2023 Voices for Healthy Kids Summit Participants





Knetta Adkins

Organizing Manager

Georgians for a Healthy Future

Monica Aguilar

she/her/ella

Program Manager

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

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Social Media:

Twitter:

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LinkedIn:

Monica Aquilar

Instagram:

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Bio:

Monica Aguilar is the Program Manager for California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, she recently received her MPH from UCLA and has a passion for advocacy and advancing health equity through a reproductive justice lens.

Mayra Alvarez

she/her/ella

President

The Children's Partnership

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Social Media:

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Rio.

Since 2015, Mayra E Alvarez has served as President of The Children's Partnership, a California advocacy organization focused on advancing child heath equity through research, community engagement, and policy.

David Artushin

he/him/his

Advocacy campaign manager

Charleston Hope

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Social Media:

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Bio:

David Artushin is the Advocacy Campaign Manager for the Charleston, South Carolina based nonprofit, Charleston Hope. In this role, he advocates for new policy initiatives that will have a positive impact on children's mental and behavioral health in Charleston public schools.

Bailey Ashbaker

she/her/ella

Senior Policy and Engagement Specialist

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LinkedIn:

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Bio:

Bailey is a passionate advocate for human-centered policymaking and elevating systemic solutions to hunger.

BerThaddaeus Bailey

Managing Director of My Brother's Keeper Tulsa

ImpactTulsa

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Social Media:

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Bio:

BedThaddaeus serves to ensure equitable access to opportunity specifically for Black and brown boys and their families in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Kim Baldwin

VP Community Impact

American Heart Association

Laura Balis

she/her/hers

Research Scientist

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Social Media:

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Laura Balis

Bio:

Dr. Balis' work focuses on supporting the uptake of environment and policy level physical activity and nutrition interventions in community settings.

Leanne Barrett

she/her/hers

Senior Policy Analyst/Campaign Coordinator

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LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/leanne-barrett-996a549/

Bio:

At Rhode Island KIDS COUNT for 18 years, Leanne coordinates the Right from the Start Campaign and the Rhode Island Early Learning Council and has been a leader in developing state laws, policies, and systems to expand access to high-quality child care, Pre-K, Head Start, Early Intervention, family home visiting, maternal and early childhood mental health services, and paid family leave.

Sarah Biehl

she/her/hers

Policy Director

Ohio Mayors Alliance

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Bio:

Sarah Biehl leads policy advocacy work at the Ohio Mayors Alliance, which is a bipartisan coalition of mayors of 30 of the largest cities in Ohio.

Katie Bishop Kendrick

she/her/hers

National Senior Advocacy Consultant

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Bio:

Katie is a National Senior Advocacy Consultant with Voices for Healthy Kids, covering school foods, SNAP, produce prescriptions, and preemption partnerships.

Melissa Boteach

she/her/hers

Vice President, Income Security and Child Care/Early Learning

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LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/melissa-boteach-7a9b378/

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/nationalwomenslawcenter/

Bio:

Melissa Boteach is the Vice President for Income Security and Child Care/Early Learning at National Women's Law Center (NWLC), where she oversees National Women's Law Center's advocacy, policy, and public education strategies to ensure that all women and families have the income and supports they need to thrive.

Andrew Bradley

he/him/his

Policy Director

Prosperity Indiana

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Social Media:

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LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrewgbradley/

Bio:

Andrew Bradley is Policy Director for Prosperity Indiana, the statewide association for community economic development, and serves as Board President for the Indiana Coalition for Human Services.

Kirby Brown

she/her/hers

Executive Assistant

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Bio:

Kirby Brown recently joined the VFHK Team on September 5th as the executive assistant providing administrative support to Lori Fresina and her team.

Shameca Brown

she/her/hers

Director

Harrison Hope

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Social Media:

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Bio:

Shameca K. Brown is a dedicated advocate for mental health and well-being. As the Executive Director of Harrison Hope, she leads the organization's efforts in providing essential mental health education and training to empower individuals and families.

