



# The ECAC Steering Committee



## **Sherry M. Cleary, Co-Chair**

New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, Executive Director  
<http://www.earlychildhoodnyc.org/>

Sherry M. Cleary is the Executive Director of the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, housed at the City University of New York. Ms. Cleary has worked in the field of early childhood education as a classroom teacher, a program administrator, and as both a faculty member and higher education administrator for more than 35 years. She is the founder of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. Currently, she serves as President of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NYSACTE) and on the Board of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators.



## **Patricia E. Persell, Co-Chair**

New York State Head Start Collaboration Office, Collaboration Director  
<http://www.ccf.ny.gov/HS/index.cfm>

Patricia E. Persell is New York State Head Start Collaboration Director, working to ensure that Head Start is included in state programs and policies. She began her career as a nursery school teacher, worked as Education Coordinator for Albany County Head Start and then served as Director of the Bank Street Head Start in New York City. A longtime La Leche League Leader volunteer, she also serves on the Obesity Prevention in Child Care Partnership, a state level steering committee.



## **Jason Breslin**

New York State Education Department – Director for the Office of Early Learning  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/earlylearning/>

Jason Breslin, NBCT is the Director for the Office of Early Learning at the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Mr. Breslin oversees all state-funded prekindergarten programs throughout the state of New York. Prior to joining the State Education Department, Mr. Breslin was a nationally certified early childhood Kindergarten teacher. He has also worked in the Office of Accountability and the Office of Innovation and School Reform at NYSED.



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## **Meredith Chimento**

Early Care and Learning Council, Executive Director

<http://www.earlycareandlearning.org>

Meredith Chimento is the Executive Director of the Early Care and Learning Council (ECLC). Meredith began her career as a Community Education Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic, followed by many years at the Capital District YMCA. Prior to ECLC Meredith worked for the United Way of the Greater Capital Region focusing on ways to change community conditions specific to basic needs, education, income and health.



## **Pedro Cordero**

Goddard Riverside Community Center, Director of Child Development Services

<http://www.goddard.org>

Pedro Cordero is currently the Systems Specialist for the Region II Office of Head Start-Training and Technical Assistance Network. His career in early education spans 40 years in multiple positions: Classroom Teacher, Child Development Services Program Director, Operations and Policy work with the Mayor's Office for Children and Families and the NYC Administration for Children Services. In addition, he has served as a Federal Monitor of Head Start grantees and Adjunct Instructor at the City University of New York, Dept of Early Education. With the ECAC, he is the Co-Chair of the Strong Families subcommittee.



## **Robert G. Frawley**

Early Childhood Policy Consultant

Bob Frawley's work has been directed at building effective systems of supports and services for children and families. This includes working on a variety of research and policy initiatives, including projects addressing such issues as runaway and homeless youth, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, prevention programs, and services for children with disabilities. For the last 23 years, he has focused his efforts primarily on issues related to young children and their families. Bob has led many statewide early childhood initiatives. On the ECAC, he Co-chairs the Coordinated and Responsive Systems Focus Area, which is comprised of six work teams. He also co-chairs the Data Development Work Team. Outside of the ECAC, he supports the Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance, which is a project of the Adirondack Foundation.



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**Jeanne S. Gallbraith**

State University of New York College at Geneseo, Visiting Assistant Professor of Inclusive Early Childhood Education

Jeanne S. Galbraith begins a new position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Inclusive Early Childhood Education in the fall at the State University of New York College at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo). Prior to this position she was an Assistant Professor and Early Childhood Coordinator at the State University of New York College at Cortland (SUNY Cortland). Dr. Galbraith has worked in the field of early childhood and early childhood special education as a classroom teacher and as a faculty member for over 20 years. Currently, she serves as the President of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NYSACTE).



**Timothy Hathaway**

Prevent Child Abuse New York, Executive Director

<http://www.preventchildabuseny.org>

Tim Hathaway has served as the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse New York since 2014 and in this position he has focused on promoting proven child abuse prevention strategies such as home visiting, community based sex abuse prevention, advocacy and public awareness. Tim is passionate about eliminating racial disparities, promoting best practice standards to prevent child abuse, excellence in non-profit administration and advancing place based, partner-driven solutions. He also believes in the value of professional development and has been a trainer and consultant to early childhood professionals for 25 years. Prior to his work with Prevent Child Abuse New York, Tim was the Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse in North Dakota and for almost 20 years before that he worked with Head Start programs in a variety of capacities. Very early in his career, he managed and directed early care and learning programs for the YMCA and faith-based communities. In sum, Tim brings nearly 30 years and a great range of experience working with children and families.



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**Kristen Kerr**

New York State Association for the Education of Young Children, Executive Director  
<http://www.nysaeyc.org>

Kristen is the Executive Director of the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children, (NYSAEYC), a membership association for early childhood professionals. She first joined NYSAEYC as Public Policy Coordinator and as a longtime member of the association, brings more than 20 years of experience as an early care and education professional. She represented NYSAEYC as co-convener of the Winning Beginning NY coalition.



**Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.**

New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Deputy Commissioner,  
Division of Child Care Services <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/>

Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D. is Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Child Care Services in the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), providing oversight and monitoring of more than 21,000 regulated child care providers and another 47,000 legally-exempt providers in New York State. Trained as a developmental psychologist, her 30-year career includes work in the public and non-profit sectors, concentrating on program and policy issues affecting children, youth, and families.