



7735 Old Georgetown Road  
Suite 1000  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Phone: 240.450.0000  
bainumfdn.org

## **Practice Partner Project Descriptions**

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As part of its five-year, \$10 million commitment to improve early childhood across the District of Columbia, the Bainum Family Foundation has announced funding for six organizations that provide direct services in Wards 7 and 8 to families with infants and toddlers. The following pages contain descriptions of the projects to be supported through these funds.

### ***Contacts***

Ed Walz  
Springboard Partners  
202.374.2024  
ed@springboard.partners

Ann Egan  
Senior Director of Communications  
240.450.0027  
aegan@bainumfdn.org



## **CentroNia**

CentroNia is a community-based early childhood development organization serving low-income, working families in a bilingual, multicultural environment. For 30 years CentroNia has provided direct services to children 0-5 and wraparound services to parents, and advocated for high-quality early childhood education for all children.

In 2014-2015, CentroNia was selected as one of three HUBs to participate in the DC Quality Initiative Network (QIN), providing technical assistance and professional development services to a network of child care centers committed to meeting Early Head Start standards. This work will expand the number of high-quality child care slots throughout the city while supporting families with year-round comprehensive services that support and enrich the early childhood educational experience for children and parents alike.

With the support of the Bainum Family Foundation, CentroNia will simultaneously enhance its capacity to carry out and sustain the work of the HUB and contribute to the expansion and deepening of the work of the QIN, with emphasis on child care centers in Wards 7 and 8. This collaboration with the Foundation and other QIN partners highlights the commitment of all of us to investments that create more accessible and high-quality programs.

### **Contact**

Myrna Peralta, President & CEO

CentroNia

202.332.4200, ext. 1028

[mperalta@centronia.org](mailto:mperalta@centronia.org)



## **Community of Hope, Inc.**

Community of Hope (COH) creates opportunities for low-income families in Washington, D.C., including those experiencing homelessness, to achieve good health, a stable home, family-sustaining income and hope. In its 35-year history, the organization has worked to end homelessness for thousands of families through a range of homelessness programs, including preventing at-risk families from becoming homeless to providing in-home supportive services to formerly chronically homeless families. In our three community health centers, our low-income patients benefit from sick and well visits, robust prenatal care and chronic disease management, as well as dental services, behavioral health care, specialty care and care coordination.

With the support of the Bainum Family Foundation, Community of Hope will build the capacity of COH's early childhood home visiting program, which is focused on infants, toddlers and their families in Wards 7 and 8, in three essential ways. First, we will increase our caseload capacity by 60% by hiring an additional case manager. The case manager will ensure access to care throughout pregnancy, ensure the health of infants and toddlers, and implement Family Support Plans.

We are also working to decrease the stigma around mental wellness services by integrating it into primary care and, through this funding, into the home and eventually early childhood settings. A behavioral health specialist will ensure that families have access to mental wellness services. Many of our families have experienced trauma, depression or anxiety connected with poverty. Toxic stressors such as exposure to violence, housing instability and caregiver mental illness have an impact on the health and learning capacity of children. There are few resources in these neighborhoods.

Finally, both through hiring a data and assessment specialist and through contracted program evaluation, we will ensure that these services are targeting the families that need them most and that the interventions are evaluated regarding their effectiveness.

### **Contact**

Kelly Sweeney McShane, President and CEO  
Community of Hope  
202.407.7747  
[kmcshane@cohdc.org](mailto:kmcshane@cohdc.org)



## **The Early Childhood Innovation Network — Children’s National Health System and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital**

Children’s National and MedStar Georgetown will be collaborating through the Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN) to pilot a model of enhanced support in primary care. The overall goal of this project is to provide wrap-around supports focused on early childhood mental health and parenting support in one to two pediatric primary care clinics in Ward 8, with a focus on children ages 0-5. Through this project, the ECIN plans to:

- 1) Utilize a team-based approach to provide family support, parenting education, intervention and treatment for early childhood mental health and developmental concerns within the pediatric primary care setting
- 2) Build relational competencies in families, focused on infant and toddler attachment
- 3) Increase the capacity of pediatric providers to provide prevention-focused parenting support
- 4) Identify and address perinatal mood and anxiety disorders

