Kindergarten Readiness: Understanding and Promoting Readiness
This session will provide information on what constitutes kindergarten readiness, including issues such as early literacy and developmental assessment. Strategies to achieve readiness and next steps in pursuing it will be addressed.

Presenters: Lindsey Noblot, St. Louis Regional Early Childhood Council; Ellicia Qualls, Urban Sprouts Child Development Center; Christy Huck City, Garden Montessori

Quality Early Care & Education: Its Critical Importance and What's Necessary to Achieve It.
This session will provide information on what constitutes quality early childhood education and outline strategies to improve quality and access to quality care.

Presenters: Margo Heger Smith, Lume Institute; Marcia Hayes-Harris, St. Louis Public Schools

Promoting Racial Equity and Reducing Disparities
In this breakout session, we'll use data to explain the current disparities in our region and how these disparities affect young children. We will discuss what racial equity is and walk through tools you can use within your organization to become more equitable.

Presenters: David Dwight, Forward Through Ferguson; Michelle Witthaus, For the Sake of All

Meaningful Parent and Family Engagement: Are We Ready for It? Why, When, and How to Do It.
This session will highlight the importance of parent, family and community involvement in addressing early childhood issues and outline specific engagement strategies.

Presenters: Sanaria Sulaiman, Project LAUNCH–St. Louis; Vetta Thompson, Ph.D., Institute for Public Health, Washington University; Sam Blue, Project LAUNCH–St. Louis

Using Early Childhood Data Effectively
In this session, we will outline recently developed regional early childhood data products, discuss ways data is currently being used, and focus on strategies to build on current data efforts.

Presenters: Liz Hoester, Vision for Children at Risk; Pam Mitchell, RECC Data Committee; Brian Schmidt, Missouri Children’s Leadership Council; Kim Hunt, United4Children; Breigh Montgomery, IFF; Allie Cicotte, Clark-Fox Family Foundation

Fostering Healthy Child Development: Addressing Infant Mortality and Accessing Health Insurance
This session will build understanding of infant mortality, its critical importance and strategies to address it, including the local FLOURISH initiative. It also will increase understanding of the importance of Medicaid and CHIP in allowing children to access health care in order to foster healthy child development. Discussion will include the current threats to CHIP and Medicaid and the consequences of cutbacks to those programs.

Presenters: Donna Halloran, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, St. Louis University School of Medicine; Judy Dungan, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Missouri Children’s Leadership Council
Providing for Social Emotional Development: Cultural Competence and Trauma-Informed Practice
This session will address social-emotional development with emphasis on cultural competence and trauma. It also will explicate strategies that have been developed to address these issues and explore how they might be broadly employed, including in early childhood settings.
Presenters: Norm White, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Associate Dean, College of Public Health and Social Justice, Saint Louis University; Cameron Coleman, elementary school principal and educator

Promoting Early Literacy in the St. Louis Region: Turn the Page STL and Other Initiatives
This session will highlight the importance of early literacy and discuss current initiatives in the St. Louis region to promote literacy with a particularly focus on Turn the Page STL. The session will identify next steps in moving literacy initiatives forward.
Presenters: Lisa Carrico, Read from the Start, Missouri Humanities Council and Turn the Page STL; Sheila Oliveri, Ready Readers; Annette Harrison, storyteller extraordinaire

Children in Stable Families with the Resources They Need: Multi-Level Strategies
Participants will be introduced to a local effort to reduce inequity and assure children have what they need to succeed. Additionally, system-level strategies to address basic needs and, thereby, strengthen families will be highlighted.
Presenters: Jeff Moore, Kirkwood Area Every Child Promise; Amy Blouin, Missouri Budget Project; Ruth Ehresman, Vision for Children at Risk