




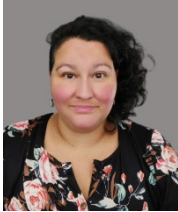






Voices for Healthy Kids 2025 Attendee List

 <p>Alicia Whatley, <i>she/her/hers</i> Senior Policy and Advocacy Director Kentucky Youth Advocates awhatley@kyyouth.org</p> <p>Social Media: KentuckyYouthAdvocates www.linkedin.com/in/alicia-whatley-mssw-878a25287</p> <p>Alicia Whatley is the Senior Policy and Advocacy Director at Kentucky Youth Advocates, leading the statewide Blueprint for Kentucky's Children coalition policy agenda.</p>	 <p>Allen Mattison, <i>he/him/his</i> Lawyer Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold amattison@tristerross.com</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.linkedin.com/in/allen-mattison-law/</p> <p>Allen Mattison helps nonprofit organizations to maximize their advocacy, by understanding strategies to leverage non-lobbying grant funds powerfully.</p>
 <p>Allyson Frazier, <i>she/her/hers</i> National Senior Director Voices for Healthy Kids allyson.frazier@heart.org</p>	 <p>Amilcar Guzman, <i>he/him/his</i> Program Officer J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation</p>
 <p>Amina Spahic, <i>she/her/hers</i> Political Director Florida For All</p>	 <p>Andrea Guarnero, <i>she/her/ella</i> Product Develop Manager Voices for Healthy Kids andrea.guarnero@heart.org</p>
 <p>Angel Tidwell, <i>she/her/hers</i> Program Manager Mississippi Black Women's Roundtable</p>	 <p>Angeline Kitchens, <i>she/her/hers</i> Executive Assistant Voices for Healthy Kids angeline.kitchens@heart.org</p> <p>Angeline "Angie" Kitchens serves as the Executive Assistant to the VP Executive Director of Voices for Healthy Kids.</p>



Annie Yu, *she/her/hers*
Senior Policy Analyst
Voices for Healthy Kids
annie.yu@heart.org

Social Media:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/annieyu16/>

Annie Yu has been with the Voices for Healthy Kids team for almost a year and leads the team's policy research work.



April Wallace, *she/her/hers*
National Director of Strategic Partnerships
Voices for Healthy Kids
april.wallace@heart.org

Social Media:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aprilwallace01/>

April Wallace is a leader with deep experience in advancing health equity through inclusive partnerships, cultivating meaningful relationships, aligning strategy with impact, and fostering culturally respectful collaborations across the childhood health landscape.



Ashlea Christiansen, *she/her/hers*
National Sr. Policy Analyst
Voices for Healthy Kids
ashlea.christiansen@heart.org

Ashlea has worked for the American Heart Association for a few years, and recently started on the Voices for Healthy Kids team as a policy analyst, working on all VFHK issues. She is also a practicing attorney in Kentucky.



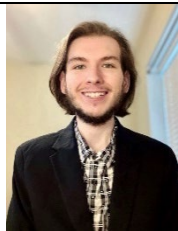
Ben Schmauss, *he/him/his*
Sr. National Consultant
Voices for Healthy Kids
ben.schmauss@heart.org

Social Media:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ben-schmauss>

Ben Schmauss is a dedicated husband, father and advocate who brings heart, humor, and purpose to everything he does.



Beth Bruggeman, *she/her/hers*
Program Coordinator
Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment



Branden Reis, *he/him/his*
Associate Government Relations Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids
branden.reis@heart.org



Brenda Bandy, *she/her/hers*
Executive Director
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org

Social Media:
<https://www.facebook.com/First1000DaysKS>
<https://www.instagram.com/first1000daysks/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/first-1000-days-kansas/>

Brenda Bandy advocates for policies and programs that remove obstacles and help families in Kansas to thrive during the first 1,000 days - from pregnancy to the child's 2nd birthday.



