

# THE IMPACT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## THE LATEST RESEARCH FROM POLICIES FOR ACTION

### Speaker Biographies

**Laudan Aron** is a senior fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. She has spent over 25 years conducting research and policy analysis on a wide range of social welfare issues, including health and disability, education, employment and training, homelessness, and family violence. She directed and coedited a groundbreaking 2013 study for the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *US Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health*, which found a large and growing US “health disadvantage” relative to other high-income countries. Her work focuses on how social and economic conditions shape health and well-being and how social welfare programs can best support healthy human development over time and place. Throughout her career, Aron has conceptualized, designed, and fielded studies useful to policymakers, program officials, and other stakeholders. Her publications include books, book chapters, journal articles, and opinion pieces on topics ranging from social determinants of health to urban education reform. From 2007 to 2012, she was a senior program officer with the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education at the National Academy of Sciences and was director of policy research at the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Aron holds a BS in mathematics from McGill University and an MA in demography from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Lisa Dubay** is a senior fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute and a nationally recognized expert on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Dubay developed the center’s Medicaid eligibility simulation model, which has produced estimates of eligible but uninsured children and adults and participation rates in Medicaid and CHIP. She is involved in two major evaluations of delivery system reform demonstrations: *Measurement, Monitoring, and Evaluation of State Demonstrations to Integrate Care for Dual-Eligible Individuals* and the evaluation of Strong Start II. She also focuses on social determinants of health and race and class disparities in child health and development. A health services researcher, Dubay has focused for over 25 years on evaluating the effects of public policies on access to care, health care use, health outcomes, and health insurance coverage using quasi-experimental designs. Her evaluation work has included assessing the impact of expansions in public health insurance programs for children, pregnant women, and adults for federal agencies and major foundations. Dubay returned to Urban after spending time as an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and as a special adviser in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the US Department of Health and Human Services. She has an ScM from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

**Danielle Ewen** is a senior policy adviser at EducationCounsel, a mission-based education consulting firm that combines significant experience in policy, strategy, law and advocacy to drive improvements in the US education system. Ewen has served in numerous leadership positions in child care and early education policy. She previously was director of the Office of Early Childhood Education in DC Public Schools, where she oversaw the operations of programs serving 3- and 4-year-old children in high-quality, comprehensive classrooms. Before that, Ewen was director of the child care and early education team at the Center for Law

and Social Policy, where she worked on federal and state issues around child care and early education. Ewen also worked at the Children's Defense Fund as a senior program associate in the child care and development division and was the assistant director for the National Child Care Information Center. Early in her career, she was a policy analyst at the US Department of Education in the Office of Migrant Education, where she was involved in the implementation of Chapter 1 programs, family literacy, bilingual education, and evaluation. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University.

**Jorge Luis García** is a PhD candidate in the Department of Economics of the University of Chicago. He obtained an MA in economics from the University of Chicago and graduated summa cum laude from the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas in Mexico with a BA in economics. He is a research assistant at the Center for the Economics of Human Development and a member of the Early Childhood Interventions Network of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Working Group. García is an applied microeconomist working in labor and development economics, with a focus on family economics, human capital, and socioeconomic inequality. His recent research finds that early education programs are socially efficient when targeted to disadvantaged children and that both children and their families benefit from these programs.

**Sherry Glied** is dean of New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. From 1989 to 2013, she was professor of health policy and management at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. She was chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management from 1998 to 2009. In 2010, Glied was confirmed by the US Senate as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the US Department of Health and Human Services and served until 2012. She previously was senior economist for health care and labor market policy on the president's Council of Economic Advisers in 1992 and 1993 and participated in the Clinton Health Care Task Force. She has been elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Social Insurance, and the board of AcademyHealth and has been a member of the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Health Advisers. Glied's principal areas of research are in health policy reform and mental health care policy. Her book on health care reform, *Chronic Condition: Why Health Reform Fails*, was published in 1998. Her book with Richard Frank, *Better But Not Well: Mental Health Policy in the United States since 1950*, was published in 2006. She is coeditor of the *Oxford Handbook of Health Economics*, published in 2011. Glied holds a BA in economics from Yale University, an MA in economics from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in economics from Harvard University.

**Gayle Manchin**, cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, received her BA in language arts and education and her MA in reading from West Virginia University and a second master's specialization in educational technology leadership from Salem International University. From 2000 to 2004, she directed the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows in West Virginia and, through the secretary of education and the arts, implemented the statewide initiative West Virginia Partnerships to Assure Student Success. From 2005 until 2010, Manchin was West Virginia's first lady, where she was the official hostess of the governor's mansion and an advocate for children and families. In addition, she was appointed to be a member of the state board of education, where she recently completed her tenure as president. She is chair of the board for Reconnecting McDowell, is a past president of the Vandalia Rotary Club of Charleston, serves on the Clay Center advisory board, and is an emeritus member of the Education Alliance. She serves on the board of directors for MVB Bank and the Regional Educational Laboratories Appalachia governing board. Manchin is a past president of the National State Boards of Education. She was appointed by Arne



Duncan to the Federal Improvement for Postsecondary Education board and is a member of the International Friendship Club. Manchin is also on the board of directors for Horton's Kids.

**Tonja Rucker** is the program director for early childhood success in the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families at the National League of Cities (NLC). She develops and oversees implementation of the institute's work plans and long-term strategies for early education. She conceptualizes and leads efforts to identify and document best practices and promising initiatives and contributes to the institute's management, including strategic planning, coordination of cross-program initiatives, and identification and cultivation of prospective funders. Rucker works with mayors, city councilmembers, and other municipal officials in creating local systems of support for parents, children, and youth. Before joining the NLC team, Rucker was transition coordinator for Baltimore City Head Start and an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, College Park. She serves on several boards and committees, supporting and advising national and local work for young children. She has a BA in psychology from Spelman College and a PhD in human development from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Margery Austin Turner** is senior vice president for program planning and management at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Turner has analyzed residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Among her recent publications is the book *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*. Before joining Urban, Turner was deputy assistant secretary for research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD's research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America's metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD's research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education. Turner has a BA in political science from Cornell University and an MA in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.

**Albert Wat** is a senior policy director at the Alliance for Early Success, where he supports the organization's strategy and goals for early education, including increasing access to high-quality prekindergarten, improving the early learning workforce, and enhancing alignment with K-12 policies. Before joining the alliance, Wat was a senior policy analyst in the education division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, where he helped governors' staff and advisers improve their early care and education policies, from early childhood through third grade. Before that, Wat was research manager at Pre-K Now, an advocacy campaign at the Pew Center on the States, where he authored policy reports, managed research activities for the initiative, and provided analysis and information about the latest prekindergarten and early education research and policy developments to Pre-K Now staff and its state partners. In 2014, Wat served on the committee of the National Institute of Medicine's study *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation*. He also serves on the board of the Council for Professional Recognition. Wat has worked with schools, school reform nonprofits, and community-based organizations in the Bay Area, southeastern Michigan, and Washington, DC. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in education from Stanford University and a master's degree in education policy from the George Washington University.