

Fran Chasen
Candidate Statement

I have a Master's degree from Pacific Oaks College in Human Development, California ECE/Special Education credentials 0-12, and training in early intervention, special education, social work and early childhood education.

I have had the good fortune to work with a variety of families in Early Intervention programs, Head Start, High Risk Infant follow up, and Child Care. As an Early Interventionist and an Early Childhood Consultant working in both early childhood services and special education, I am able to work in these two areas easily with a knowledge of systems, care needs, resources and, most importantly, with relationships in both fields.

I have had the pleasure of being in a range of positions in the local Southern California AEYC/SCC Chapter: President 2012- 2014, VP Programs 2016-2018; and at the CAAEYC level: Public Policy Chair-Member of State Policy, Chapter Relations & Development, Conference Committees, and Southern California Chapter State Director-current.

Leadership opportunities have enriched my life tremendously. I have been fortunate to share with others similar opportunities by mentoring, coaching, supporting and participating with many people as they step up to speak on behalf of their colleagues, families, etc. Many of these individuals are now working in a range of positions that can influence the quality of services for California families and children.

With the recent "transition" within our organization there has been additional attention given to diversity and inclusion not only at the Chapter level but also at all levels within our organization. Our Chapter represents the diversity of our LA Early Care and Education workforce. Working in the community of individuals with disabilities, I am well aware of the need to be inclusive and how to make accessibility for everyone happen. Individuals need to be included and encouraged to share their stories and messages.

CAAEYC is the professional organization for the Early Childhood workforce. I have supported its mission and values by working on relevant policy issues. I have been a Chair of the Public Policy Committee and, as an active member of the Committee, have looked at ways to support a flow of information on issues whether from sending an Alert, visiting a legislator, organizing the Film Theater, Hot Topic sessions for the State Conference, or being CA Team Leader for the upcoming NAEYC Policy Forum.

It was a tremendous honor to be recognized at the 2018 Honor an Early Childhood Educator event in Pasadena. Such recognition from your peers is always appreciated.

At a Chapter level I have encouraged thinking ahead about relevant trainings, and other events our local members might want to participate in. Our Chapter, therefore has a robust calendar with a range of

activities of interest for a variety of folks, and it has the necessary tools and resources to implement them.

Collaborations are eagerly explored as possibilities to broaden shared expertise and enrich our members. The use of basic tools such as timely planning, use of social media, and a supportive group of individuals with many skills helps these events be successful and worthwhile.

Chapter “transition activities” has raised another focus area: where and how to store our Chapter history, tax records, etc. We are investigating the best way to honor our past and move on from the “boxes” legacy.

My vision for CAAEYC includes a network of strong functioning Chapters and Committees that are meeting the local needs of members who are providing and representing the wide range of services in the field of Early Care and Education. Chapters have the tools and resources needed to be successful with the support from CAAEYC.