



**Project Legacy Expert Panel
July 29 – 30, 2009**

**WestEd, Board Room
San Francisco**

**Biographical Information
Expert Panel Members**



MEETING FACILITATOR

**J. Ronald Lally
Co-Director WestEd
Center for Child & Family Studies**

Dr. Lally is the Co-Director of the Center for Child and Family Studies at WestEd an educational research and development laboratory in San Francisco. He received his doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Florida in 1968, and a post-doctoral certificate of Infant Testing from the Child Development Research Centre in London in the same year. For many years he was a professor at Syracuse University and chair of its Department of Child and Family Studies where he directed the Syracuse University Family Development Research Program, a longitudinal study of the impact of early intervention on low-income children and families that continued until the children reached age 15. He has been involved in developing programs and policies for young children and their families since 1966.

For the past 23 years, he has directed the work of the Program for Infant/Toddler Care, a collaboration between the California Department of Education and WestEd. The DVD and print materials of the program are the most widely distributed infant/toddler caregiver training materials in the world. Intensive train-the-trainer relationships have also been established with fifteen states in addition to California. Most recently, he and his staff have been responsible for the development of infant-toddler and preschool guidelines and standards for the states of California and Ohio and he has advised government agencies in charge of the development of early learning standards in six other states. He most recently co-directed the development of California's Infant, Toddler Learning and Development Foundations.

Dr. Lally has been very active in the development and operation of Early Head Start. He served on the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Services for Families with Infants and Toddlers that developed Early Head Start. Advised on the rewriting of the Head Start Performance Standards to make them more inclusive to the needs of infants and, once the program commenced, provided his two-week PITC intensive training to staff and leaders from all of the EHS programs opened from 1995 to 2004.

Dr. Lally is on the National Advisory Committees of: The Ounce of Prevention Fund, and the Nova/Southeastern University Family Center. He is one of the founders of ZERO TO THREE: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, and was a member of the National Academy of Science's Head Start Research Roundtable, the California Joint Legislative Committee's Master Plan for Education: School Readiness Work Group, the California Department of Education's Universal Preschool Blue Ribbon Panel and it's Desired Results National Advisory Panel. In 1997, he participated in two White House Conferences, one dealing with brain development, and the other with childcare. In 2004, he received the California Head Start Associations Founder's Award.



**Jose Davila
Parent**

Jose Davila serves as the President of the district Parent Advisory Committee at Fontana Unified School District. Mr. Davila presented a powerful testimony to the services he and his family have received in the county, at the State of First 5 California address in January 2009. Jose enjoys empowering individuals through volunteering his time in a variety of early education programs and sports. He has a special needs child that was incorrectly diagnosed prior to the First 5 California services.



Judith Jerald
Early Childhood Advisor for US Programs
Save the Children

Judith Jerald is the Early Childhood Advisor for US Programs at Save the Children. In this role, she is developing and implementing a birth to five early childhood language and literacy program model, *Early Steps to School Success*, rural, resource poor communities throughout the United States. The model is also being implemented by Save the Children as a global initiative.

Before joining Save the Children, she served as the National Director of the Early Head Start Program from 1999 – 2006. She was responsible for managing its expansion from 68 programs to over 700 programs nationwide and provided management oversight for the program. In her work at the Bureau, she was charged with early childhood policy planning and implementation, managing national training, research and technical assistance contracts, initiating special program initiatives, and supporting the Administration for Children and Families' federal regional offices in their work with Head Start grantees.

Previous to her Head Start appointment, Ms. Jerald was the founder and director of Early Education Services, an umbrella agency that provides comprehensive services to young children and their families throughout Windham County, Vermont. She administered a variety of early childhood and family support programs, including Early Head Start, preschool Head Start, Even Start, state welfare reform and child care contracts, and school district preschool programs. Her work in Vermont included participation in several research projects, including the Early Head Start National Evaluation Study.

Ms Jerald has lived and worked in Turkey, Iran, and El Salvador. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Turkey, has taught middle and high school students, and owned and operated a farm stand business in Vermont.



Lynn A. Karoly
Senior Economist
Rand Corporation

Lynn A. Karoly is a senior economist with the RAND Corporation whose research has focused on child and family well-being, human capital investments, social welfare policy, and labor market behavior. In the area of child policy, she recently completed a multi-faceted study of preschool education in California, documented in a series of reports and a RAND monograph: *Preschool Adequacy and Efficiency in California: Issues, Policy Options, and Recommendations* (2009). Another RAND monograph, *The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California* (2005), provides estimates of the costs and benefits of a high-quality universal preschool program in California.

