



# EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE

## TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

### PURPOSE

- Recommend a set of goals and measures for the prioritized roles identified by the Task Force;
- In developing the goals and measures Committee members will utilize their expertise and knowledge and the content experts expertise and knowledge, the background materials developed for the Task Force, and the feedback from the Task Force (strengths, gaps and opportunities) and regional councils;
- Identify cross cutting themes across the committees ; and
- For the National Advisory Panel for Research and Evaluation to provide feedback and guidance on measures recommended.

### SCHEDULE

Monday, February 6 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Children’s Health
Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Early Learning
Friday, February 10 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Family Support
Monday, March 6 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Early Learning
Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Family Support
Wednesday, March 8 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Children’s Health
Monday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Children’s Health
Monday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Early Learning
Wednesday, April 12 <sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Family Support
Thursday and Friday, April 20-21 <sup>st</sup> , Full Day Meetings	National Advisory Panel
May meeting date TBD	National Advisory Panel

\*All meetings will be held at FTF, 4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, 85012

### COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**Early Learning Chair:** Melissa Busby, Director of the Early Childhood Program at Central Arizona College and incoming President for the Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children

[Early Learning Committee Roster](#)

**Family Support Chair:** Irene Burnton, former Chief of Children’s Health at the State of Arizona Department of Health Services and now Associate Director and Professor of Practice for the School of Social Work at ASU (Arizona State University).

[Family Support Committee Roster](#)

**Children’s Health Co-chairs:** Kevin Earle, Executive Director for the Arizona Dental Association and Debbie McCune Davis, Executive Director for the Arizona Partnership for Immunization

[Children’s Health Committee Roster](#)

### **NATIONAL CONTENT EXPERTS**

**Amanda Szekely** is Senior Technical Assistance Specialist at ZERO TO THREE, where she supports state policymakers in building systems of support for young children and their families, including: early care and education, health and mental health initiatives, and family support services. Ms. Szekely provides technical assistance to decision-makers in targeted states and communities on their infant-toddler policy priorities, facilitates the work of state-level planning groups, and develops publications and online resources. In addition to carrying out foundation-funded projects at ZERO TO THREE, Ms. Szekely is part of the national resource team supporting federal Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) grantees in carrying out children’s mental health prevention and promotion strategies. Prior to joining ZERO TO THREE, Ms. Szekely worked at the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where she designed and carried out policy consultation projects to inform governors’ early childhood policy agendas. Ms. Szekely was also a Senior Program Associate at The Finance Project, where she consulted with states, communities, and nonprofits on strategies to finance and sustain services for children and families. Ms. Szekely has a bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University and Masters in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

**Harriet Dichter** provides consulting services at the local, state and national levels. She brings to her design and implementation expertise in early childhood with a track record of innovation, partnership, and accountability—at the local, state and national levels-- and is known for her deep engagement, responsiveness and effectiveness in conceptualizing and executing reforms, innovation and public-private partnerships focused on the needs of young children and their families.

As Pennsylvania' founding Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development and Early Learning, she gained national attention for the state's unique new solutions and partnerships. As Executive Director, Delaware Office of Early Learning, she accelerated the pace, quality, and accountability of the state’s comprehensive work in early childhood. Other state and local government public leadership has included Secretary, PA Department of Public Welfare; Policy Director, PA Department of Education; Deputy Managing Director for Child Policy, City of Philadelphia; Maternal and Child Health Director, City of Philadelphia; Special Assistant to the Mayor, City of Philadelphia.

Harriet has enjoyed the opportunity to contribute through the national and local non-profit and foundation worlds. Nationally, she served as a leader for the Ounce of Prevention Fund and its

policy advocacy affiliate, the First Five Years Fund. She has worked as staff at the Pew Charitable Trust. At the community level, she developed her policy, planning, implementation and advocacy skills in organizations ranging from United Way to a child policy and advocacy non-profit.

Harriet has written extensively; recent publications include—Opportunities in ESSA for Improving Early Education, published by the National Association of State Boards of Education and Rising to the Challenge: Building Effective Systems for Young Children and Families, a BUILD E-Book, for which she authored a chapter and served as general manager and editor for all of the chapters. General manager and editor of BUILD's E-book on the Early Learning Challenge and author of the opening chapter on governance and state systems building. Harriet is a graduate of Yale University (B.A., summa cum laude) and the University of Pennsylvania Law School (J.D., cum laude).

**Elisabeth Wright Burak** is the Senior Program Director at the Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families (CCF), where she directs projects focused on young children's development, tracks federal legislative developments, and supports CCF's work with national partners. She has more than 15 years of experience in public policy to support low-income children and families at the national and state levels. As Director of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families, Elisabeth led successful coalition efforts to expand access to ARKids First (Medicaid and CHIP for Arkansas children). In addition to improvements in Arkansas's Medicaid program, she helped achieve other victories for families at the state capitol, including tax relief for families living in poverty and increased access to school-based health, substance abuse, and afterschool programs. Elisabeth originally returned to her home state of Arkansas to lead the Department of Human Services Office of Policy and Planning, where she guided a number of cross-system initiatives, including the agency's priority agenda to reform the children's behavioral health system. At the national level, Elisabeth previously worked with state leaders on afterschool and early childhood programs at the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and The Finance Project. She received Master of Public Policy and Master of Social Work degrees from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in social psychology with honors from Smith College.