

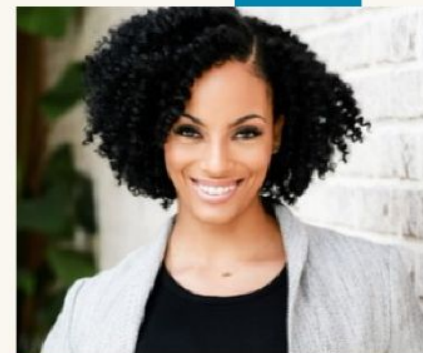


Early Childhood Practice Area

Community at the Center: Structuring Advisory Boards & Children's Cabinets for Meaningful Impact

June 20, 2025

10:30 am PT / 1:30pm ET - 12Noon PT / 3:00pm ET



Sareda McPhee



Dr. Russell Booker



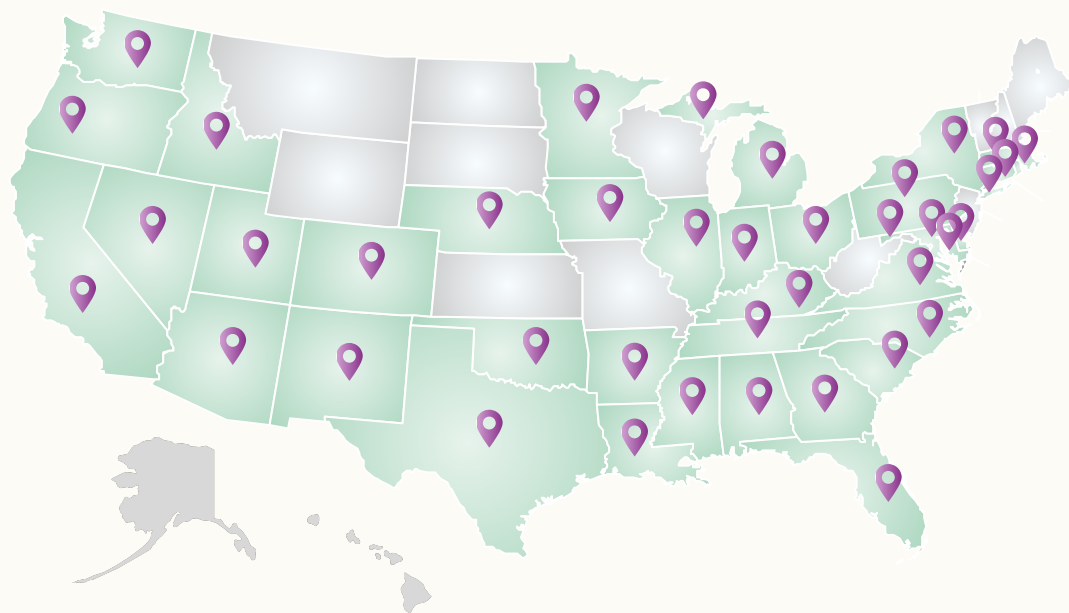
Jill Gomez



Tricia Hamlin

Third Sector helps our government agencies to unlock possibility, confront inequity, and catalyze change to the benefit of the people they serve

Third Sector's Engagements with Communities Across the United States since 2011



75+ Consulting Engagements



Since 2011, Third Sector has worked with **50+ communities** to deploy more than **\$1.8 billion** in government resources towards improved outcomes

Early Childhood Practice Area Vision Statement

We envision a future where all children ages 0-5, no matter their race or background or circumstance, have access to quality early childhood education and care that supports child development.

This is a future where we eliminate racial disparities for children and families by supporting an early childhood education and care system that is accessible and affordable for all families.

It is also a future where parents are active in the decisionmaking of the early childhood system and where the early childhood workforce is paid a living wage in recognition of the role they play in quality early childhood education and care.



Community At the Center: Structuring Advisory Boards & Children's Cabinets for Meaningful Impact



A collaborative process that centers the voices of those most impacted by public systems, such as families, youth, and early educators, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, and decisionmaking structures. It shifts power by treating lived experience as a critical form of expertise.

Participatory Design

Why do Participatory Design?

- Leads to Better Solutions
- Builds Trust and Legitimacy
- Advances Equity and Shared Accountability
- Strengthens Sustainability

Who is included in Participatory Design?

