

## **Session # 7**

### **Family Engagement in Early Childhood: A Community-Based Parent Empowerment Approach**

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**Jane E. Tewksbury, Executive Director, Thrive in 5  
Boston**

#### Innovation Session Description:

Research documents that when families are engaged in their children's learning and healthy development from birth, children's long term outcomes are improved.

Smart from the Start, Inc., and Thrive in 5 Boston seek to leverage the success of their grassroots community-based work and their unique public/private partnerships to work collaboratively to transform family engagement practices in Boston. The ultimate goal is to use local success from this innovative neighborhood-based parent leadership strategy to advocate for a statewide paradigm shift where parents become the change agents in increasing community capacity to support young children's healthy development, kindergarten readiness, and success in school and beyond.