



nyaeyc

New York Association for the
Education of Young Children

NYAEYC Candidate for Recording Secretary

Mariah King
Member Services Coordinator
Early Care and Learning Council
Albany, NY

1. Please describe briefly your work on behalf of young children, families and early childhood education professionals.

Before joining the Early Care and Learning Council, I had the privilege of working directly with young children as a Pre-K teacher, where I partnered closely with families, caregivers, and parents to support each child's learning, growth, and overall development. In the classroom, I focused not only on academic skills but also on fostering social-emotional growth and creating an inclusive, nurturing environment where every child felt valued. Working alongside families gave me a deep appreciation for the critical role that strong family engagement plays in shaping children's futures and informed my approach to building meaningful, collaborative relationships.

Since joining Early Care and Learning Council, I have earned my Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credentials and expanded my impact by supporting early childhood professionals across the state. I lead trainings on topics such as strengthening supervisory skills, enhancing orientation processes, and fostering effective communication and engagement between teachers and families/caregivers. Through this work, I help educators build the skills and confidence they need to provide high-quality, responsive care, ultimately benefiting both the children and families they serve. Supporting early childhood professionals in this way allows me to contribute to the field on a broader scale while continuing to advocate for the well-being and success of young children.

2. Like all nonprofits NYAEYC benefits from the expertise of its volunteer leaders and board members, please briefly describe the specific strengths and skills you believe you would bring to this position.

In my current role at Early Care and Learning Council, I serve as the Board Coordinator, where I manage scheduling for board meetings, collect and organize essential documentation, and take detailed minutes to ensure accurate records of discussions and decisions. I am highly dependable and consistent, always following through on the duties assigned to me and ensuring that board operations run smoothly and efficiently. To support board members, I have created simplified, easy-to-use documents that provide quick overviews of our organization's bylaws, helping board members stay informed and engaged without feeling overwhelmed by complex materials.

One of my greatest strengths is my ability to communicate clearly and effectively with a wide variety of audiences. As a Member Services Coordinator, I have honed my skills in building relationships, providing guidance, and offering support across our network of early childhood professionals. These experiences have strengthened my organizational abilities, attention to detail, and capacity for managing multiple tasks and priorities simultaneously.

I am confident that my combination of administrative expertise, strong communication skills, and relationship-building abilities make me a great fit for the role of Board Secretary. I take pride in supporting the board's work and ensuring that members have the resources and information they need to make informed decisions. By maintaining accurate records, facilitating smooth communication, and helping create an organized structure, I aim to contribute to the board's effectiveness and overall success.

3. If elected, please describe any specific goals or objectives you would like to achieve.

If I were to join the Board as Secretary, my goal would be to keep everything organized and running smoothly. I'd make sure that meeting minutes are accurate, complete, and shared with board members in a timely way, so everyone stays informed and on the same page. I'd also focus on improving communication by making documents and updates easy to access and understand, creating quick overviews of key materials when needed.

I see my role as helping the board work efficiently, which means coordinating meeting schedules, keeping track of action items, and making sure follow-ups are completed. I'd also like to help foster engagement among board members by supporting new members through onboarding, making sure they have the resources they need, and encouraging open collaboration and discussion.

Finally, I want to contribute to the board's bigger-picture work by participating in conversations, supporting committees or initiatives, and offering insights that could help improve processes or solve challenges. Overall, my goal is to make things easier for the board to focus on its mission while ensuring clear communication, strong organization, and an environment where every member feels informed and involved.

4. What opportunities do you believe there are for New York to better serve children and families, and ensure early childhood educators are well prepared and supported? Please describe what action you would like to see NYAEYC take to help realize these opportunities?

I believe New York has a real opportunity to better support children and families by ensuring that every child has access to high-quality early learning programs, regardless of their background or where they live. Families need more resources, guidance, and support so they feel confident navigating early childhood education and helping their children grow and thrive. At the same time, early childhood educators deserve to feel valued and supported. This includes access to ongoing professional development, mentorship, and fair

compensation that reflects the critical work they do every day. When educators are prepared, supported, and respected, children and families benefit as well.

I would like to see NYAEYC continue to expand opportunities for professional learning, including training programs, mentorship, and peer support networks. Providing practical tools and strategies that help educators strengthen their skills and build meaningful connections with families is also key. Additionally, I hope NYAEYC will continue advocating for policies that increase access to high-quality programs, equitable resources for families, and strong support for educators, including fair pay and benefits. By addressing these areas, we can help build a more equitable, effective early childhood system that benefits children, families, and the professionals who dedicate themselves to their care every day.

5. NYAEYC is committed to working, with our state and national partners, to ensure a diverse, equitable and inclusive early childhood education system. Please describe how you see NYAEYC best contributing to this vision.

I see NYAEYC playing a really important role in building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive early childhood education system by supporting both educators and families. One way is through professional development that not only strengthens teaching skills but also helps educators bring cultural responsiveness, anti-bias practices, and inclusion into their classrooms. When teachers feel prepared and supported, every child benefits and feels seen and valued.

Advocacy is another area where NYAEYC can make a big difference. By promoting policies that expand access to high-quality programs, provide equitable resources for families, and support educators with fair pay and inclusive workplaces, the organization can help make early childhood education better for everyone. NYAEYC can also bring programs and communities together to share ideas, celebrate diversity, and create mentorship opportunities for educators from all backgrounds.

I think by focusing on training, advocacy, and collaboration, NYAEYC can really help shape a system where children, families, and educators feel supported, respected, and included. It's about making sure every child has the opportunity to thrive and that educators have the tools and resources they need to do their best work.