

CONNECT SUMMIT

A G E N D A

JULY 28 & 29 | FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS

Tuesday, July 28

- 8 - 9 AM** **BREAKFAST (PROVIDED), CHECK-IN AND VISIT EXHIBITORS**
ROOM: Cutthroat, Grizzly
- 9 - 9:30 AM** **WELCOME**
ROOM: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa
- 9:30 - 10:45 AM** **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: KAREN LUM, K LUM CONSULTING**
ROOM: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa
- 10:45 - 11 AM** **BREAK**
- 11 AM - 12:30 PM** **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (SEE FOLLOWING PAGE)**
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa, Grizzly
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM** **NETWORKING LUNCH (PROVIDED)**
ROOM: Cutthroat, Grizzly
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM** **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (SEE FOLLOWING PAGE)**
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa, Grizzly
- 2:30 - 2:45 PM** **BREAK**
- 2:45 - 4:15 PM** **GENERAL SESSION: LEAD WHERE YOU LIVE**
TRACY MCINTYRE, MONTANA COUNCIL OF COOPERATIVES
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa
- 4:15 - 5 PM** **BREAK**
- 5 - 7 PM** **NETWORKING & EXHIBITOR SOCIAL - *All are invited!***
ROOMS: Cutthroat, Grizzly

Learn about your presenters!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Tuesday, July 28

11 AM -12:30 PM

From Hire to Inspire: Strengthening Professional Learning Systems

Kimberly Minckler (Child Care Training & Early Childhood Project) - Bitterroot

Not Just Caregivers — CEOs of Montana’s Future

Melanie Sands-Snyder (7Gen Advisory) - Sapphire

Demonstrating Leadership Through Reflection and Self-Assessment

Kalli Decker (Montana State University) - Ponderosa

The Guidance Triad for Leaders

Barbara Otey (Discovery Developmental Center) - Grizzly

11 AM - 5 PM

Professional Development Specialist Track: RBC Training (pre-registration required)

Meadowlark

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Leadership Styles that Support Employee Recruitment & Retention

Kendra Edlin (Zero to Five Montana) - Bitterroot

From Community Action to Systems Change: Lessons from Local Leaders

Shelby Whelan (Zero to Five Montana) - Sapphire

Leading for Quality: How Accreditation Strengthens Early Childhood Leadership

Tiffany Krushensky (Montana Association for the Education of Young Children) - Ponderosa

Early Childhood Advocacy

Alex Dubois (Zero to Five Montana) - Grizzly

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A G E N D A


Wednesday, July 29

- 7 - 8 AM** **BREAKFAST (PROVIDED), CHECK-IN AND VISIT EXHIBITORS**
ROOM: Cutthroat, Grizzly
- 8 - 9:30 AM** **BREAKOUT SESSIONS (SEE FOLLOWING PAGE)**
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa, Grizzly
- 9:30 - 9:45 AM** **BREAK**
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM** **GENERAL SESSION: YOU ARE BUILDERS - HOW CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SHAPE MONTANA'S EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM**
Alex Dubois & Melissa Winger, Zero to Five Montana
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa
- 10:45 - 11 AM** **BREAK**
- 11 AM - 12 PM** **CLOSING SESSION: INSPIRING LEADERSHIP, NURTURING COMMUNITY**
Join us for a fun closing session!
ROOMS: Bitterroot, Sapphire, Ponderosa

Use our event hashtags:

#MTConnectSummit
#ConnectSummit2026

GET SOCIAL!

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Learn about your presenters!



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, July 29

8 - 9:30 AM

Not Just a Paycheck: Building a Workplace Educators Stay for
Jeanette Lemieux (SPARK Montana) - Bitterroot

Babies Pay the Bills: Rethinking Infant - Toddler Care Through a Business Lens
Jason Nitschke (Zero to Five Montana) - Sapphire

Building a HOPE-Informed Community: Transforming Systems from the Inside Out
Ariella Wells (Bitterroot Early Learning Network) - Ponderosa

Expanding Capacity by Partnering with Head Start
Mark Douglass & Karen Filipovich (Montana Head Start) - Grizzly

8 AM - NOON

Professional Development Specialist Track: Adult Learning (pre-registration required)
Meadowlark

Thank You



This project is funded in whole or in part under a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the department.