Audra Brulc

Community Initiatives Coordinator **Healthy Minds Policy Initiative**

Eric Bucher

he/him/his

Chief executive officer

Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children

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Bio:

Dr. Eric Bucher works to advance a well-supported, well-compensated early childhood profession as the chief executive officer of the Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children.

Raquel Bueno-Morales

she/her/hers

Natl Senior Advocacy Consultant

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Bio:

Raquel is responsible for providing strategic guidance to policy campaigns on a variety of issues including paid family and medical leave, increasing access to tap water, decreasing sugary drink consumption. She also Co-Leads Voices Equity Cohort work.

Susan Butler-Staub

Policy & Community Engagement Coordinator

North Carolina Early Education Coalition

Laura Coleman

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Media Relations Manager Advocacy

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Social Media:

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Bio:

Laura Coleman is the Advocacy Media Relations Manager for Voices for Healthy Kids who guides and supports grantees on how to strategically cultivate and manage relationships with media representatives in order to advance public policy initiatives.

Christine Compton

National Senior Advocacy Consultant

Voices for Healthy Kids

Jake Cook

he/him/his

Chief Operating Officer

Climb CDC

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Climb CDC

Bio:

Jake has made a positive impact in the communities in which he has served/serves, guiding them towards success.

Crystal Crawford

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Executive Director

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'@western_center

Bio:

A seasoned leader with more than 20 years of senior management experience in the legal, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, Crawford has played a pivotal role in advancing the health and economic security of low-income Californians, women of color and communities of color.

Courtney Cullison

she/her/hers

Director of Policy

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Aubrey D'Angelo

she/her/hers

Advocacy and Communications Coordinator

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Bio:

Aubrey D'Angelo has worked as the Advocacy and Communications Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics for one year, and is passionate about making policy changes to improve children's health and wellbeing!

Christin Davis

Infant Toddler Project Manager

North Carolina Early Education Coalition

Shelly Davis

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Coalition Health Director

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Bio:

Shelly has worked at the Foundation for a Healthy North Dakota for over a year as the Coalition Health Director.

T'erra Estes

she/her/hers

Executive Director

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Social Media:

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T'erra Estes

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Bio:

T'erra Estes is a community and family advocate that collaborates with others to support thriving learning environments and experiences for people to overcome adversity.

Philip Falvo

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Public Policy Director

United Way of Pennsylvania

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Bio:

Phil Falvo is an experienced public policy professional with over eleven years of state government experience and 4 years working in the nonprofit sector.

Luis Figueroa

he/him/él

CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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Bio:

Luis Figueroa joined Every Texan in 2018 as the first Legislative and Policy Director and oversees Every Texanâ \in TMs comprehensive legislative strategy.

Kelly Flaherty

National Vice President, Business Operations

American Heart Association

Barry Ford

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President & CEO

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Bio:

Barry Ford has been with Council for a Strong America for more than 8 years and has been its President and CEO for more than 4 years.

Willie Francois

President

Black Church Center for Justice and Equality

Allyson Frazier

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National Senior Director

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Bio:

Allyson is a National Senior Director with Voices for Healthy Kids and leads an amazing team working on communications, grassroots and training, among many other things!

Lori Fresina

she/her/hers

National VP Executive Director

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Bio:

Lifelong advocate excited to learn and grow alongside Voices for Healthy Kids community.

CJ Gathers

she/her/hers

Program Director

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Nichelle Gilbert

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Bio:

Investing in people, organizing communities, developing strong leaders, and advocating for systemic change.

Nicolle Gonzales

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Founder & Health Policy Director

Changing Woman Initiative

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Bio:

Nicolle Gonzales is the Founder & Health Policy Director for Changing Woman Initiative and is a well known Native American Maternal health activist, nurse midwife, thought leader and systems change advocate.

Cristina Gonzalez

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Implementation and Advocacy Manager

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Lisa Gray

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Lisa Gray

Bio:

Lisa Gray has worked at the BREADA/ Red Stick Farmers Market for 10 years and coordinates weekly farmers markets and is the director of Farm Fresh Kids, a farm to school program.

