



Cherie Craft, Founding Executive Director, Smart from the Start

Cherie Craft, M.Ed, founding CEO and Executive Director, studied Sociology and Counseling as an undergrad and holds a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Cambridge College. Having grown up in an inner-city housing development, and raising five kids of her own, Cherie possesses a passionate commitment to working tirelessly, to better the lives of under-served children and families.

Ms. Craft gained much of her early professional experience working in the Department of Pediatrics at Boston Medical Center, formerly Boston City Hospital. Ms. Craft was initially recruited as a Family Advocate/Case Worker, was soon after promoted to Community Projects Coordinator, and eventually to Director of the Department's Family Support Program. She went on to hold positions in both the public and private sector, having worked for the US Administration for Children and Families as a training and technical assistance in Region One, and with numerous community-based organizations in urban communities. Ms. Craft is considered an expert in the fields of early childhood education, community organizing, cultural competence, and mental health. She has addressed audiences both nationally and internationally presenting upon a wide range of topics but specializing in research and evidence-based programming.