



***RACEing Forward:
Leading with Equity and Uplifting Parent Voices***

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program
Virtual Annual Grantee Meeting

May 17-18, 2022



2022 CBCAP Grantee Meeting-at-a-Glance



Monday, May 16, 2022 (Pre-Conference Session)

<p>2:00—3:30 pm ET</p> <p><i>*Zoom links will be sent to all registrants</i></p>	<p>CBCAP 101</p> <p>CBCAP Leads who are new to their role have the option of participating in this pre-conference orientation to CBCAP, providing participants with the opportunity to learn more about their role and resources to get better acclimated to their position. The session will include a review of the 2022 New State Lead Manual and an introduction to the Federal Project Officers, FRIENDS TA staff, and FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council.</p> <p><i>Julie Fliss, CBCAP Federal Project Officer; Carolyn Abdullah and MaryJo Alimena Caruso, TTA Coordinators, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP; and Joanne Hodgeman, FRIENDS PAC member (MN)</i></p>
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Tuesday, May 17, 2022 (DAY ONE)

<p>12:45—1:15 pm ET</p>	<p>Poster Session</p> <p>Visit this virtual session to view posters from various CBCAP State Leads, Set-Aside Grantees, FRIENDS PAC, and FRIENDS as they share programs, innovative initiatives, and evaluation findings.</p>		
<p>1:30 –3:00 pm ET</p>	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p><i>Julie Fliss and Elaine Stedt, Children’s Bureau/Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)</i> <i>Valerie Spiva-Collins, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP</i></p> <p>Plenary: What does advancing equity and racial justice look like in practice?</p> <p>In April, the White House released a new webpage: <i>Advancing Equity and Racial Justice Through the Federal Government</i>, https://www.whitehouse.gov/equity/. Equity action plans for federal Departments and agencies are available on this site. But what does advancing equity and racial justice look like for CBCAP Grantees and local programs? Children’s Bureau Associate Commissioner, Aysha E. Schomburg; parent leader, Christina Romero; and University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Dean Alan Dettlaff will share their thinking and ideas, and how they are educating others.</p> <p><i>Associate Commissioner Aysha E. Schomburg, J.D., Children’s Bureau</i> <i>Christina Romero, Parent Leader</i> <i>Alan Dettlaff, Dean of Graduate College of Social Work at University of Houston/UpEND Movement Co-founder</i></p>		
<p>3:00 –3:30 pm ET</p>	<p>Break and Poster Session</p> <p>Visit this virtual session to view posters from various CBCAP State Leads, Set-Aside Grantees, FRIENDS PAC, and FRIENDS as they share programs, innovative initiatives, and evaluation findings.</p>		
<p>3:30 – 4:45 pm ET</p> <p><i>(Each participant chooses one session to attend)</i></p> <p><i>*See session descriptions on page 4</i></p>	<p>Protective Factors in Action from a Multi-Cultural Perspective</p> <p><i>Johanna Thomas, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas; Rochetta Gordon, Maryland Family Network; Melanie Martin, Maryland Family Network; Debbie Comstock, Utah Family Strengthening Network; and Barbara Leavitt, United Way of Utah County, Utah Family Strengthening Network</i></p>	<p>Courts and CAN Prevention: How Non-Traditional Collaborations Can Support Primary and Secondary Prevention</p> <p><i>Susan Roberts and Lori Derrick, Parents and Children Together Family Resource Center (PACT), Alabama; Sarah Abrahams, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services</i></p> <p><i>(Invited Speakers: Dr. Charles E. Elliott and Honorable Charles B. Elliott, Presiding Circuit Judge, Morgan County, Alabama)</i></p>	<p>We’re All in This Together: Innovative Strategies for Engaging Families During Challenging Times</p> <p><i>Dana Powell, Children’s Trust of South Carolina; Michael Cupeles, FRIENDS PAC member (NJ); Leslie Bergeron, State of Vermont Child Development Division; Margot Holmes, Springfield Area Parent Child Center (VT); Donna Bailey, Addison County Parent/Child Center (VT); Valerie Lebanion, FRIENDS PAC member (KY)</i></p>
<p>5:00 – 6:00 pm ET</p>	<p>Virtual Meet and Greet</p> <p>A networking opportunity for all participants to meet and interact with other state leads, federal staff, FRIENDS staff, and parent leaders.</p>		

2022 CBCAP Grantee Meeting-at-a-Glance

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 (DAY TWO)

<p>1:30 – 2:00 pm ET</p>	<p>Re-gathering and Well-being</p> <p>Ms. Gehl will share research on mindfulness and self-compassion related to workplace well-being and lead group virtually through mindfulness exercises.</p> <p><i>Maria Gehl, Director of Mindfulness, Zero to Three</i></p>		
<p>2:15 – 3:15 pm ET <i>(Each participant chooses one session to attend)</i></p> <p><i>*See session descriptions on page 5</i></p>	<p>The Courage to Get Uncomfortable: Why It’s So Difficult to Talk About Racism and Bias</p> <p><i>Jill Wener, MD, Conscious Anti-Racism, LLC</i></p>	<p>Tools for CBCAP: Collaboration Toolkit and Cost Analysis Guidance</p> <p><i>Jessica Sprague-Jones, University of Kansas, Center for Public Partnerships and Research</i></p>	<p>Culturally Effective Organizations: A 7-part Framework, Training, Resources, and Other Supports Developed by FRIENDS for CBCAP and CAN Organizations</p> <p><i>Maria Doyle, FRIENDS Consultant and Carolyn Abdullah, FRIENDS TA Coordinator</i></p>
<p>3:30 – 4:30 pm ET</p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Plenary: <i>Creating Culturally Safe Places for Indigenous Populations</i></p> <p>A timeline of history from an Indigenous perspective focusing on how historical and intergenerational trauma continue to impact American Indian communities today. The presentation includes research from Native American scholars and how to utilize a historical context to alleviate barriers and support healing from a holistic approach. Includes knowledge on creating culturally safe spaces while highlighting the complexity of identity and activating resiliency skills for future success.</p> <p><i>Turquoise Devereaux, MSW, Coordinator, Office of American Indian Projects, School of Social Work, Arizona State University and Co-owner, Indigenous Community Collaborative</i></p> <p>Closing Remarks</p> <p><i>Julie Fliss, Children’s Bureau/OCAN</i></p>		