Andrea Guarnero

Product Development Manager

Voices for Healthy Kids

Saskia Guerrier

Senior Advocacy Officer

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Val Habrock

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Governmental Affairs Director

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Instagram:

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Bio:

I like people, places, and poetry. You'll usually find me at the AR State Capitol or in my kitchen making tiktok recipes.

Joshua Harris

Senior Communications Manager

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Carter Headrick

he/him/his

Director, Advocacy Innovation and Business Advancement

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Bio:

Dad, jazz, basketball, food, travel, and a career focused on driving public policy change that is currently focused on creating innovative and powerful partnerships for the American Heart Association.

Mónica Hurtado

she/her/ella

Policy Director

Voices for Racial Justice

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Bio:

Colombian in Minnesota, who believes our liberation is bound to each other. Auntie of Laura and Maria Jose; wife, daughter, sister and friend.

Debbie Ignacio

National Director of Operations

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Sara Ismail

she/her/hers

Public Policy Associate

ACCESS

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Bio:

Sara Ismail has worked at ACCESS for almost 3-years and leads the state and local policy work.

Yui Iwase

she/her/hers

Associate Grants Administrator

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Yui Iwase is the Associate Grants Administrator for Voices for Healthy Kids and lead for the Innovation, Equity, and Exploration Workgroups.

Sara Jann

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Director of Policy & Advocacy

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Sara Jann is the Director of Policy & Advocacy at Maternity Care Coalition in Philadelphia where she focuses on perinatal health equity and PN-3 economic security.

Lucine Jarrah

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Executive Director

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Bio:

Lucine Jarrah has worked at the Arab American Heritage Council, nonprofit organization based in Flint, MI, for 5 years and currently serves as Executive Director.

Fanta Jatta

Deputy Director

African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs (ABISA)

Shakeizia Jones

Program Manager

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Bio:

Public health professional, policy enthusiast, preemption repealer.

Kelly Ann Larkin

Executive Director

Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children (SAZAEYC)

Stacy Lee

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Bio:

Stacy Lee has over 23 years of experience in policy and advocacy strategy development and collaborates with her colleagues across health, education, and child welfare teams to advance early childhood systems change efforts that eliminate racial disparities in California.

Dale Long

he/him/his

Retired, The City of Dallas

Presenter

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Bio:

Dale Long is a native of Birmingham and a suvivor of the tragic, September 15, 1963 domestic terroroist bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church where four of his friends were killed.

Kira Love

Public Policy Associate

ACCESS

Patricia Lozano

she/her/hers

Executive Director

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LinkedIn:

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Instagram:

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Bio:

Patricia Lozano is the Executive Director of Early Edge California, a champion for children, and an Early Learning expert with over 25 years in the field.

Aracelis Lucero

she/her/hers

Executive Director

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Bio:

South bronx native born to Mexican immigrant parents and current Executive Director of Masa since 2013.

Sarah Mann

she/her/hers

Sr. Policy Analyst

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Bio:

Sarah is a Sr. Policy Analyst on the Voices for Healthy Kids team where she monitors and analyzes state legislation, supports policy development, and manages legal technical assistance.

Luis Mata

he/him/él

Policy Coordinator

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LinkedIn:

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Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/lr_mata

Bio:

Luis Mata is the Policy Coordinator for the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition and assists in moving their campaigns and advocacy efforts forward.

Allen Mattison

he/him/his

Lawyer

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Bio:

Allen is a lawyer who helps nonprofit organizations engage in effective advocacy and address legal questions in all aspects of their organization's lifecycle, from filing tax-exemption applications, to dealing with grants, to handling employee issues.

Josh McCawley

Deputy Director

Teen Health Mississippi

Tracy McDaniel

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Policy Advocate

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Rio

Tracy has worked at Southwest Women's Law Center, leading the state's Paid Family & Medical Leave Coalition for four years.

Shannon Melluzzo

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Senior Grant Administrator

Voices for Healthy Kids

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Bio:

Shannon oversees Voices for Helathy Kids regranting administration, the technical assistance portal and supports tracking progress towards our goals.

Brian Mendes

he/him/his

Director of Adult Education

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Bio:

In his 20+ years at Fifth Avenue Committee Brian Mendes has served as an instructor across all program areas and as the Family Literacy Coordinator, ESOL Coordinator, HSE Coordinator, Associate Director, Deputy Director and is now the new Director of FAC's Adult Education and Family Literacy Program.

