

Under the Surface: Confronting Housing Access in Early Childhood

Presenter Bios and Contact Information



Abra Lyons-Warren | abra@housingis.org

Director, Housing Is

Abra Lyons-Warren directs Housing Is, a nonprofit within the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, which aims to better align housing with other sectors like education and health to improve life outcomes for low-income individuals and families. Abra previously analyzed and advocated for housing, education, and place-based, early childhood, and dual-generation initiatives with the Center for the Study of Social Policy and Illinois Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie's office. She served individuals experiencing homelessness at Thrive DC, where she designed and managed a workforce development program. She also advocated for emergency shelter policies in D.C. as the public awareness chair of the Homeless Emergency Response Workgroup, a coalition of homeless individuals, advocates, and providers responding to the lack of shelter capacity in the District. Abra holds a MPP from the Harris School of Public Policy and a MSW from the School of Social Service Administration, both at the University of Chicago, as well as a BA in Sociology and Women and Gender Studies from Brandeis University.

Resources:

- A [report](#) summarizing what *Housing Is* has achieved
- An [interactive resource on the elements of a successful partnership](#)



Beth Bordeaux | beth@partnersforimpact.com

Co-owner/Community Change Consultant, Partners for Impact, LLC, partnersforimpact.com

Beth Bordeaux is a Co-owner and Community Change Consultant at Partners for Impact, which she founded in 2016. Having an MSW, 35+ years in human services and 15 years as a consultant, she works with nonprofits, governments, and community-level initiatives. As Executive Director of a Family Shelter, she led the organization in shifting to a housing first and trauma-informed model, increasing housing placements and stability. At Partners for Impact, she leads system-level impact projects in NC, including statewide young child homelessness initiatives. Beth emphasizes organizational change,

values alignment, data utilization, and honoring the voices and expertise of those with lived experience and who are most impacted by community decisions. She is currently the Project Manager for the Young Child Homelessness Outreach Project through Early Years.

- **Resources:**

- Blog: [Understanding Systems Change: Beyond Individual Solutions](#)
- [Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homeless Support System: Unleashing the Potential of Our Most Vulnerable Children to Raise North Carolina](#)
- [Insights into Rural Affordable Housing Development in North Carolina](#)
- [Toolkit for Addressing Young Child Homelessness](#)
- https://thrivefromthestart.org/?utm_medium=partner&utm_source=housing-is&utm_campaign=landing-page



Hannah Horrigan | hhorrigan@akronhousing.org

Educational Initiatives Supervisor, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Hannah Horrigan is the Educational Initiatives Supervisor at the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), where she oversees education and infant health programs through its non-profit arm, Building for Tomorrow. As a native to the urban Akron community, Hannah is passionate about driving systemic change to increase health and educational outcomes for families and children. Through the Early Childhood Initiative,

Hannah guides the ECI team in building social bridges for families to better navigate the systems they interact with – education, housing, healthcare, and more. With a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology/Criminology and Law Enforcement, Hannah has experience with data and research and has sat on initiatives within the community promoting Racial Equity and Social Justice, facilitated by the City of Akron. She currently sits on a county-based Committee for Early Childhood Programming, and works closely with local schools to monitor outcomes, trends, and gaps in early education.



Jill Spillman | JSpillman@AkronHousing.Org

Special Initiatives Manager, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Jill Spillman is the Special Initiatives Manager at the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), where she oversees education, health, digital opportunity, and data initiatives through its non-profit arm, Building for Tomorrow. Jill believes that housing is more than just shelter – it serves as a vital platform for increasing access to education and health opportunities that lead to stronger, more stable futures. With over a decade of experience in early childhood and community-based programming, Jill has helped position AMHA’s Early Childhood Initiative as a nationally recognized model. She has shared her work through platforms such as Parents as Teachers, CLPHA, and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Jill holds a degree in Social Work from the University of Akron.

- **Resource:**
 - [Public Housing Authority Pathways to Advancing Equity Report](#)



Rasheena Bungy | rasheenabungy@yahoo.com

Homicide Mitigation Specialist, Delaware Public Defenders Office

Rasheena, the mother of 2, a 14 and a 10 year old, was born and raised in Delaware. She attended Delaware State University for her bachelor's and Washington University school of law for her Master's degree. Rasheena enjoys most outdoor activities. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, reading crime fiction and any time spent helping others by telling her story of homelessness.

- **Resource:**
 - www.familypromisede.org