Carmen Byron-Ervin, *she/her/hers*
Impact Program Manager
Georgians for a Healthy Future

Social Media:
<https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFutureGA>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/georgians-for-a-healthy-future>



Carrie Feit, she/her/hers
Senior Attorney
Community Justice Project
carrie@communityjusticeproject.com

Social Media:

www.facebook.com/communityjusticeprojectfls
cjpgmiami
Community Justice Project, Inc.

Carrie Feit is a lawyer for Community Justice Project, a movement lawyering shop in Miami, who focuses on housing justice and leads the eviction defense litigation team.



Chris Candelaria, *he/him/his*
Research Director
ThinkTennessee



Cordel Bostic, *he/him/his*
Communication & Legislative Policy Coordinator
West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition
cbostic@wvfoodandfarm.org


Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaFoodFarmCoalition>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cordel-bostic-36b25174/>

Born and raised in West Virginia, Cordel returned to the Mountain State in 2023 to begin working on policy issues at the intersection of food and agriculture.



Dalizbel Batista, she/her/hers
Associate Grants Administrator
Voices for Healthy Kids
dalizbel.batista@heart.org



Dalizbel Batista-Batchelor is the Associate Grants Administrator for Voices for Healthy Kids. She is learning a lot about the different issue areas and enjoying the opportunities for professional development.




Danielle Patterson
National Senior Advocacy Consultant
Voices for Healthy Kids
Danielle.patterson@heart.org

Danielle Patterson advocates for equitable communities because she wants to live in one!



Darla Senecal, *she/her/hers*
Regional Manager
Building Bright Futures
dsenecal@buildingbrightfutures.org

 Darla Senecal has worked for Building Bright Futures for seven years as a Regional Manager serving Addison, Bennington, and Rutland Counties.



Dawn Montecalvo, *she/her/hers*
President/CEO
Guadalupe Center
dmontecalvo@guadalupecenter.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/guadalupecenter>
https://www.instagram.com/guadalupe_center/
<https://linkedin.com/in/dawn-montecalvo-2251a836>

Dawn Montecalvo is a true visionary and purposeful leader, gracefully balancing the demands of running a nonprofit organization with satisfying the needs of the Immokalee community.











Dev Wakeley, *he/him/his*
Worker Policy Advocate
Alabama Arise
dev.wakeley@gmail.com

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaArise>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/devwakeley/>

Dev Wakeley has worked since 2018 at Alabama Arise as an advocate and analyst covering a broad issue portfolio including workers' rights, criminal justice, transit, housing, capital punishment, fines and fees, voting rights, and predatory lending.

 <p>Emily Moore, <i>she/her/hers</i> Sr. Policy Analyst Voices for Virginia's Children emoore@vakids.org</p> <p>Social Media: www.facebook.com/vakids/ @va_kids www.linkedin.com/in/emoore09875</p> <p>Emily Moore is the Senior Policy Analyst at Voices for Virginia's Children where she leads policy and advocacy campaigns in health equity and family economic security.</p>	 <p>Erica Phung, <i>she/her/hers</i> National Sr. Director - Advocacy Voices for Healthy Kids erica.phung@heart.org</p> <p>As National Sr. Director of Advocacy with Voices for Healthy Kids, Erica Phung is thrilled to connect with communities on PN-3 policy change.</p>
 <p>Erin Macey, <i>she/her/hers</i> Director Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute emacey@incap.org</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.facebook.com/IN.Institute https://www.instagram.com/in.institute https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/indiana-community-action-poverty-institute/?viewAsMember=true</p> <p>Erin Macey is an experienced researcher and coalition builder who enjoys working with others to create broader access to the policymaking process and bring evidence-based ideas to life.</p>	 <p>Gerry Cobb, <i>she/her/hers</i> Director, Pritzker Children's Initiative J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation gcobb@pritzkerfoundation.org</p> <p>Gerry Cobb is Director of the Pritzker Children's Initiative, the national PN-3 initiative focused on building comprehensive, whole child/whole family systems at the state and local level to meet the needs of families with infants and toddlers beginning prenatally.</p>
 <p>Heather Siskind, <i>she/her/hers</i> Consultant The Children's Movement of Florida</p>	 <p>Jasmine Bowles, <i>she/her/hers</i> Executive State Director 9to5 Georgia jasmine@9to5.org</p> <p>Jasmine Bowles is a values-rooted, systems-aware leader from Atlanta, Georgia who blends justice with joy, and whose leadership is both visionary and grounded. She is the Executive State Director at 9to5 Georgia.</p>
 <p>Jasmine Hooper, <i>she/her/hers</i> Manager of Strategic Partnerships Voices for Healthy Kids jasmine.hooper@heart.org</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jasmine-h-938482295</p> <p>Jasmine Hooper leverages her background in advocacy and community engagement to build partnerships that advance equitable health policies for children and families.</p>	 <p>Jennifer Stout, <i>she/her/hers</i> Policy Analyst Voices for Utah Children jennifer@utahchildren.org</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenniferstout815/</p> <p>Jennifer Stout (M.S) is a Policy Analyst for Voices of Utah children where she is advocating for more access to high quality Early Childhood Education Centers.</p>



