

No Place to Grow: Rethinking Homelessness Through a Whole-Child, Whole-Family Lens

Presenter Bios and Contact Information



Darryl Savell

Parent Advisor, Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee - Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth

Darryl serves as a Parent Advisor on the Homeless Children and Youth Steering Committee under the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth. In this role, Darryl brings vital lived experience and a parent’s perspective to the development of policies and programs impacting children and youth experiencing homelessness across the state.

With a strong commitment to advocacy and systems change, Darryl works alongside educators, service providers, and policymakers to ensure that family voices are centered in decision-making processes. He contributes insight on the unique challenges faced by families navigating housing instability and works to promote trauma-informed, equitable, and family-focused solutions.

Darryl is passionate about creating more responsive support systems that honor the dignity and resilience of all children and families. He believes deeply in the power of collaboration between professionals and lived-experience advisors to transform services for Oklahoma’s most vulnerable youth.

Resources:

“The Darryl and Bella Savell Story” <https://app.frame.io/reviews/939c65fe-fe54-45e3-a47b-f4efdca4abc9>



Erin Petterson

Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, SchoolHouse Connection

Erin has worked in education and education policy for 18 years, taking the lessons she learned as a high school teacher to positions in federal policy, local grantmaking, and national advocacy. She currently serves as Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships at SchoolHouse Connection, where she leads the organization's early

childhood and K-12 areas of work, along with elevating SHC's mission to new audiences and networks.

Previously, Erin taught high school government and economics in North Carolina and Virginia. She then served in roles at the US Department of Education, Community Foundation of the National Capital Region, American Youth Policy Forum, and Education Counsel, before coming to SchoolHouse Connection in 2020.

Erin lives in Maryland with her wife and their four dogs.

Resources:

Why We Use the Phrase “Experiencing Homelessness”: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/why-we-use-the-phrase-experiencing-homelessness>

Infant Toddler Homelessness Across 50 States: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/infant-and-toddler-homelessness>

Data Show Dramatic Increases in Family and Youth Homelessness for the Second Consecutive Year: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/new-data-show-dramatic-increases-in-family-and-youth-homelessness-for-the-second-consecutive-year>

Thrive from the Start: “An Unseen Reality: Infant and Toddler Homelessness” <https://thrivefromthestart.org/>



Aimee Dubé Weller

Parent Referral Specialist, South Carolina Child Care Resource & Referral

Aimee Dubé Weller is a dedicated Referral Specialist with South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral, where she focuses on supporting families experiencing homelessness. Her passion for advocacy and education has shaped her career in both South Carolina and California. Previously, Aimee served as the Coordinator for the Fortuna Family Resource Center, acting as the Foster Youth and McKinney-Vento Liaison while also chairing the Humboldt Network of Family Resource Centers.

Aimee Dubé Weller is a dedicated Referral Specialist with South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral, where she focuses on supporting families experiencing homelessness. Her passion for advocacy and education has shaped her career in both South Carolina and California. Previously, Aimee served as the Coordinator for the Fortuna Family Resource Center, acting as the Foster Youth and McKinney-Vento Liaison while also chairing the Humboldt Network of Family Resource Centers.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Non-Profit Administration from Kennesaw State University and is a graduate of the Cascadia Center for Leadership. Outside of her professional work, Aimee enjoys kayaking, spending quality time with her dog and loved ones, and playing roller derby.

Resources:

South Carolina Child Care Homeless Initiative

**A partnership of SC Child Care Resource and Referral & SC Department of Social Services
 Funded through the Child Care Development Fund**

The Homeless Support and Parent Referral Specialist position was developed utilizing CCDF funding from SC DSS to support families and providers. South Carolina Child Care Resource and Referral promotes high-quality early care and education by providing free, statewide services to SC's families, providers, and communities. SC CCR&R is housed at the University of South Carolina and funded through the Department of Social Services.

The Homeless Support and Parent Referral Specialist position works statewide with families qualified under the McKinney-Vento Act, providing them with referrals to child care providers in their area and connecting them with resources for financial assistance. Specifically, the partnership allows for an expedited process for assisting families to apply for the Department of Social Services Child Care Scholarship.

The specialist also trains child care providers and other community service providers on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness and best practices for working with children and families experiencing homelessness.

2023

263 Child care Referrals
 152 SC DSS Scholarship Connections

2024

259 Child care Referrals
 147 SC DSS Scholarship Connections



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