Member: **Patricia Persell**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Council on Children and Families (CCF)

Description: CCF is a state agency that strives to strengthen systems of services for children and their families. I lead the early childhood team at CCF. We receive many federal grants that help to fund the early childhood systems building work. CCF leads Pyramid Model implementation in New York and is home to the New York State Head Start Collaboration Office.

The New York State Head Start Collaboration Office is federally funded by the Office of Head Start to facilitate partnerships between Head Start and other state entities that provide services to benefit children from families with low incomes. They contribute to state systems building for early care and education, health and family services which coordinate and regulate various services for children from birth to age 5 and their families.

Member: **Dona Anderson**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute and City University of New York Office of Early Childhood Initiatives

Description: The New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute leads the work to establish and implement an early childhood workforce system to ensure funding, standards, competencies, and measures of accountability so that every young child in New York has equitable access to excellence. The Office of Early Childhood Initiatives at the City University of New York works to establish systems, change policy, and introduce new paradigms to address persistent and seemingly unsurmountable for student-parents. We work within higher education, as well as with city and state agencies, community-based organizations, and philanthropy to create pathways of success for the early childhood workforce, policy-makers, and families.

Member: **Melissa Alexander**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA)

Description: The core mission of OTDA is to help vulnerable New Yorkers meet their essential needs and advance economically by providing opportunities for stable employment, housing and nutrition. Programs administered by OTDA include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance (TA), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). In addition, OTDA is responsible for the implementation of services to refugees and oversees an array of programs that address issues such as housing and homelessness, and employment and training.

Member: **Fred Arcuri**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: Corning, Inc.

Description: Corning, Inc., is a world glass manufacturer of glass and ceramic products. Since coming to Corning Inc., Fred has focused primarily on child care, workforce development, and community education.

Member: **Laurie Black**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: United Way of Central New York

Description: United Way of Central New York, Inc., is an innovative and collaborative local nonprofit organization that drives solutions to the most pressing human service community needs of Central New York. Through our advocacy and relevant leadership, we provide options for impactful giving and we fund programs and initiatives that help create a thriving community. We are guided by our values of compassion, empowerment, collaboration, leadership, and inclusion. My work at the United Way of CNY is focused on education, specifically early childhood literacy.

Member: **Phillip M. Cleary**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

Description: NYSUT serves nearly 700,000 inservice and retired professionals from education and healthcare. We are part of the larger labor family helping members and our communities through collective bargaining and organized action to promote fair pay, healthcare, and social justice.

Member: **Andre Eaton**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: ParentChild+

Description: ParentChild+ is a home visiting organization that focuses on early literacy and parent engagement and has program partners statewide. Its primary objective is to prepare children to succeed and to be ready for school while providing parents the tools they need inside their own home to do so. Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children.

Member: **Maggie M. Evans**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: Agri-Business Child Development (ABCD or the Agency)

Description: ABCD is the sole provider of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) services in 12 child development centers located across the fruit and vegetable belt of New York State. The Agency also has a regular Head Start program and an Early Head Start program in two separate center locations. The agency's mission statement, and its strategic plan are all driven by the overarching goal of ensuring the successful transition of children and families into the public and private school systems throughout New York State, and on ensuring a thriving life beyond.

The Agency provides comprehensive early childhood education and child development services to eligible families. A whole-family and multi-generational approach is a cornerstone of the program. Families are connected with resources in the community including medical and dental homes, and are provided with educational and family resources including ESL, parenting, and GED classes, as well as financial literacy training. Their children, aged prenatal to age 5 receive education, health, mental wellness, physical wellness, language acquisition, and nutrition services in full-day, year-round, center-based settings.

For the MSHS program, eligibility includes the requirement that in two parent households that both parents work, with one parent working in agriculture, and with income meeting federal poverty guidelines. The mobility of the family in seeking employment in agriculture is also a consideration in priority of services (mobile migrant families are prioritized over seasonally employed or local agricultural workers.) Families are largely Hispanic or Latino, and Mexico is predominantly the country of origin. The majority of families are two parent families with both parents working, with the home language being Spanish.

Eligibility for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs are based on income eligibility and are also tied to the federal poverty guidelines, but work is not a requirement for parents for the families to be eligible.

Member: **Bob Frawley**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance

Description: The Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance works to ensure that comprehensive and coordinated set of support and services are available to all children birth to three years of age and their families. It is a large cross-sector coalition of the agencies and organizations serving young children and their families across Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and northern Warren counties and the St. Regis Mohawk Territory.

Member: **Tara N. Gardner**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: Day Care Council of New York, Inc.