Jessica Woltjen, *she/her/hers*
Senior Policy Manager for Early Childhood Education
GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students
jwoltjen@gears.org

Social Media:

facebook.com/gears

@gearlyed

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/gears-the-georgia-early-education-alliance-for-ready-students>

Jessica Woltjen serves as the Senior Policy Manager for Early Childhood Education at GEEARS and has a decade of experience working in child policy nonprofits.



Jon Trudgeon, *he/him/his*
Director of Communications
Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness
jtrudgeon@okschoollreadiness.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/OPSReadiness>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/oklahoma-partnership-for-school-readiness/>

Jon Trudgeon has worked for the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) for just over two years and oversees daily communications activities and legislative affairs.



Katie Bishop Kendrick, *she/her/hers*
Senior Advocacy Consultant
Voices for Healthy Kids
katie.bishopkendrick@heart.org

Social Media:

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-bishop-](https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-bishop-kendrick-ms-mph-aa31b62b)

kendrick-ms-mph-aa31b62b

Katie Bishop Kendrick, MS, MPH, is a seasoned public health advocate and nutrition policy expert with over 15 years of experience driving impactful policy change at all levels of government to improve access to healthy food and promote equitable health outcomes



Khulia Pringle, *she/her/hers*
Executive Director
Minnesota Parents United
khuliaprangle@standupmpu.org

Social Media:

Minnesota Parents United



Kristy Ritz, *she/her/hers*
Executive Director
West Virginia Association for Young Children
kritz.wvayc@gmail.com

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/WVAYC>

wvassociationforyoungchildren

Kristy Ritz is the Executive Director of the West Virginia Association for Young Children.



Laura Coleman, *she/her/hers*
Advocacy Media Relations Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids

Social Media:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/laura-coleman/>

Laura Coleman is the Advocacy Media Relations Manager at Voices for Healthy Kids, where she leads strategic communications and media efforts to advance health equity and public policy solutions for children and families.



Leah Cox, *she/her/hers*
Operations Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids
leah.cox@heart.org

Leah Cox is the Operations Manager, working on logistics behind the scenes from Tucson Arizona.



Lee Pao Xiong,
Director
Center for Hmong Studies
xiong@csp.edu

Social Media:

Center for Hmong and East Asian Studies
Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University

Lee Pao Xiong

Lee Pao Xiong is the Founding Director of the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul.



Lena Avalos, *she/her/hers*
Senior Policy Advisor
Arizona Center for Empowerment
lena@empoweraz.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/AZCenterForEmpowerment/>
<https://www.instagram.com/empoweraz/#>

Lena Avalos is the Senior Policy Advisor at the Arizona Center for Empowerment, where she leads economic policy work and the state's economic justice coalition, People First Economy.