Constance Moore

Sr. Food Compliance Officer

YMCA OF MEMPHIS & THE MID-SOUTH

Megan Murray

she/her/hers

Advocacy Fellow

Kids Win Missouri

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Bio:

Megan Murray is new to the Kids Win Missouri team as of April of 2023 and helps facilitate the Childcare Coalition and Alumni Network for their ECE initiative.

Philip Noyes

he/him/his

Senior Policy Analyst

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Bio:

Phil Noyes is a senior policy analyst on the Voices team, he manages the evaluation and polling, and he is interested in developing data resources to support advocacy.

Jackson Oberlink

he/him/his

Legislative Director

Florida For All

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Jackson Oberlink has worked at Florida For All for a year and leads all of the legislative affairs work.

Dan O'Brien

he/him/his

Policy Manager

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Dan also is currently leading Children First's efforts to ensure that working families in Pennsylvania have access to paid family and medical leave.

Nani Oesterle

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Program Officer

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Bio:

Nani Au Oesterle is a Program Office in the Early Childhood Development Initiative at the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Xenia Orona

Co-Executive Director

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Executive Director

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Chef, anthropologist, and anti-hunger advocate who studies the cultural, social, and political causes of hunger.

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Caitlyn is an ambitious maker of change supporting social impact work worldwide.

Bio:

Eric Savaiano is the Food and Nutrition Access Program Manager for Nebraska Appleseed's Economic Justice Program. Over 9 years, he has worked to help individuals and families get the food and nutrition they need to grow and thrive.

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Stephanie Scarmo, Ph.D., M.P.H., is the National Senior Director of Policy Research for Voices for Healthy Kids, where she oversees the policy development, research technical assistance, and evaluation efforts for the initiative.

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My name is Ben Schmauss kids health and wellness is my passion.

Liza Schwartzwald

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Bio:

Liza Schwartzwald is an attorney, social worker, trained mediator and the current Senior Manager of Economic Justice and Family Empowerment at the New York Immigration Coalition, where she directs all early childhood, adult education, workers rights, and economic justice issues.

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Jada Shaffer **Jacob Smith** she/her/hers he/him/his Senior Regional Lead, Government Affairs Advancement and Operations Director American Heart Association Alabama Arise Montgomery, Alabama 36106 Birmingham, Alabama 35209 Jada.shaffer@heart.org jacob@alarise.org 334.233.3674 205.292.7347 Social Media: Bio: Facebook: Over 20 years of advocacy and policy change to improve the lives https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArise/ of Alabamians. Twitter: https://twitter.com/AlabamaArise LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacoblindseysmith/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jacoblsmith/ As Arise's advancement and operations director, Jacob Smith develops growth and operations strategies for the organization while ensuring its work runs smoothly through financial management, fundraising strategy and human resources administration. **Libbie Sonnier Helene Stebbins** Co-Chair she/her/hers Geaux Far Louisiana **Executive Director Alliance for Early Success** Washington, DC, District of Columbia 20027 hstebbins@earlysuccess.org 703.769.2772 Social Media: Twitter: '@helenestebbins '@4earlysuccess LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/helene-stebbins-5a455ba Helene leads the Alliance for Early Success, a 50-state network of organizations working to improve state policies for young children. **Kathy Stohr** Janell Stringfellow Program Officer **AZHSA Board Secretary** Pritzker Children's Initiative Arizona Head Start Association (AZHSA)

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Garin is a staff attorney at the Public Health Law Center where she focuses on advancing health equity and active living.

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Carolina has worked at LSA Family Health Service for almost 3 years, was a client of LSA since she was 2 years old, and now oversees grant implementations and deliverables as a Community Health Director.

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April leads the Voices for Healthy Kids initiative overall development of its culture and practices to center equity, become more anti-racist and redefine partnership with internal and external environments. Responsible for the execution, modeling, and ongoing refinement of strategies across teams to continually embed equity throughout the many services and functions Voices provides.

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