In related work, she has examined the benefits and costs of early childhood programs with findings documented in two RAND studies: *Investing in Our Children* (1998) and *Early Childhood Interventions: Proven Results, Future Promise* (2005). She is also a co-author of *Welfare Reform: A Decade of Change* (Harvard University Press, 2005), a study that traces the effects of welfare reform policies of the 1990s on family and child well-being. Karoly received her B.A. in Economics from Claremont McKenna College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University.



**Portia Kennel, M.S.W.
Senior Vice President
Bounce Learning Network**

Portia spearheads the Bounce Learning Network, an innovative partnership between the Buffett Early Childhood Fund and the Ounce, which is helping communities across the country create state-of-the-art early childhood education and care centers for children birth to age five. Holding a M.S.W. from the University of Illinois, Portia joined the Ounce in 1983 as a program specialist and was promoted to director of the Parents Too Soon division in 1989. She has served on the Executive Staff since 1993. She has more than 20 years of experience in social work with a concentration in the design and management of programs for young children. Portia is a Zero to Three Fellow and serves on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children and the Healthy Teen Network.

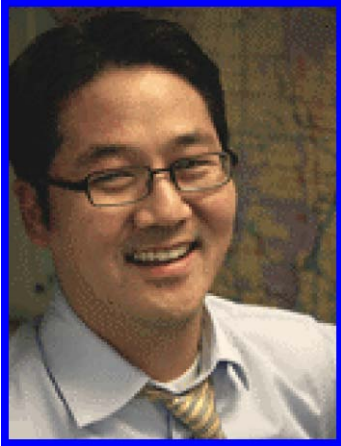


Maria Luna Parent

Maria Luna is an employee of Easter Seals Central California and the mother of two young sons with autism. Like all parents of special needs children, Maria and her husband struggled with the care and diagnosis of one son, the premature birth of a second son, and his subsequent diagnosis. There were times when it all seemed impossible. Maria enrolled her sons in the Easter Seals P.L.A.Y. Project in Fresno and was amazed at the progress they made as a result of the program.

Maria and her husband were so impressed and grateful with the progress that their sons made in the PLAY Project that they made a decision to move their family to Monterey County so Maria could become an Easter Seals employee in the PLAY Project, funded through a grant from First 5 Monterey County. Maria is a Certified Special Education Teacher with several years experience in special education classrooms and is very happy with her career change. She knows the struggles of parents with young children with special needs and feels she is making a great impact with Easter Seals.

Maria is bilingual (Spanish – English) and has been involved in serving children whose parents are monolingual in Spanish and those for whom English is a second language. Based on her life experience, educational and occupational background, Maria brings a unique perspective built on her knowledge as a First 5 service recipient and her experience in working with young children and their families.



**John Kim Co-Director of the Advancement
Project LA Director of the Healthy City
Project**

Mr. Kim currently serves as a Co-Director of the Advancement Project LA and the Director of the Healthy City Project. As a Co-Director of AP, Mr. Kim works closely with Co-Directors Molly Munger, Connie Rice, and Steve English on policy research/advocacy initiatives, partnership building, and strategic organizational development efforts. At the same time, Mr. Kim is the founding director of the Healthy City Project which is an all-in-one service referral and public policy research website. Healthy City is widely regarded as one of the most important new tools for LA's public sector and has been acclaimed as a national model for data-driven policy planning resources. Through his work on Healthy City, Mr. Kim has provided direct policy and research support to local elected officials, philanthropic entities, and countless community-based organizations throughout the region. Mr. Kim has recently been appointed by the Mayor to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Mr. Kim has long focused on social justice and community development issues in both Oakland and Los Angeles. He started his career as a youth organizer, where he helped to mediate racial tensions among students of color and organize a successful campaign to offer Ethnic Studies in all Oakland Public High Schools. Later on, he became the Executive Director of the Korean Community Center of the East Bay, where he significantly expanded the agency's financial base and programmatic capacity through the development of new programs in the areas of domestic abuse, community development and community technology. Mr. Kim's work in the Bay Area has been recognized by KQED/Channel 9 as the 2001 Local Hero of the Year Award and by Oakland's Mayor Jerry Brown with the proclamation of a "John K. Kim Day" in the City of Oakland.



**Peter Michael Miller, MD,
MPH Physician Consultant**

Dr. Miller has worked for 35 years in public health programs at local, state and federal levels. His career emphasis has been on services to children with special needs, including developmental and health problems. He has also been active within the national, state and regional American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Miller's main interest has been to address the complex systems of care for CSHCN, and to help public health and clinical service programs to work more closely and effectively together. He continues as a teacher of medical students at UCSF and as a community member to the Interagency Coordinating Council for the California Early Start Program.



