



Supplemental Materials | VECAP Data and Evaluation Committee  
June 8, 2023 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm

### Potential Panelists for Early Childhood Grand Rounds

[Erin Hardy](#) Senior Research Scientist at NORC in Education & Child Development  
Erin has over 15 years of experience conducting applied quantitative equity-focused policy research in the areas of early childhood care and education, child health, and K-12 education. Her research focuses on structural drivers of inequality in children's developmental contexts and access to opportunities, and how to account for these connections in the analysis and development of U.S. social policies. Her work utilizes quantitative and spatial analysis methods and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Prior to joining NORC, Erin served as the early childhood research director for the [diversitydatakids.org](#) project—a national indicator and policy research project focused on issues of racial/ethnic equity for children in the U.S. Erin led various equity indicator development and policy research projects and related policy impact activities, mostly focused on early childhood, neighborhood, and educational inequities.

[Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka](#) - Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy at UNC | Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) | Founding Director, Equity Research Action Coalition  
Iheoma U. Iruka (pronounced EE-OMAH EE-ROO-KAH), PhD, is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy, a Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG) and the Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG (the Coalition). She is leading projects and initiatives focused on ensuring that minoritized children and children from low-income households, especially Black children, are thriving. Her work is focused on ensuring excellence for young diverse learners, especially Black children and their families, through the intersection of anti-bias, anti-racist, culturally grounded research, program, and policy. Some areas of focus include family engagement and support, quality rating and improvement systems, and early care and education system and programs.

[Carlise King](#) - Executive Director, Early Childhood Data Collaborative  
Carlise King regularly convenes experts from states and national and technical assistance groups to communicate effective strategies for data integration and use of data to support policy. She brings years of experience analyzing early childhood services to improve policies and coordinate services for vulnerable young children. Carlise has over 16 years of experience conducting state and national level research on early childhood issues and examining the impact of state and federal policies on parents' access to child care services, licensed child care supply, child care costs, and the child care workforce.

[Dr. Shantel Meek](#) - Executive Director, Children's Equity Project  
Dr. Shantel E. Meek is a professor of practice and the executive director of the Children's Equity Project (CEP) at Arizona State University. Prior to founding the CEP, Dr. Meek served in the Obama Administration as a Senior Policy Advisor for Early Childhood Development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and as a Senior Policy Advisor for Education

in the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. During her time in the Obama Administration, Dr. Meek advised senior officials at HHS and The White House on a wide array of policy issues including Head Start, child care, public Pre-K expansion, and promoting equity and reducing disparities across the early care and education system. She also worked on drafting official guidance related to Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant and worked closely with states, communities, and stakeholders on implementation. Dr. Meek serves on the boards of Child Trends and the Pyramid Model Consortium and is a member of the Ideal Learning Roundtable.

[Dr. Trinidad Tellez](#) - Principal at [Health] Equity Strategies | Adjunct Instructor at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy & Clinical Practice

Dr. Trinidad Tellez is a family physician, community-based health disparities researcher, educator, and public health / health policy professional with over 20 years' experience operationalizing diversity & inclusion and organizational cultural effectiveness to address health disparities, improve access and quality, and advance health and equity for all. She has worked in both the private and public sectors at the local, state and regional levels in California, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Dr. Tellez brings a unique combination of visionary systems thinking, attention to detail, and passion for equity to her work.

[Dr. Katherine Zuckerman](#) - Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics, School of Medicine | Associate Professor, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

Dr. Katharine Zuckerman is a general pediatrician who cares for children with a wide variety of acute and chronic illnesses, and provides well-child care. She has special interests in child development, developmental conditions, autism spectrum disorder and feeding problems. She also has an interest in the multicultural aspects of health care and health services delivery.