka is leading projects and initiatives focused on ensuring that minoritized children and children from low-income households thrive through the intersection of anti-bias, anti-racist, and culturally grounded research, program, and policy. Dr. Iruka has authored over 80 books and papers and has given over 200 talks in the past two years. She serves on numerous national and local boards and committees, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs, and the National Science Foundation. In addition to being on the National Advisory Committee for the U.S. Census Bureau and a Census Advisor for the National Urban League, Dr. Iruka is the recipient of the 2022 American Psychological Association Mid-Career Award for Outstanding Contributions to Benefit Children, Youth, and Families and the 2023 Association of University Centers on Disabilities Leadership for All award-winner.



CARLISE KING, MA

Executive Director of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends

www.childtrends.org/research-centers/ecdc

LinkedIn @early-childhood-data-collaborative

Twitter: @ecedata

Carlise King, M.A., is a Policy Scholar and Executive Director of the Early Childhood Data Collaborative at Child Trends. Ms. King also leads the Early Childhood Systems Unit for the Early Childhood Development research area. She conducts ECDC's national surveys of state early care and education data systems and works closely with stakeholders on how coordinated state administrative datasets can answer key policy questions and drive data-driven decision-making. Ms. King directs the delivery of research consultation and strategic communications to support states' development, implementation, and use of early childhood data systems. Consultation includes the development of guiding policy and research questions, identification of metrics, establishment of data sharing standards, and creation of communication plans to engage stakeholders at every stage of data systems development. The Early Childhood Data Collaborative is committed to helping state policymakers and practitioners use data to advance equitable policies and combat racial inequities in early care and education systems. Carlise has over 20 years of experience conducting state and national level research on early childhood issues and examining the impact of state and federal policies on families' opportunities to find, afford, and enroll their child in a program that meets the needs of the child and their caregiver. Her research areas include availability of subsidies, child care resource and referral services, licensed supply, cost of care, and workforce development.

Early Childhood Grand Rounds provide a forum to elevate and disseminate high-quality data or data-related topics that affect Vermont's early childhood sector, as well as national best practices. This seminar series is hosted by [Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center](#), which is operated by Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council, [Building Bright Futures](#).

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 | 12:30-1:30PM

[Register here for the virtual panel](#)



VERMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD GRAND ROUNDS

EQUITY-FOCUSED DATA EFFORTS

Panelist Bios



SHANTEL MEEK, PHD

Founding Director of the Children's Equity Project (CEP) at Arizona State University

<https://childandfamilysuccess.asu.edu/cep/reports-resources>

Shantel E. Meek is a professor of practice and the founding director of the Children's Equity Project (CEP) at Arizona State University. She manages strategic partnerships with CEP partners at 16 universities and non-profit organizations, policymakers, and national organizations, and sets the strategic direction of the CEP. Dr. Meek previously served as a consultant in early childhood policy and strategy at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington D.C. where she advised senior staff on a range of federal and state equity and early childhood policy issues. Prior to founding the CEP, Dr. Meek served in the Obama Administration as a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and as a Senior Policy Advisor for Education in the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. During her time in the Obama Administration, Dr. Meek advised senior officials at HHS and The White House on a wide array of policy issues including Head Start, child care, public Pre-K expansion, and promoting equity and reducing disparities across the early care and education system. She also worked on drafting official guidance related to Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant and worked closely with states, communities, and stakeholders on implementation. Dr. Meek also played a key role in President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, leading the early childhood policy component of the initiative. She has published pieces in the New York Times and the Washington Post. Dr. Meek serves on the boards of Child Trends and the Pyramid Model Consortium and is a member of the Ideal Learning Roundtable. Dr. Meek holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Family and Human Development from Arizona State University. She is the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants and her personal experiences as a Latina and first-generation college graduate from a small border town inform her work and contribute to her drive to improve the learning conditions of children from historically marginalized communities. Today, she lives in Phoenix with her husband and two babies, both of whom are growing up bilingual.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 | 12:30-1:30PM

[Register here for the virtual panel](#)

Building Bright Futures (BBF) is Vermont's early childhood public-private partnership, charged under Vermont Title 33 § Chapter 46 and the Federal Head Start Act (Public Law 110-134) as Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council (SAC), the mechanism used to advise the Governor and Legislature on the well-being of children in the prenatal period through age 8 and their families. BBF maintains the vision and strategic plan for Vermont's early childhood system. BBF's Network infrastructure includes 12 Regional Councils, seven VECAP Committees, and the State Advisory Council. Learn more at buildingbrightfutures.org.

The Vermont Early Childhood Data and Policy Center is a nonpartisan, independent source of data, research, publications and important information for policymakers, stakeholders, and the public on issues and priorities for children ages birth through age 8 in Publication Information Vermont. Using evidence to inform policy is a key component of how we can improve the well-being of children and their families across Vermont. The Center is a critical tool for answering policy questions by centralizing data from the complex early childhood system. Learn more at vermontkidsdata.org.