**Meera Mani
Program Officer
Packard Foundation**

Dr. Meera Mani has dedicated the majority of her professional life to improving the early learning experiences of young children. Meera joined the Packard Foundation in February 2009 as program officer in the Children, Families and Communities (CFC) program. In her current role, she is leading the Foundation's preschool grantmaking strategy. Prior to her recent move to California, she served as president of The Clayton Foundation, located in Denver, Colorado. With an M.S. in Child Development from India and an Ed. D in Educational Leadership and Administration from Boston University, Dr. Mani provided leadership and demonstrated expertise in developing and implementing early childhood education programs that utilized clearly articulated goals, continuous improvement processes, and evaluation to ensure quality and accountability.

In her role as president of the Clayton Foundation, she was responsible for the developing and managing programs, fiscal planning and oversight, maintaining a strong presence in the community, and collaborating with other agencies in providing high quality services to children and families. During her last eighteen months at the Foundation, she planned, led and completed a successful \$10 million capital campaign for the construction of a state of the art child development center and a professional development institute.

Dr. Mani led and managed the day-to-day operations of Educare Colorado, now known as Qualistar Early Learning, a statewide initiative dedicated to improving children's early learning experiences through the implementation of a quality rating and improvement system. Additionally, Dr. Mani served on various task forces, committees and collaborative projects including the Mayor's Early Childhood Education Commission.

In the summer of 2006, Dr. Mani and her family relocated to San Jose, California. This transition has given her an opportunity to share her experience and expertise with Colorado and Bay Area non-profit organizations as an independent consultant. Her services are specifically focused in the following areas of Early Childhood Education program planning, implementation and evaluation, strategic planning, organizational assessment and development, community gap analysis and capacity building.

**Jessica Dalesandro Mindnich
Senior Research Associate
Children Now**

Dr. Mindnich manages the research department and is responsible for delivering the data-driven insights behind Children Now's strategies. She provides expertise in research design, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and evaluation research. Most notably, Dr. Mindnich leads the development of the organization's annual publications including the California Report Card: The State of the State's Children and California County Data Book publications. With over 10 years of experience, she has completed formal research studies in such areas as family socialization, home-school connections, and academic achievement among minority youth. These include two international projects, one which tracked families in the United States and Japan as their children transitioned from preschool to elementary school and another which examined academic achievement among low-income youth in the United States, Russia, and England. Dr. Mindnich holds a Ph.D. in Education, a M.A. in Education, and a B.A. in Psychology at University of California, Berkeley.



**Cheryl Polk, Executive Director
of the John and Lisa Pritzker Family Fund**

Cheryl Polk, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the John and Lisa Pritzker Family Fund. Cheryl has over 20 years of experience in the field of children and family services. She is an eminent civic leader with a background in clinical psychology, philanthropy and public policy. Prior to her current position, Cheryl served as the Executive Director of the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund for nine years, where she launched ground-breaking community initiatives to improve the quality of preschool programs in San Francisco.

Cheryl serves as a director of many professional and community organizations, including the Community Initiatives Fund, Jumpstart and the W. Haywood Burns Institute. She is also Vice President of the Board of Directors of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, and past chair of the San Francisco Children and Families Commission. She is the recipient of numerous recognitions and awards, including the prestigious National Leadership Fellowship from the Kellogg Foundation and the Salzburg Fellowship for Early Childhood Development.

**Arnita Porter
Parent**

Arnita Porter, mother of two – 9-year old son and 6-year old daughter. Arnita is a stay-at-home mom, adjunct faculty at the local community college, and an artist. She was recently laid off as faculty due to recent budget cuts and can share her parent perspective on accessing services for her children in Los Angeles.



**Candida Tapia
Parent**

Candida is a parent of two young boys, who has struggled to find child care as a nontraditional undergraduate student at UC Berkeley. Ms. Tapia is an ECE professional development coordinator for northern Alameda County and supports those who speak English as a second language who are accessing the college system. Candida has a Masters of Art degree in Education with a focus in Early Childhood Leadership from Mills College.



**Jessie K. Rasmussen Vice
President Buffett Early
Childhood Fund**

Jessie's entire professional career has focused on improving outcomes for children and families. For over 20 years, she was an early childhood education teacher and administrator in a variety of environments, including Head Start, the Jewish Community Center, and the Munroe-Meyer Rehabilitation Center in Omaha, Nebraska. She spent the next 20 years of her profession in state government, first serving as a Nebraska state Senator for four years and then serving as the state human services director in both Nebraska and Iowa.