Lisa Cushatt, *she/her/hers*
Executive Director
Iowa ACEs 360
lisa.cushatt@aces360.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/iowaaces360>
www.linkedin.com/company/iowa-aces

Lisa Cushatt has been with the ACEs movement in Iowa for over a decade, leading the organization's systems change efforts.



Lori Fresina, *she/her/hers*
National VP, Executive Director
Voices for Healthy Kids
lori.j.fresina@heart.org

Social Media:

[linkedin.com/in/lori-fresina-141a293](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lori-fresina-141a293)



Lori Poag, *she/her/hers*
Associate Comms Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids
lori.poag@heart.org



Maura Devine, *she/her/hers*
National Grassroots Manager, Digital
Voices for Healthy Kids
maura.devine@heart.org

Maura Devine is the National Grassroots Manager, Digital for Voices for Healthy Kids. In this role, Maura leads strategic grassroots initiatives with a focus on equity, developing campaigns and resources to support equitable policy change.



May Roberts, *she/her/hers*
Policy Analyst
Idaho Voices for Children
mroberts@idahovoices.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/IdahoVoicesforChildren>
<https://www.instagram.com/idahovoices/>

May Roberts has worked at Idaho Voices for Children for 3 years and leads the team's tax and education work, and the team's Paid Family and Medical Leave campaign.



Melissa Buffalo, *she/her/hers*
CEO
American Indian Cancer Foundation
mbuffalo@americanindiancancer.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanIndianCancer/'@americanindiancancer>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/americanindiancancerfoundation/posts/?feedView=all>

Melissa Buffalo, a citizen of the Meskwaki Nation, has nearly 20 years of experience advancing public health and equity for Native communities and as CEO of the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF), efforts to reduce cancer disparities and improve outcomes for Tribal Nations and Native communities nationwide.



Melodie Baker, *she/her/hers*
Executive Director
ImpactSTATS Inc.
Melodie@impactstats.org

Social Media:
ImpactSTATS

Dr. Melodie Baker is the Executive Director of ImpactSTATS Inc., leveraging data, research, and storytelling to advance policies that support the well-being of infants and toddlers.



Michelle Sauve, *they/she/siya*
Campaign Organizer
9to5 Georgia



Nicole Donoso, *she/her/ella*
Policy Organizer
Voices for Racial Justice
donoso@voicesforracialjustice.org

Social Media:
<https://www.instagram.com/voices4rj/#>

Nicole Donoso Sanchez (*she/ella*) wakes up every day with the intention to build a society where human dignity and social justice become customary. She was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2019 with a degree in Global Studies with a concentration on Human Rights and Justice in Latin America.



Ogechi Oparah, *she/her/hers*
Georgia Organizing Manager
9to5 Georgia
ogechi@9to5.org

Social Media:
<http://facebook.com/9to5org>

<http://instagram.com/9to5org>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/9to5/>





Ogechi Oparah serves as the Georgia Organizing Manager at 9to5, where she supports the programmatic and operational needs of organizers and members in the areas of family and community sustainability, worker justice, and power building.



Peng Her, *he/him/his*
CEO
The Hmong Institute, Inc
peng.her@thehmonginstitute.org

Social Media:
<https://www.facebook.com/theHmongInstitute>

Peng Her is the CEO of The Hmong Institute empowering community through education, health, and preservation of Hmong heritage.

