

Welcome Plenary

1. Descriptive Information

<p>Welcome Plenary</p> <p>Federal staff provided a welcome to conference participants and an overview of the agenda.</p>	<p>Ivelisse Martinez-Beck</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Team Leader for Child Care Research, Senior Social Science Research Analyst</i> <p>Naomi Goldstein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research and Evaluation</i> <p>Ann Rivera</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Senior Social Science Research Analyst</i> <p>Tracy Carter-Clopêt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Science Research Analyst at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</i> <p>Scribe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Daily, Child Trends
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Ivelisse Martinez-Beck

The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE), welcomed participants to the *Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium 2017 (CCEEPRC 2017) Annual Meeting*. This meeting brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss what we are learning from research that can help inform policy decisions for the Administration of Children and Families (ACF), states, territories, localities, and grantees and to consider the next steps in early care and education (ECE) research.

Last year’s meeting marked the 20th anniversary of the Consortium. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on the rich history of the Consortium’s work, and as a result, decided to change its name to better capture the growing integration in the ECE field. The Consortium subsequently chose *Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium* as its new name. In the same vein, the Consortium’s broadened focus and collaborative tradition have benefited from more participation by grantees and contractors engaged primarily in Head Start settings, in addition to research partners focused on child care issues.

Naomi Goldstein

Naomi Goldstein provided a brief update on the Presidential Transition process and an overview of the agenda. The Presidential Transition process takes place in three phases: pre-election, pre-inauguration, and post-inauguration. In the pre-election phase ACF provided briefing materials for the incoming administration. Following the election, ACF entered into a memorandum of understanding with the new administration to share information and prepare the incoming appointees. While several Presidential appointees have been assigned to ACF, none have received a specific appointment yet. In the ACF offices related to early care and education, the Director of the Office of Child Care, the Office of Head Start, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood are being filled on an acting basis. The new administration announced that in March they anticipate releasing guidance that will outline budget cuts across all agencies that are not focused on national security.

Dr. Goldstein also provided an overview of the conference agenda, which brings together the work and diverse perspectives of colleagues examining related questions in different program and policy contexts. Plenary sessions will address topics such as child care supply and demand, methods for mapping existing needs, the implementation of Federal guidelines for Child Care and Development Fund programs and Head Start programs, state approaches to improving the early childhood workforce,

research-to-policy translation, and innovative approaches to quality improvement in center- and home-based care settings. Ultimately the goal of this working meeting is to support knowledge sharing and networking in an effort to promote research that supports the social and economic well-being of children and families.

Ann Rivera and Tracy Carter Carter-Clopêt

Drs. Rivera and Carter-Clopêt provided a charge to participants to connect with one another and an overview of how the conference is designed to support informal networking opportunities.