Following her tenure in state government, Jessie served as the Early Childhood Policy Director for the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation where she advocated for good public policy for young children and their families. In this position, Jessie played an instrumental role in the development and successful passage of early childhood legislation in 2006 that established a \$60M early childhood endowment funded through a public and private partnership.

Jessie presently works as vice president of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, promoting the development of highly effective birth to five early childhood services for our country's youngest and most vulnerable children.

Jessie has her Master's degree in Human Development and Family Relations from the University of Nebraska. She lives in Omaha, Nebraska and is married to Dean Rasmussen, has two grown daughters and three grandchildren.



Helen Raikes
Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences
The Center on Children, Families and the Law
University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Helen H. Raikes, Ph.D., is Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences, and an Associate of the Center on Children, Families, and the Law, University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she is Principal Investigator the five-state Midwest Child Care Research Consortium, studying child care quality, workforce characteristics and Quality Rating System intervention, and is one of several state-level principal investigators in a five-state Quality Intervention in Early Care and Education study. Dr. Raikes also provides consultation to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, for the Early Head Start Research and Evaluation Project, now following up with study children in the 5th Grade, to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Early Learning Initiative in Washington State and to the Bounce Learning Network, coordinated by the Ounce of Prevention.

Dr. Raikes has published numerous articles and book chapters on early intervention for at-risk children under the age of 3. Prior to her current position, she was an associate at The Gallup Organization and was a Society for Research in Child Development Executive Policy Fellow at ACF where she was project monitor for the Early Head Start study. She earned a Ph.D. in child development from Iowa State University.



**Ross A Thompson Professor
of Psychology University of
California, Davis**

Ross A. Thompson is Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Davis. As a developmental psychologist, he studies early parent-child relationships, the development of emotional understanding and emotion regulation, conscience development, and the growth of self-understanding in young children. He also works on the applications of developmental research to public policy concerns, including school readiness and its development, early childhood investments, and early mental health. He received the Ann Brown Award for Excellence in Developmental Research in 2007.

Thompson is a founding member of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, and was a member of the Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development of the National Academy of Sciences that produced the report, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods* (National Academy Press, 2000). He is a member of the Board of Directors of Zero to Three, the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Institute for Early Education Research, and is on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Wondertime* magazine. He has twice been Associate Editor of *Child Development*, the flagship research journal of the Society for Research in Child Development. His books include *Preventing Child Maltreatment through Social Support: A Critical Analysis* (Sage, 1995), *The Postdivorce Family: Children, Families, and Society* (coedited with Paul Amato) (Sage, 1999), and *Toward a Child-Centered, Neighborhood-Based Child Protection System* (coedited with Gary Melton and Mark Small; Praeger, 2002). He also edited *Socioemotional Development*, based on the 1988 Nebraska Symposium on Motivation (University of Nebraska Press, 1990), and is coauthor of *Infant-Mother Attachment* (Erlbaum, 1985). He is currently working on *Early Brain Development, the Media, and Public Policy* (University of Nebraska Press) and *Emotional Development* (McGraw-Hill).

He received his A.B. from Occidental College in 1976, his A.M. from the University of Michigan in 1979, and the Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Thompson has been a Visiting Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education in Berlin, a Senior NIMH Fellow in Law and Psychology at Stanford University, and a Harris Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago. He has received the Boyd McCandless Young Scientist Award for Early Distinguished Achievement from the American Psychological Association, the Scholarship in Teaching Award and the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award from the University of Nebraska, where he was also a lifetime member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.



**Marcy Whitebook
Director Institute for Research
on Labor and Employment Center for the Study
of Child Care Employment**

Marcy Whitebook, Ph.D., joined IRLE and established the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment in 1999, as a researcher focusing on issues of employment in settings for young children, the relationship between good jobs and the quality of services available to children and families, and appropriate and accessible professional preparation for teachers.

Prior to joining UC Berkeley, she taught in early childhood programs for many years, and was the founding Executive Director of the Washington-based Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW), an organization she began in 1977 as the Child Care Employee Project. Marcy has led several large-scale early childhood research projects, including the landmark National Child Care Staffing Study, which first brought public attention to the low wages and high turnover of child care teachers. She co-developed the Early Childhood Mentor Program in California, now operating in 68 colleges throughout the state, and CARES, a program to encourage professional development and retention of early care and education practitioners, now underway in counties throughout California. She received a Ph.D. in Developmental Studies from the UCLA Graduate School of Education.