

NOURISHING FUTURES CONVENING

PRESENTER AND PANELIST BIOS

Kayla de la Haye, PhD, FSBM

Director, USC Food Systems Institute

Associate Professor (Research) of Psychology and Spatial Sciences, University of Southern California

Kayla de la Haye is a research associate professor at the University of Southern California, where she is the founding director of the Food Systems Institute. She works to promote health and health equity by integrating behavioral science, network science, and systems science. Her research focuses on family and community systems, and the broader environments in which people live, to promote healthy eating and food and nutrition security, and to prevent chronic disease. Her work also explores how families, teams, and coalitions solve complex problems together. Dr. de la Haye holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Adelaide, Australia.

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Kimberly Moody

Friend, Family and Neighbor provider

I was just a few days shy of my twenty-third work anniversary when I was laid off due to administrative restructuring following the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of more than two decades, I held a variety of roles, beginning in the classroom as a twos teacher and culminating in a leadership position as the Toddler Education Coordinator. In my roles as the Educational Trainer and the Toddler Education Coordinator I provided resources, coaching, guidance, and professional development to teaching staff, with a strong focus on curriculum development, integrating inclusive and anti-bias education as well as developing effective teaching practices and strategies- especially in supporting classrooms with responding to challenging behaviors. Today, as a Friend, Family and Neighbor provider, and as a proud grandma, I approach my role with the same professionalism, passion and intentionality that I applied to my previous positions. I implement best practices, establish daily schedules and routines, and create a developmentally appropriate curriculum tailored to my grandchildren's individual needs and interests.

Isabella is 9 years old and will be a fourth grader this year, Izekiel is almost 4 years old and will be starting preschool very soon and Isaiah will be 4 months in a few days.

Olivia Pillado, MA

Research Manager, Child Care Resource Center

Olivia Pillado is a research and evaluation leader with over 20 years of experience in designing, leading, and managing research and evaluation programs and initiatives across a broad range of topics. Ms. Pillado currently serves as a Research Manager at Child Care Resource Center where she has conducted community needs assessments, research and evaluation in early childhood education workforce development, quality improvement, childhood obesity prevention, and disaster and pandemic awareness and preparedness in child care settings. Currently Ms. Pillado oversees the evaluation of multiple early childhood educator apprenticeship and mental health programs in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and the evaluation of Quality Start San Bernardino, a QRIS program in San Bernardino County. Ms. Pillado received her MA in Developmental Psychology from UC Riverside and a BA from UCLA with a double major in Psychology and Sociology.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PREVENTION &
PROMOTION SYSTEMS
GOVERNING COMMITTEE

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Susan Savage, PhD

Director of Research, Child Care Resource Center

Dr. Susan Savage has provided vision and direction for research and evaluation projects for over 30 years and is currently the Director of Research at the Child Care Resource Center. Dr. Savage and her team lead local, countywide and statewide evaluations across a diverse set of topics including the impact of child care subsidies, housing, developmental screening, child welfare and domestic violence prevention supports on families as well as workforce development and quality improvement initiatives on early care and education providers. She and her team develop web-based data tools across siloed systems to obtain a more accurate picture of services for children and families. Dr. Savage leads policy-focused research and partners with legislators, policy-makers and advocates to help make informed, data-driven decisions. Dr. Savage holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology with a minor in Quantitative Methods from UC Riverside and a BA in Psychology from UCLA.

Terry Talavera

Nutrition Program Director, Options for Learning

Terry Talavera has worked at Options for Learning for 40 years; 38 of which have been directly involved in the Child and Adult Care Food Program in various capacities. As the current Nutrition Program Director, she currently has a team of 20 employees who support 560 family day care homes in 4 counties and nearly 300 center-based sites in the San Gabriel Valley serving over 7,500 children per month. Terry served as Treasurer and Board Director at the CACFP Roundtable for 30 years. A portion of the mission of the CACFP Roundtable is to foster a community of leaders who work together to build access to the CACFP and nutritious meals in child care settings, an area that Terry is passionate about and works in collaboration with other sponsors to ensure access to nutritious meals in the communities served.

Violet Oquendo

Compliance and Training Manager, Options for Learning

Violet has worked in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for over 20 years, mainly as a monitor for day care homes. Now, she oversees compliance and training for the CACFP at Options for Learning Nutrition Program. She serves on the board of directors for the CACFP Roundtable, which has as its mission to educate, advocate, and create positive change around the Food Program. Currently, she also serves on the Community Advisory Board for the CACFP Peer Navigator Pilot Program through the University of California's Nutrition Policy Institute, a study that aims to identify challenges and solutions to barriers family day care homes experience with CACFP participation. Her focus is on making sure children in care have access to nutritious meals by supporting providers with the tools they need to be successful.

