Session # 7

Family Engagement in Early Childhood: A Community-Based Parent Empowerment Approach

Cherie Craft, Executive Director, Smart from the Start

Jane E. Tewksbury, Executive Director, Thrive in 5 Boston

Innovation Session Description:

Research documents that when families are engaged in their children’s learning and healthy development from birth, children’s long term outcomes are improved. Smart from the Start, Inc., and Thrive in 5 Boston seek to leverage the success of their grassroots community-based work and their unique public/private partnerships to work collaboratively to transform family engagement practices in Boston. The ultimate goal is to use local success from this innovative neighborhood-based parent leadership strategy to advocate for a statewide paradigm shift where parents become the change agents in increasing community capacity to support young children’s healthy development, kindergarten readiness, and success in school and beyond.