In the midst of the pandemic, both the essential and precarious nature of child care and early education is on full display. While California has long tolerated a scarcity of resources for child care, the current crisis has brought child care to near collapse and left the majority of its workforce—primarily women of color—without protection of their livelihood or health, let alone sufficient recognition of their contribution to our state’s economic and educational infrastructure. Marcy will share CSCCE’s latest findings about the impact of COVID-19 on the child care industry in California, and how current policies and budget proposals are likely to increase existing disparities in access and quality for children and families, and deepen the early educator staffing crisis.

Established in 1999, the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) is focused on achieving comprehensive public investments that enable the early childhood workforce to deliver high-quality care and education for all children. To achieve this goal, CSCCE conducts research and policy analysis about the characteristics of those who care for and educate young children and examines policy solutions aimed at improving how our nation prepares, supports, and rewards these early educators to ensure young children’s optimal development. CSCCE provides research and expert analysis on topics that include compensation and economic insecurity among early educators, early childhood teacher preparation and access to educational opportunities, work environments, and early childhood workforce data sources and systems. CSCCE also works directly with policymakers and a range of national, state, and local organizations to assess policy proposals and provide technical assistance on implementing sound early care and education workforce policy.

Having begun her professional life as an infant and toddler and preschool teacher, Marcy understands the relationship between appropriate preparation, support, and compensation for early educators and the quality of services for young children. Early in her career, Marcy and a handful of other teachers set out to improve early care and education services by securing rights, raises, and respect for the early childhood workforce. Prior to her current work as the founding director of the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley, Marcy founded the Washington-based Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW), an organization she began in 1977 as the Child Care Employee Project. She earned a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Developmental Studies from the UCLA Graduate School of Education.