- Families, Youth and Caregivers
- Providers/ Community Based Organizations
- System Leaders and Public Officials
- Cross-System Collaborators

How to do Participatory Design?

- Start with Relationship and Trust-Building
- Involve Lived Experts Early and Often
- Create Formal Structures For Engagement (Cabinets/Councils/Workgroups)
- Use Tools that Support Co-Creation

Agenda

- 1 Introduction/Overview + Poll
- 2 Segment 1: Designing with Intention
- 3 Segment 1: Q & A
- 4 Segment 2: Embedding Voice, Sharing Power
- 5 Segment 2: Q&A
- 6 Segment 3: Sustaining Change
- 7 Segment 3: Q&A
- 8 Audience Q&A/ Final Reflections

Webinar Panelists



Sareda McPhee (she/her)
Early Childhood Director
Third Sector



Jill Gomez (she/her)
Executive Director
Poughkeepsie Children's
Cabinet



Dr. Russell Booker (he/him)
CEO
Spartanburg Academic
Movement



Tricia Hamlin (she/her)
Parent/School Psychologist
Office of Early Childhood
Connecticut Parent Cabinet

Why do you believe community voice matters in policy or systems change?

Panelists Perspectives & Framing



**SPARTANBURG
ACADEMIC MOVEMENT**

**Backbone Organization
Perspective**



**CONNECTICUT
Early Childhood**

Parent Cabinet

CONNECT • LISTEN • PARTNER • ACT

Parent Perspective



**Poughkeepsie
Children's Cabinet**

**Cross Sector Children's
Cabinet Perspective**



Implementation Perspective



Designing with intention



Embedding Parent Voice, Sharing Power



Sustaining Change

Zoom Poll

[Select one] Who is on the webinar? What type of organization do you represent?

- a. Employer
- b. Non-profit or community-based organization
- c. State government
- d. Local/Regional government
- e. Early Childhood Provider
- f. Parent/Caregiver/Family Leader
- g. Philanthropy/Funder
- h. Academic/Research
- i. Other

Zoom Poll

[Select One] *If you had to pick one challenge your organization or community faces when engaging families or providers in decision making, what would it be?*

- a. Time
- b. Budget
- c. Trust
- d. Authentic Connection
- e. Access to Community
- f. Policy Constraints
- g. Other

Zoom Poll

[Open text] What do you hope to learn from this webinar?

1

Designing with Intention

Questions for discussion

As you work to establish a Children's Cabinet in Spartanburg, what gaps or needs are you currently grappling with in your community that is helping you clarify the importance of a dedicated Cabinet structure?

Spartanburg Academic Movement

Poughkeepsie is often recognized as a model for community collaboration. What do you think has made your structure sustainable and replicable for other cities?

Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet

The OEC Parent Cabinet designed their model to include paid parent positions. Why is compensation important when thinking about long-term, authentic engagement and sustainability?

Connecticut OEC Parent Cabinet

Q&A

A&Q

2

Embedding Voice, Sharing Power

Questions for discussion

As Spartanburg builds its cabinet, how are you considering bringing different perspectives to the table from the start?

Spartanburg Academic Movement

How has your cabinet embedded family/ community voice as central?

Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet

Can you share an example of how you or other parents' input has influenced decisions within the OEC?

Connecticut OEC Parent Cabinet

Q&A

A&Q

3

Sustaining Change

Questions for discussion

How has your partnership with Third Sector helped bring the vision of a Spartanburg Children's Cabinet to life? Are there tools, frameworks, or approaches that have been particularly valuable?

Spartanburg Academic Movement

As the work matures, what structures or documentation have helped the cabinet weather transitions in leadership or priorities (Ex. Executive Orders, MOU's, City Ordinance)?

Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet

What do you hope happens with the parent cabinet after your time as a member has concluded?

Connecticut OEC Parent Cabinet

Q&A

A&Q

4

Audience Q&A-Final Reflections

- What gives you hope right now, not just in the work, but in the people or communities leading it?
- What advice would you give to those feeling overwhelmed by systemic barriers but eager to start somewhere?

Thank you!

Following the webinar, you'll be prompted to complete a brief [survey](#)!

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