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I would like to put myself forward to stand as a Trustee of the Board of EECERA for a second term. I bring a strong practitioner perspective to this strong, high-functioning board whose members challenge one another and engage directly on critical issues facing the early childhood education and care. My involvement with EECERA goes back over many years. I have attended the conference from 2000 to the present day. After making a successful bid to host the conference, I was privileged to chair it in Dublin in 2005 with my colleague Philomena Donnelly from St Patrick's Teaching College, Dublin City University. I made another successful bid to bring the conference to Dublin in 2016 partnering Stranmillis University College, a university college of Queen's University Belfast.

The experiences I bring

I work as a consultant with agencies, institutes and privately. Also, I serve on many boards for example:

- Services Committee with Barnardo's Ireland
- CORU - national body - Regulating Health & Social Care Professionals
- Academic Governance Committee with Barnardo's Ireland
- Irish Group Analytic Society
- Member of the Scientist Committee for the Budapest Conference ECCERA 2018
- Member of the Editorial Board and Editor of volume 26 issue 5
- Country Co-ordinator for Ireland

I retired from Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) in 2014. While in this position as CEO, I carried full responsibility for the strategic development of the organisation, working with the staff, board and members. The organisation has 3,300 members, the largest of its kind in Ireland. It represents over 110,000 families around the country through its membership base of crèches, playgroups, parent and toddler groups, after-school and out of school groups as well as individual members.

My strength in building and maintaining strategic stakeholder relationships at international, national and local level has been critical to the growth of the organisation. I have been influential within the sector in Ireland, playing a central role in making early childhood care and education more accessible, quality driven and above all more focused on child well-being, involvement and learning. EECERA has greatly inspired, supported and encouraged me.

Interests

My lifelong goal continues, to ignite passion for life and learning through play. Since completing my studies in Group Analytic Psychotherapy in the School of Psychotherapy at St. Vincent's University Hospital and the School of Medicine, UCD, I have a keen interest in the child as subject in the early childhood education discourse as well as the psychoanalytic one, in particular facilitating groups to promote attunement and bonding between parents, their babies and toddlers.

My early career background was in clinical biochemistry, I worked for over 5 years in a large city general hospital.

As a member of the EECERA Board of Trustees, I would pursue and work towards early childhood research in Europe in the following ways:

As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would undertake to participate in all the Roles and Responsibilities required by EECERA,

- Promote and network on behalf of EECERA
- Share the workload with other Trustees
- Collaborate in the development of strategic, action and administrative initiatives
- Develop more ways to share experience and deepen engagement
- Replicate the offline experience online
- Continue to improve the conference experience, both traditional and online