Description: We support policies and deliver services that strengthen the early childhood workforce, so that all of New York City’s children receive the highest level of care. We ensure sustainability in early childhood contracts, work to strengthen the early childhood education workforce through improved wages, benefits and professional development, and work to increase government investments in early childhood education and breaking down barriers to access. We also work to support business operators and to connect New York City families to the providers that meet their needs.

Member: **Alexis Harrington**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Description: The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is responsible for coordinating services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism spectrum disorders, Prader-Willi syndrome and other neurological impairments. We provide services directly and through a network of approximately 600 nonprofit service providing agencies, with about 80 percent of services provided by the private nonprofits and 20 percent provided by state-run services.

Member: **Elizabeth Isakson, MD**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: Docs for Tots

Description: Docs for Tots empowers all the people and systems that play a role in caring for New York’s youngest: 0-to-5-year-olds. We provide the adults along a child’s development journey with the pathways, tools, and support to ensure each child can achieve their fullest potential.

Docs for Tots recognizes the challenges that practitioners and caregivers face, as well as the systemic disparities that impact families. With our multi-pronged approach, we aim to:

* Empower every player in a child’s life — from dads to doctors, caregivers to congress members — to give every New York baby a strong first five; and the greatest chance to thrive.
* Expand access to resources and tools to guarantee every New York family knows about and can access high-quality care during their children’s first five years.
* Collaborate across sectors to make best practice everyday practice for all providers serving New York’s 0-to-5 year olds.
* Advocate for and inform strong policies that protect and prioritize all New York’s tots under five, giving every child a chance to reach their full potential.

We are New York’s only pediatrician-led organization taking a whole-child approach—building caregiver skills, strengthening childcare systems, and enacting solid policies so every child has a strong 5-year start and the chance to thrive for a lifetime."

Member: **Kathy Jamil**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: United Way of Buffalo and Erie County (UWBEC)

Description: UWBEC brings people, organizations and resources together to create systemic community change. We serve ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed) and families living in poverty through education, health, and financial stability initiatives. We also serve the nonprofit sector with funding, resources, network and collaboration, and the for-profit sector by aligning funds and volunteering opportunities to the nonprofits who serve within our priority areas.

Member: **Kristen Kerr**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York Association for the Education for Young Children (NYAEYC)

Description: NYAEYC is a state affiliate of the largest national organization for early childhood professionals. We promote excellence in early care and education by supporting educators and leaders through professional learning, promoting best practices, and advocacy to promote policies that support educators and families.

Member: **Karen Kissinger**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS)

Description: The Office of Children and Family Services serves New York's public by promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, families and communities. We achieve results by building partnerships, funding and providing quality services, and setting and enforcing policies.

Member: **Larry Marx**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: The Children’s Agenda

Description: The Children’s Agenda’s is a Rochester-based nonprofit organization that advocates for effective policies and drives evidence-based solutions for the health, education and success of children at the local and state levels -- especially for children who are the most vulnerable because of poverty, racism, health inequities and trauma. We have 13 staff who organize advocacy (with parent leaders, our 5,000-person online Advocacy Network, and our Interfaith Collaborative), conduct research and policy analysis (such as a report on child care program closures during the pandemic), and build collective impact for systems change (such as our Kids Can't Wait campaign for more timely developmental services in early childhood).

Member: **Kate McCormick**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NYSAECTE)

Description: NYSAECTE is a professional organization that is made up of New York State college and university teacher educators in both public and private institutions who are engaged in the preparation of teachers for children from birth through age eight. Our organization promotes the professional growth of members by sharing access to information on research, innovative practices, and current trends which affect the education of young children and, particularly, the education of teachers of young children. We foster awareness of legislators and others who make policies affecting children of the issues and consequences related to particular policy and funding decisions.

Member: **Dr. Laura Valeria Gonzalez-Murphy**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Department of State, Office for New Americans

Description: The New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) was created in 2012 to welcome immigrants and to help them in achieving their American Dream. Through its statewide network of community-based providers, ONA assists all new Americans in accessing and navigating a variety of free services and supports their inclusion as an integral part of New York State’s diverse cultural fabric.

Member: **Jacqueline Orr**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Community Action Association, Inc.

Description: The New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) was created in 1987 to provide New York State Community Action Agencies with information, professional development, and technical assistance to enhance the capacity of agencies to serve as effective, responsive community resources.

NYSCAA's mission is to strengthen the capacity of the Community Action network to address the causes and conditions of poverty.

Member: **Alejandra Ortega**

Agency, Organization or Affiliation: New York State Federation of Growers’ & Processors’ Assoc. Inc. (DBA Agri-Business Child Development or ABCD)

Description: ABCD is the sole provider of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (NMSHS) services in New York State. I am the ABCD Director of Community Relations.