OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2025 OHIO CHILD CARE POLICY SUMMIT AGENDA:

Tuesday, April 1st, 2025
Ohio Chamber of Commerce – 34 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

9:00 AM   **Registration & Coffee**

9:30 AM   **Conference Welcome**
Rick Carfagna, SVP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

9:35 AM   Opening Keynote
Unveiling the "Untapped Potential: Ohio" Economic Report

- A debriefing by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation on a study to assess the direct financial impact of insufficient child care coverage on Ohio's economy.

Presentation:

- Aaron Merchen, Senior Director, Policy & Programs, Early Childhood Education, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Sasha Nicholas, Associate Manager, Programs, Early Childhood Education, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Callie Kennel, Principal, Cicero Group

10:20 AM   Break

10:30 AM   ***Early Childhood Workers: Developing the Workforce Behind the Workforce***

Moderator: Lynanne Gutierrez, President & CEO, Groundwork Ohio

- Dr. Chris Angellatta, CEO, Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association
- Dr. Tatiana Wells, Program Director, Early Childhood & Teacher Education, Cuyahoga Community College
- David Smith, Executive Director, Horizon Education Centers

11:15 AM   ***Business Engagement Strategies for Childcare: Money Hiding in Plain Sight***

Moderator: Justin Barnes, VP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

- Joseph O'Hern, Coalition and Campaign Director, First Five Years Fund
- Gary Romano, CEO, Civitas Strategies (virtual)

12:00 PM	Break/Grab Lunches

12:15 PM   **Lunch Panel**
Update on State Budget and Legislative Activity

Moderator: Karen Lampe, President, CWCC Inc.

- State Representative Andrea White
- State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney
- State Representative Mark Johnson

1:00 PM   *Keynote Speaker/Fireside Chat*

- Kara Wente, Director, Ohio Department of Children & Youth
- Rick Carfagna, SVP of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce

1:30 PM   **Closing Remarks**