

Shannon Christian

Shannon Christian is a consultant on early care and education issues as they fit into the broader context of human capital development, social service and work family issues. Previously, as Associate Commissioner for the Child Care Bureau (CCB) in the Administration for Children and Families at the US Dept. of Health and Human Services from 2001-06, Ms. Christian was responsible for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), a \$5 billion+ block grant to States to provide child care subsidies to low-income working families, including parents in welfare-to-work programs. The program funds policy research and technical assistance to states, and provides significant leadership in these areas. During this time, Ms. Christian played a key role in promoting and implementing the President's early learning initiative, *Good Start, Grow Smart*, successfully supporting the development of state early learning guidelines, professional development plans, and collaboration across major early learning programs and funding streams. From 1992 to 1998, Ms. Christian was part of former Governor Tommy Thompson's nationally renowned welfare reform team in Wisconsin, serving first as Director of Planning for the Department of Health and Social Services, and then as Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Workforce Development. Earlier in her career, Ms. Christian held several staff positions at the US Dept. of Labor serving under Secretaries Ann McLaughlin, Elizabeth Dole and Lynn Martin. Prior to her post at HHS, Ms. Christian was a consultant to the Hudson Institute and others in the non-profit and communications fields, working on a variety of child care, welfare reform, responsible fatherhood, distance learning and multimedia projects. She holds an undergraduate degree in Economics and Political Science from CSUC, and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School at Harvard.