<p>Petra Morrison, <i>they/she</i> National Senior Advocacy Consultant Voices for Healthy Kids petra.morrison@heart.org</p> <p>Petra Morrison is a National Senior Advocacy Consultant with a strong background in health and social sciences, who supports policy campaigns in preemption and SNAP by integrating environmental and housing justice, public health, and community organizing through a lens of health and disability justice.</p>	 <p>Raquel Bueno-Morales, <i>she/her/hers</i> National Senior Advocacy Consultant Voices for Healthy Kids raquel.bueno-morales@heart.org</p> <p>Raquel Bueno-Morales is responsible for providing strategic guidance to policy campaigns at Voices for Healthy Kids, however when not working you can find her swimming, hiking, wine tasting, and traveling just about anywhere.</p>
 <p>Sarah Froehlke, <i>she/her/hers</i> Early Childhood Policy Analyst Zero to Five Montana sarahf@zerotofive.org</p> <p>Sarah is an Early Childhood Policy Analyst at Zero to Five Montana, a nonpartisan statewide early childhood organization dedicated to advancing early care and education in the state.</p>	 <p>Shannon Melluzzo, <i>she/her/hers</i> Senior Grants Administrator Voices for Healthy Kids shannon.melluzzo@heart.org</p> <p>Shannon is the Senior Grants Administrator for Voices for Healthy Kids, overseeing the regranting strategy, tracking reporting and deliverables, and supporting the team with project management leadership.</p>
 <p>Shelby Pierce, <i>she/her/hers</i> Facilitator Pierce Porter Facilitation shelby@pierceporterfacilitation.com</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.linkedin.com/in/shelby-pierce/</p> <p>Shelby Pierce, owner of Pierce Porter Facilitation, is a Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitator and Trainer who helps groups and organizations create and implement meaningful plans for the future.</p>	 <p>Smita Nadia Hussain, <i>she/her/hers</i> Senior Campaign Director MomsRising nadia@momsrising.org</p> <p>Social Media: facebook.com/MomsRising.org/ instagram.com/MomsRising https://www.linkedin.com/in/snadiahussain/</p> <p>Smita Nadia Hussain is the Senior Campaign Director focusing on National Early Learning at MomsRising. She is a local elected school board member, a mom of 3 somewhat feral children, a crazy cat lady and proud adopted Jersey girl.</p>
 <p>Sunny Lane, <i>she/her/hers</i> Senior Advisor American Heart Association sunny.lane@heart.org</p> <p>Social Media: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sunnylane/</p> <p>Sunny Lane, Senior Advisor in Transformational Philanthropy at the American Heart Association, brings over 15 years experience in high-impact funding and building public-private partnerships, with interdisciplinary expertise in neuroscience, nanoscience, and early childhood development.</p>	 <p>Suzan Gage, <i>she/her/hers</i> Executive Director Early Learning Coalition Of Northwest Florida suzan.gage@elcnwf.org</p> <p>#elcnwf Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida</p> <p>Suzan Gage has worked in early learning for over twenty years and is currently the Executive Director at the Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida.</p>



Tawanna Williams,
Project Coordinator
Voices for Healthy Kids
tawanna.williams@heart.org



Teresa Wrobel, *she/her/hers*
Program Specialist for Policy & Advocacy
Alaska Children's Trust
twrobel@alaskachildrenstrust.org

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/alaskachildrenstrust>
<https://www.instagram.com/alaskachildrenstrust/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/alaska-childrens-trust/posts/?feedView=all>

Teresa Wrobel is a born and raised Alaskan with a background in public and grassroots issue and campaign-based outreach.



Terra Hall, *she/her/hers*
Nation Sr Marketing Communications
Manager
Voices for Healthy Kids
terra.hall@heart.org

Terra Hall is a seasoned communications strategist and mom on a mission to make sure every child has a healthy start in life.



Varnessa McCray, *she/her/hers*
Director, Community Engagement
The Children's Movement of Florida
varnessa.mccray@childrensmovementflorida.org

Social Media:

The Children's Movement of Florida
childmovementfl

Varnessa McCray has worked at The Children's Movement of Florida for 1.5 years and is responsible for implementing and overseeing The Future Project and Florida's Early Learning Roadmap.



Vayong Moua, *he/him/his*
Director of Community Health Advocacy
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN
vayong.moua@bluecrossmn.com

Social Media:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vayong-vaj-zoo-moua-muas-42bb125>

Moua is the Director of Community Health Advocacy and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN.