

## Rebuilding Childcare in Greater Minnesota

Policy Fellows Alumni Event

July 20, 12 – 1 p.m., Zoom

*Speaker Bios*



**Susan Brower** is the Minnesota State Demographer and directs the MN State Demographic Center. Susan became the State Demographer in February 2012. In that capacity, she travels the state talking with Minnesotans about the new social and economic realities that are brought about by recent demographic shifts. Susan's work applies an understanding of demographic trends to changes in a range of areas including the state's economy and workforce, education, health, immigration and rural population changes.

Susan joined the State Demographic Center after working as a researcher on the Minnesota Compass project at Wilder Research in St. Paul. Prior to that, she worked at the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan.

Susan earned her Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Michigan, specializing in demography and family sociology. She also holds a master's degree in public policy from Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.



**Stephanie Hogenson** is the Policy Director for Minnesota's Children's Cabinet with the Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. In her role she coordinates interagency legislative, programmatic and administrative policy with the 22 agencies in the Children's Cabinet to achieve the Administration's goal of making Minnesota the best place for each and every child to grow up.

Prior to starting with the Children's Cabinet in August 2019, Stephanie was the Outreach and Communications Director at Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota where she directed the Bridge to Benefits and Economic Stability Indicator projects, which are web-based tools to improve access to and policies for public work support programs, tax credits and family economic stability. During her nine-year tenure at CDF-MN, she also served as the Minnesota KIDS COUNT Director and published several reports and issue briefs and oversaw policy development and coalition work mainly in the areas of family economic stability, Minnesota's TANF program, and child care and early education access and affordability.

Prior to her role at CDF-MN Stephanie worked in direct service with people with developmental disabilities and supporting lower income, first-generation students in college enrollment and success.

Stephanie was a 2016-2017 University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs Policy Fellow. She has degrees in Social Work and Print Journalism from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul and lives just outside of Minneapolis with her husband and two young children



**Keri Johnson** is a Policy Fellow Alumni (2019-2020) and a Saint Peter City Councilmember serving in her second year of her first term in office. She has a passion for economic development and seeks creative solutions to tackle childcare, housing, and workforce challenges through her work on the Greater Mankato Growth Regional Economic Development Alliance and as a past member of the Saint Peter Economic Development Authority. Between 2015-2019, she volunteered with the Saint Peter Community Childcare Center (SP3C) and served on both the Executive Board and Parent Fundraising Committee while both her children attended the center.