

As Executive Director of Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) **Lynette M. Fraga, Ph.D.**, is a passionate practitioner, advocate and leader in the field of child care and early learning, working to advance the accessibility of quality child care experiences for all children. Child Care Aware® of America is a national nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that every child has access to high quality child care and early learning experiences. Under her leadership CCAoA has launched a number of major programmatic and policy initiatives at the national and state levels.

Dr. Fraga has over 20 years of experience as an educator, program director and executive leader working on behalf of children and families. Since her selection in 2012 as the executive director at CCAoA, Dr. Fraga has sought to position Child Care Aware® of America as the nation's leading voice on child care in policy, practice and research. As an authority on child development Dr. Fraga serves in an advisory capacity on a number of national panels including the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Early Childhood (COEC), the Institute of Medicine Early Care and Education Collaborative, Healthy Kids Healthy Futures Steering Committee and the ARCH Lifespan Respite TA Center Advisory Committee. In addition she serves on the Executive Committee of the Children's Leadership Council (CLC), a coalition of 55 leading national organizations working together to improve the health, education and well-being of children and youth.

Fraga began her career as a teacher in an infant and toddler classroom and subsequently worked in the military child care system as a Center Director, Training and Curriculum Specialist and School-Age Coordinator. She has since held positions at the local, state and national level within the nonprofit, corporate and higher education sectors. Prior to CCAoA, Fraga served as Vice President of Early Care and Special Populations for Care.com where she led development of public-private partnerships to support the corporation's services for children with special needs and a lifespan of care options for military-connected families. During her eleven years at ZERO TO THREE (ZTT), a national nonprofit working to promote the healthy development of babies and toddlers, Fraga was the Chief Program Officer, and led the development of and oversaw all programmatic activities. An expert on the social and emotional needs of infants and toddlers, she spearheaded Military Family Projects as its Director, and held several leadership roles within the Early Head Start National Resource Center at ZTT.

Fraga holds a doctoral degree in Family Studies from Kansas State University, a master's degree in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma, and a bachelor's degree in Special Education from the University of Arizona.

## **LYNETTE M. FRAGA, PH.D.**

### **Highly Accomplished, Strategic and Mission-Driven Senior Executive**

Extensive experience envisioning, developing and directing diverse programs supporting children and families. Demonstrated ability to create constructive relationships with Boards of Directors, government agencies, foundations and funders while building productive partnerships with related organizations to enhance services for vulnerable communities. Skilled in motivating, mentoring and managing teams of high-functioning professionals committed to cultures of collaboration, creativity and accountability.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Child Care Aware of America**

*Washington, DC 2012-Present*

#### **Executive Director**

Serve as the visionary and strategic leader of the organization. With the Board and staff, carry out the mission of promoting policies and partnerships that ensure access to quality child care and early learning services and provide leadership and support to the nationwide network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Provides leadership and general management of the organization. Serves as the key spokesperson and manages relationships with key stakeholders.

### **CARE.COM**

*Waltham, MA/Washington DC 2011-2012*

#### **VP Special Populations and Nonprofit Relationships**

Responsible for the development and execution of company approach to care services for individuals and families with special needs to include intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. Additionally responsible for addressing care services for special populations to include military families and veterans. Work closely with the nonprofit and public sector to develop and execute innovative strategies for addressing the diverse care needs of individuals across the lifespan.

### **ZERO TO THREE, NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS AND FAMILIES**

*Washington DC 1999- 2011*

#### **Chief Program Officer**

Ensured all programs were of the highest quality; met goals, deadlines and deliverables while reflecting the vision and mission of the organization. Major funders for 16 major programs range from government agencies (e.g. Office of Head Start, Office of Child Care, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Education) to private foundations and major individual donors. Worked closely with the Board of Directors and Executive Director in governance and organizational strategic planning. Directed all programmatic development efforts; responsibilities include project conceptualization, oversight of proposal writing and funder relations.

#### **Director, Military Family Projects**

Identified unmet separation, loss and trauma needs of infants and toddlers and designed innovative professional training, parent resources and community response initiatives. Cultivated key relationships with the four Service Branches and advanced policies supporting military families with very young children.

#### **Senior Program Associate**

Implemented *Pathways to Prevention*, a “best-practices” consultation initiative reaching hundreds of Early Head Start (EHS) programs and their community partners to promote positive social and emotional outcomes for infants and toddlers. Organized and staffed a national task force to integrate infant mental health consultation into EHS. Conducted research with EHS adolescent parents, culminating in a dissertation: “Adolescent Understanding of the Social and Emotional Development of Very Young Children”.

**Senior Early Childhood Associate**

Developed and implemented strategies to improve the quality and availability of infant and toddler training and content for Office of Head Start Regional Offices. Increased federal staff capacity to support over 600 programs. Co-developed an infant/toddler graduate certificate program at the University of Missouri. Authored first *Early Head Start Tool Kit* providing information and strategies to improve community partnership and implement quality programming for infants and toddlers.

**CHILDREN’S DEFENSE FUND**

**Consultant**

*Washington, D.C., 1998-1999*

Authored *One Church... Ten Families Training Guide* for an innovative partnership between African American judges and local faith communities to support children in the juvenile justice system. Authored the *Latino Freedom Schools Curriculum* supporting the first freedom schools programs in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Facilitated trainings for the Black Community Crusade for Children.

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Research Associate & Graduate Teaching Assistant**

*Manhattan, Kansas, 1996-1999*

Utilized environmental assessment tools in support of quality standards research. Taught *Family Studies Practicum Supervision, Infant and Preschool Child Lab, Administering Early Childhood Education Programs, and Working with Parents*. Special Project: Structured and facilitated an after-school kindergarten program for a local public school.

**US ARMY CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES**

**Child Development Center Director  
& School-Age Services Administrator**

*Schweinfurt, Germany 1994-1996*

Directed an accredited and highly recognized child development program for U.S. Armed Forces Europe. Supervised 40+ early childhood teachers serving ~250 children. Oversaw daily operations including supervision, training, budget management, quality control and adherence to regulatory requirements. Partnered on the development and implementation of developmentally appropriate practices and programming for birth-5 years and school-age services. Provided training to community leaders, family support professionals, and staff on issues affecting children and families. Established a robust parent involvement program, developed welcoming spaces for parents, implemented policies and procedures honoring parent-child connections, and fostered positive parent-teacher relationships throughout the center-based setting. Stood-up one of the first pilot School Age Services programs in Germany; developed policies, protocols and guidelines to support successful implementation.

**EDUCATION AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

**Ph.D. Family Studies**  
*Kansas State University*

**MA, Human Relations**  
*University of Oklahoma*

**Early Childhood Education  
Graduate Coursework**  
*Cameron University*

**BS, Special Education**  
*University of Arizona*

**Non Profit Management Executive  
Certificate**  
*Georgetown University (pending)*

**Certificate in Mediation**  
*Lincoln, Nebraska*