

The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA)



The Washtenaw Early Childhood Directors Association (ECDA) is a professional organization for the directors, administrators, and leaders of early childhood programs. Our goals are to support directors, to serve as advocates of children's issues, and to provide resource and networking opportunities for early childhood professionals. The ECDA Steering Committee is composed of program directors and representatives from local organizations.

You will have the opportunity to attend 8 talks on relevant early childhood education topics as well as network with your peers and be a part of the local early childhood community. Membership is required to attend. Newly interested programs may attend one meeting for free before having to join to participate.

Doors open at 11:15, lunch is served by 11:30 am. We will begin the presentation promptly at Noon. We start with announcements and news and then the speaker will present. Meetings end at 2:00pm.

****We meet at the Washtenaw Golf Club, located at 2955 Packard St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197****

Registration Information: Annual Membership Fee (September-May): \$75 per program. Multi-site programs pay \$50 for each additional site

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESS: Membership can be secured and paid for here:

<https://bit.ly/WCECDA26-27>. The payment amount is set for one program but can be changed to pay for all sites. This is for membership ONLY. Please be sure to enter the details for the program and the staff who should receive the monthly training invite and registration link!

Monthly Training Fee: \$30 includes lunch, dessert, drink and gratuity.
A MiRegistry link will be sent out monthly for each training.

Questions? Contact Candy at cls@childcarenetwork.org or 734-249-5108.

September 23, 2026: Resource Fair, Licensing, and More!

Kick off another wonderful year of ECDA with us! Join fellow early childhood professionals for an engaging afternoon of connection, learning, and community. Meet local community resource partners, discuss licensing updates and information, discover helpful resources, and take time to connect with others in the field. We're excited to start the year together and look forward to seeing you there!

October 28, 2026: Good Start, Early On, Build Up Michigan // Michelle Pogliano

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) partners with local school districts, community programs, and families to support the development, learning, and well-being of young children from birth through age five. Join us to learn about these services that focus on early identification, early intervention, and inclusive learning opportunities so children can thrive at home, in childcare settings, and in preschool programs.

November 18, 2026: Creating A Space Where Everyone Belongs // Holly Delgado & Kellie Chestler-Root

As directors, we often hear, "I don't know how to support all of the needs of children in my classroom!" This session will provide you with hands-on, immediately implementable resources you can share with your staff to best support the needs of children with disabilities in an inclusive environment.

January 27, 2027: TBD *VIRTUAL* MiRegistry Moxie // Candy Sorensen

Join us to tackle all things MiRegistry! I will share about licensing compliance around MiRegistry, including Center Orientations as well as answer any questions that you may have. It is my goal that you will walk away feeling more courageous and confident about MiRegistry as well as have a few creative strategies and tips in your toolbox!

February 24, 2027 *VIRTUAL* Employment Law Compliance - It's Actually Easy! // Jacqui Schulte

Most of us have always assumed that being a good person is enough to stay out of legal trouble. But did you know that the rules at work are different than they are in our personal lives? And that being a good person is unfortunately not enough? In this session we will talk about leaders' legal risk in the workplace, some best practices for preventing risk, recognizing the red flags for risk, and addressing risk. And we will make it easy! When's the last time you heard that about legal compliance? Challenge accepted!

March 24, 2027: Mindfulness // Karin Nowak

As early childhood educators and administrators it is easy to take care of others before taking care of ourselves. In this session we will talk about mindfulness and creating ways to practice it in the work environment. We will share valuable resources that you can use yourself, share with colleagues and even students.

April 21, 2027: Time to Rethink Boomers vs. Gen Z! Staff Motivation Through the Lens of Life Stage // Beth McLampy

Our brains are designed to generalize, so we often fall into the trap of describing staff motivation through generational stereotypes. "My millennial staff need constant feedback!" "My Gen Z staff never read the whole email!" In this workshop we will challenge some of our ideas around these generational differences and take a closer look at current research on motivation theory and how we can use it to support our teams.

May 26, 2027: Strengthening Families- Protective Factors: The Protection of Social Connection! // Brooke Rains and Brittany Wright

Did you know that positive social connections are essential for our well-being? Come and learn about everyday actions that can lessen stress and isolation for families and be a powerful support in your early education work!

2026-2027 Steering Committee

[Shannon Peitz](#) - President
Gretchen's House - Dhu Varren

[Tammie King](#) - Vice President
WCSACCA Liaison
Bemis Farms Preschool & Childcare

[Karin Nowak](#) - Secretary &
Public Policy
Gretchen's House - Oak Valley

[Shannon Steinbach](#) - Treasurer
Gretchen's House -
School-Age Coordinator

[Patty Sherwood](#) - Venue/Events
Adventure Center

[Laura Griswold](#) - SBS/QPP Liaison
Gretchen's House - Administration

[Candy Sorensen](#) -
Membership/Communication
Child Care Network

Members at Large:

[Chrissy McKiddie](#)
Gretchen's House - Mt. Vernon

[Michelle Freund](#)
UM North Campus

[Carrie Anderson](#)
Morning Star Child Care