The Massachusetts Association of Early Education & Care (MADCA)

The Massachusetts Association of Early Education & Care is the trade association for child care providers in Massachusetts. Founded in 1972, MADCA represents the public policy and advocacy interests of over 500 child care and school age providers, and 2,400 family child care providers. MADCA has been a leading voice for quality early education and care, promoting center accreditation, QRIS standards and hosting conferences throughout Massachusetts geared towards professional development of early education and school age educators.

Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center

219 Littleton Road Westford, MA 01886

The Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center is a beautiful 193 room hotel and conference center serving the greater Boston area.
M-1 TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER: EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARED SERVICES AMONG ECE PROGRAMS

SUNIDHYA BHALLA
Senior Director, Educational Success
United Way of Massachusetts Bay

CELISSA HOYT
Executive Director, Growing Places & Project Director, State Early Learning Alliance of NH

Participants will learn about the evolution of New Hampshire’s Early Learning Alliance and how it developed from the beginning of 12 ECE programs to 35 members and growing, achieved significant cost savings, strengthened business practices, identified opportunities for collaboration, and improved program quality.

M-2 THE SCIENCE AND FUTURE OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

JOAN WASSER GISH
Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Boston College Lynch School of Education’s Center for Optimized Student Support

Learn about the science of comprehensive services including principles of effective practice, their impact on child outcomes, and a new initiative in Massachusetts aimed at facilitating the integration of education with social services, youth development, health and mental health resources for children and families.

M-3 THE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROCESS: AN OVERVIEW!

THERESA JORDAN
Director of Children’s Facilities Finance, Children’s Investment Fund

BREE HORVITZ
Senior Project Manager, Children’s Investment Fund

Hear about the training, technical assistance, and financing provided by the Children’s Investment Fund to non-profit center-based programs across Massachusetts. You will learn about the facilities development process as well as ECE’s Early Learning and Out of School Time (EOST) Capital Fund which provides grants to improve and expand facilities.

M-4 THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

KATHERINE MANNERS, M.Ed., LMFT
Consultant, Trainer

What is “trauma-informed care” (TIC) and how can we implement it in our classrooms? In this workshop, we will be introduced to the five principles of TIC and understand how this approach can only benefit the children and families with whom we work, but our staff as well.

M-5 SUPPORTING TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-NONCONFORMING STUDENTS

ZACH KERR
Training Consultant, Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students

LANDON CALAHAN
Training Consultant, Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students

An Act Relative to Gender Identity (which became effective in 2012) protects students from discrimination based on gender identity, as well as sexual orientation. This highly interactive session will review the state laws, policies, resources, and best practices for supporting transgender and gender-nonconforming students, addressing bullying, and improving school climate.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

A-1 WHAT’S IMPORTANT TO YOUR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

PHILIP B. MILBURN
Principal at Philip Milburn

There are certain ideas, plans and actions that are important, if not essential, to attracting and keeping financial supporters. What’s important is unique to your organization, the situation it faces today and the aspirations it has. A common challenge is often deciphering what’s important, keeping plans simple, managing distractions and executing effectively and with agility. We’ll discuss this and help you think about improving your approach.

A-2 PARENT ENGAGEMENT IN THE AGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology can enhance parent communication, engagement and development. It can change the way parents are engaged with, and our approach to engaging parents in their child’s development. Come learn about 3 strategies that offer new ways to work, enhance successful strategies and extend parent engagement and development.

A-3 USING SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN LEADERSHIP: THE RESULT - MORE STAFF COHESION, LESS STRESS

RACHEL POLINER
Educational Consultant & Author

The importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) is increasingly recognized for children, but SEL is for adults too! All of us need a sense of community and skills for self-management, collaboration, resilience, and managing stress. This interactive workshop will offer leaders SEL skills and strategies for staff development and constructive climates.

A-4 INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE MEANS INVESTING IN YOUR EMPLOYEES

JENNIFER E. FOUNRIER, ESQ.
General Counsel and Chief HR Officer

LAURA HURLBIRT
Senior HR Consultant, The Schuster Group

Making sure you take care of your staff is a critical part of honoring the work being done and the investment in tomorrow’s leaders. Join us for a discussion about how to improve retention and employee satisfaction from simple yet impactful appreciation programs to strategic benefit offerings that will clearly communicate the value of your staff members to get engaged and stay engaged for the long run.

A-5 BUSINESS MODELING: BREAK THE STATUS QUO AND DESIGN TOMORROW’S NONPROFIT

ERIC CURTIS
President, Curtis Strategy

Changing technology, rising costs, and outdated business models are quickly eroding non-profit organizations. To ensure viability, organizations must start to develop business models that are adaptive and take advantage of the changing environment. This workshop will explore some of the game changers that are, or will be, disrupting nonprofit organizations.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JAY GONZALEZ
President & CEO
CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts
New Hampshire Healthy Families

Jay Gonzalez has served as President & CEO of New Hampshire Healthy Families and CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts since August 2012 and January 2014, respectively. In this role, Mr. Gonzalez oversees a regional organization that manages health care coverage for low-income individuals and families in government-subsidized health insurance programs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Mr. Gonzalez joined CeltiCare Health Plan of Massachusetts in March 2013 as Senior Vice President and Chief Development Officer with responsibility for new business development efforts.

Mr. Gonzalez brings valuable leadership and health care experience from his role in state government to his position at CeltiCare Health and New Hampshire Healthy Families. Prior to joining CeltiCare Health, Mr. Gonzalez served in Governor Patrick’s cabinet as Secretary of Administration and Finance. In this role, he managed a $32 billion state budget and directly managed over 3,000 employees. He also served as Chairman of the Board for the Health Connector, where he oversaw the implementation of Massachusetts health care reform, and the redeployment of the state’s $1 billion budget. Mr. Gonzalez currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and a member of the Health Policy Commission. Prior to joining the Patrick Administration, Mr. Gonzalez was a partner at the law firm of Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP where he specialized in public finance.

Mr. Gonzalez served as Chairman of the state Board of Early Education and Care from July 2014 – July 2015. The Board oversees the licensing and regulation of providers of early education and care services and provides subsidized access to such services for tens of thousands of children throughout Massachusetts. Mr. Gonzalez currently serves on the Boards of the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans, the Dimock Center, Project Hope, the Alliance for Business Leadership, and the Trust for Public Land. He previously served as Chairman of the Boards of Ellis Memorial and Eldredge House, Kids Clothes Closet, Brookline Greenspace, and Bridge Over Troubled Waters. Mr. Gonzalez was also an Elected Town Meeting Member for the Town of Brookline, Member of the Town Meeting Members Association, and a member of the Advisory Committee in the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts.

Mr. Gonzalez was recognized by the Boston Business Journal as one of its “40 Under 40” in 2005 and as one of “Rising Stars” Super Lawyer’s in 2006-2007.

Mr. Gonzalez earned his Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College, graduating cum laude. He subsequently graduated cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center with his Juris Doctor.