Health Equity and Young Children
Health Advisory Experts Panel

Dr. Paul Dworkin is Executive Vice President for Community Child Health and Founding Director, Help Me Grow National Center at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. Dr. Dworkin’s interests are at the interface among child development, child health services and child health policy. His research has focused on the value of developmentally-oriented anticipated guidance, the role of developmental surveillance and screening in the early detection of at-risk children, and the value of care coordination in the linkage of children and families to programs and services. He was the editor of the Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics from 1997 to 2002 and is currently editor emeritus. He is a past president of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Dr. Dworkin’s vision led to the creation of Help Me Grow, a nationally-recognized and Connecticut statewide initiative to promote the early detection of children at risk for developmental and behavioral problems and their linkage to programs and services that is currently being replicated in more than 25 states with support from The Commonwealth Fund and the WK Kellogg Foundation.

Amy Fine serves as an Associate Director and Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, where she helps shape CSSP’s approach to integrating health, education, human services and other family supports at the community level, focusing on more preventive, developmentally-oriented service systems for children and families. With more than 25 years of experience working on issues related to maternal and child health, Fine has served as a consultant to federal and state health agencies, private philanthropies and national initiatives focused on improving results for children. Her previous work includes positions at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Institute of Medicine and the University of North Carolina’s Child Health Outcomes Project. She has degrees from The University of Michigan and University of California, San Francisco and earned her master’s of public health from the University of North Carolina.

Maxine Hayes has dedicated her life to teaching and public service, focusing her efforts on disease prevention. She has received numerous awards for her accomplishments, including the prestigious public health award from the American Medical Association, the 2002 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. In addition to her medical degrees, Dr. Hayes earned a Masters of Public Health degree at Harvard University. Dr. Hayes took a teaching
position at the Department of Pediatrics of the 10 University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1977 and practiced medicine there for nearly a decade. In 1985, she joined the faculty of the University Of Washington School Of Medicine and began work for the Washington State Department of Health in 1988 as the State Health Officer. She continued that role until her retirement in 2014, working closely with local health officials and the medical community statewide, advising the governor and the state’s Secretary of Health on health emergency responses, prevention of childhood diseases and other public health issues.

Kay Johnson, MEd and MPH, has been actively involved in Medicaid policy development at the federal and state levels for the last thirty years, in policy advocacy, research and technical assistance to states and communities. Her expertise encompasses a wide range of maternal and child health issues, including perinatal care, infant mortality, child development, oral health and services for children with disabilities and special needs. She has provided technical assistance and consultation at the federal, state and community levels on developing more integrated and family-focused services for low-income and vulnerable children, particularly in the first years of life. She started her career with ten years of providing direct services to low-income families, which is fundamental to her analytic work.

Dr. Angela Sauaia is Professor of Public Health, Medicine and Surgery at the University of Colorado Denver. She has an MD degree from the University of S. Paulo, Brazil and a PhD in Analytic Health Services from the University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Sauaia has more than 20 years of experience in health services and health outcomes research and is internationally known for her research in post-injury care. She is a nationally-recognized expert in the area of health equity. Her new book "The Quest for Health Equity" bears witness to the health inequities that plague our great nation and brings hope that change is indeed possible and within reach. As a Latina immigrant herself, bicultural and multilingual, Dr. Sauaia brings her own personal history to the table and has gained the trust of the local underserved communities based on a history of respect and candidness.

Dr. Ed Schor has held a number of positions in pediatric practice, academic pediatrics, health services research and public health. He led the Child Development and Preventive Care program at the Commonwealth Fund and served as medical director for the Iowa Department of Public Health, Division of Family and Community Health. Dr. Schor has chaired both the Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption and Dependent Care and the national Task Force on the Family for the American Academy of Pediatrics. He also has served on the Maternal and Child Health Bureau Child Health Survey Technical Panel and consulted for the National Center for Infancy and Early Childhood Health Policy.
Dr. Rizwan Shah, MD, is the retired Child Abuse Program Director and Emeritus Faculty at Blank Children’s Hospital. She established the first clinic for developmental follow up of methamphetamine-affected infants and has taught widely on the linkage between child abuse and drug abuse. Dr. Shah has provided professional and public training in child abuse and drugs-affected children, as well as clinical teaching in medical schools and hospitals in Iowa and nationally. Among her many awards, she received the American Academy of Pediatrics Distinguished Service Award from the Committee on Substance Abuse; Des Moines Women of Achievement Award; and Blank Hospital’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Judith Shaw, RN, MPH, and Ed.D, is Associate Director of Nursing and Associate Director of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont and the Executive Director of the Vermont Child Health Improvement Partnership which she established in 1988. She received the Vermont Medical Association Citizen of the Year Award in 2007 and the APA Health Delivery Award in 2015. Ms. Shaw established the National Improvement Partnership Network in 2008, a network of more than 25 states which have developed partnerships to advance quality and transform health care for children and families. She is a co-author of Bright Futures, the standard for well-child care practice in the United States.

*The health equity expert panel members serve to guide and support the work of the Child and Family Policy Center’s Health Equity initiative. The panel helps to further innovation, diffusion, and policy reforms and investment in the use of the primary child health care practice to address the social and environmental factors in a family’s life that affect the healthy development of their child.*