We will accomplish this through embedding into primary care a skilled early childhood family support specialist and a family support specialist who has lived experience, to work collaboratively with existing providers and wrap-around support staff. These team members will work with families beginning at birth, building on existing strengths and providing support where needed. This model is based on the experience of Boston’s Project LAUNCH and other evidence-based interventions such as Healthy Steps. The first four to six months of the project will be focused on tailoring this model to our clinical settings and community. We will additionally focus on establishing sustainability through exploring options, and addressing barriers, for billing and reimbursement of services.

### **Contacts**

Matthew Biel, M.D., M.Sc., Division Chief, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital  
202.944.5400  
[mgb33@georgetown.edu](mailto:mgb33@georgetown.edu)

Lee Savio Beers, MD, Medical Director of Municipal and Regional Affairs



Children's National Health System  
202.476.3797  
[Lbeers@childrensnational.org](mailto:Lbeers@childrensnational.org)



## **Mary's Center**

Mary's Center builds better futures through the delivery of health care, education and social support. The Center's social change model, which integrates these three major services with the purpose of saving lives, stabilizing families and strengthening communities, is designed to help all individuals and families address any challenges they are facing to put them on the path toward good health, stable families and economic independence. With the support of the Bainum Family Foundation, Mary's Center will bring its social change model to a cadre of new child development homes in Wards 7 and 8.

Mary's Center's Education Department is deeply involved in the District's early childhood education system through representation on the State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council, serving as the Quality Improvement Network (QIN) Hub for child development homes, as well as leading programs preparing a qualified workforce, assisting providers to meet health and safety standards, supporting provider expansion, and providing home visiting to families. Building on this deep commitment to enhancing the quality and capacity of the early learning system, Bainum Family Foundation funds will enable Mary's Center to:

- Create a pipeline of providers prepared to enter the QIN through business coaching
- Cultivate provider leaders and peer learning communities so that providers may engage in reflective practice, share best practices and resources, and problem-solve together
- Build partnerships to support families through two-direction referral processes between child development homes and home visiting programs

### **Contact**

Maria S. Gomez, RN, MPH, President and CEO

Mary's Center

202.420.7005

[mgomez@maryscenter.org](mailto:mgomez@maryscenter.org)



## **United Planning Organization Office of Early Learning**

In collaboration with the Bainum Family Foundation, United Planning Organization's Office of Early Learning (UPO OEL), will take a holistic approach to build the capacity of child development centers in Washington, D.C.'s Wards 7 and 8 around family engagement and support. UPO OEL work build the capacity of staff to promote developmentally informed practices in early childhood education, when working with a family's ability to set and reach desired goals.

UPO OEL will consolidate two models to accomplish this task. The Early Learning Mentoring and Coaching model combined with the Family Engagement Support Worker model will provide an all-inclusive method to learning for both teaching staff in the classrooms and families using a Strength-Based Family Worker curriculum. This tactical execution will be applied to early childhood learning environments that currently employ the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and Teaching Strategies (TS) Gold.

In greater detail, UPO OEL will perform coaching assessments to drive classroom instruction to improve staff/child classroom interactions. They will also conduct Early Learning Parenting Trainings based on both child and family-needs assessments, administer Early Learning Classroom Engagement Workshops, and facilitate Early Learning Reflection Sessions to evaluate staff, child and family progress based on predetermined program objectives and desired outcomes.

UPO's OEL is one of the District's largest providers of comprehensive support to help prepare infants, toddlers and their families for the "*Ready for School, Ready for Life*" early childhood model.

### **Contacts**

Gail Govoni, Director of Office of Early Learning

United Planning Organization

202.238.4600

[ggovoni@upo.org](mailto:ggovoni@upo.org)

Syrta L. Robinson, Hub Project Manager

United Planning Organization



202.238.4600  
[srobinson@upo.org](mailto:srobinson@upo.org)