Day 1 Session Descriptions

Tuesday, May 17th: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm ET

Panel Discussion on Racial Equity, Prevention, and the Child Welfare System—What Can CBCAP Grantees Do to Advance This Work?

In April, the White House: *Advancing Equity and Racial Justice Through the Federal Government*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/equity/>. Equity action plans for federal Departments and agencies are available on this site. But what does advancing equity and racial justice look like for CBCAP Grantees and local programs? Children’s Bureau Associate Commissioner, Aysha E. Schomburg; parent leader, Christina Romero; and University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work Dean, Alan Dettlaff, will share their thinking and ideas, and how they are educating others.

Associate Commissioner Aysha Schomburg, J.D., Children’s Bureau; Christina Romero, Parent Leader; Dean Alan Dettlaff, Dean of Graduate College of Social Work at University of Houston/UpEND Movement Co-founder

Tuesday, May 17th: 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm ET

Protective Factors in Action from a Multi-Cultural Perspective

Join presenters from Maryland, Utah, and the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas for this engaging session to learn more about Protective Factors in action in diverse communities, rural, and tribal settings. Get to know how states have utilized their networks to implement the Protective Factors and how they have elevated parent voice and community culture in their work. Gain insights and hear specific examples of program activities and community engagement approaches to strengthen families.

Johanna Thomas, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas; Rochetta Gordon, Maryland Family Network; Melanie Martin, Maryland Family Network; Debbie Comstock, Utah Family Strengthening Network; and Barbara Leavitt, United Way of Utah County, Utah Family Strengthening Network

Courts and CAN Prevention: How Non-Traditional Collaborations Can Support Primary and Secondary Prevention

Join us to learn more about projects in Texas and Alabama that partner prevention work with court

systems. Texas will outline its use of Early Intervention Court Liaisons to better connect and inform families of services available in three Texas counties. The liaisons bring a judicial and legal voice to local community collaborations around family support prevention work. In Alabama, a local family resource center, Parents and Children Together (PACT) works with the Morgan County Drug Court to provide case management and education services to participants. PACT is part of a systems change that focuses on wellness and health promotion for participants. PACT is able to provide education and resources to participants that strengthen the family unit in the midst of the existing trauma. PACT uses trauma-informed programming to reduce the risk factors for individuals dealing with the consequences of their addiction.

Susan Roberts and Lori Derrick, Parents and Children Together Family Resource Center (PACT), Alabama; Sarah Abrahams, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

(Invited Speakers: Dr. Charles E. Elliott and Honorable Charles B. Elliott, Presiding Circuit Judge, Morgan County, AL)

We’re All In this Together: Innovative Strategies for Engaging Families during Challenging Times

This session will explore how CBCAP funded programs utilize unique approaches to successfully engage with parents during difficult circumstances. While COVID impacted service delivery during the pandemic, many CBCAP programs face frequent and ongoing challenges to support families effectively. Parents and practitioners representing KY, VT, SC, and NJ will share activities, resources, and learnings from their efforts to engage hard to reach populations, ensure programs reach into extremely rural communities and serve families in ways that give the parents agency and provide opportunities for them to thrive.

Dana Powell, Children’s Trust of South Carolina; Michael Cupeles, FRIENDS PAC member (NJ); Leslie Bergeron, State of Vermont Child Development Division; Margot Holmes, Springfield Area Parent Child Center (VT); Donna Bailey, Addison County Parent/Child Center (VT); Valerie Lebanion, FRIENDS PAC member (KY)

Day 2 Session Descriptions

Wednesday, May 18th: 1:30 pm -2:00 pm ET

Re-Gathering and Well-Being

Ms. Gehl will share research on mindfulness and self-compassion related to workplace well-being and lead group virtually through mindfulness exercises.

Maria Gehl, Director of Mindfulness, Zero to Three

Wednesday, May 18th: 2:15 pm -3:15 pm ET

The Courage to Get Uncomfortable: Why It's So Difficult to Talk About Racism and Bias

It's not always obvious how racism and bias show up in your life and your organization. More than just racial insults and blatant discrimination, racism and bias are baked into the culture and institutions of our society. Culture, by its very nature, often goes unspoken, unwritten, and unnamed. However, if we don't recognize it, we can't understand its impact on our thoughts, behaviors, and organizations, and most importantly, we can't dismantle it.

This breakout session discusses the concept of 'dominant culture' and some insidious ways that it shows up in the workplace. It identifies the 'right to comfort' as an impediment to progress in DEI work, it addresses the importance of recognizing and leaning into that discomfort as it comes up, and it teaches practical tools that help attendees begin to do the uncomfortable work of dismantling racism and bias.

Jill Wener, MD, Conscious Anti-Racism, LLC

Tools for CBCAP: Collaboration Toolkit and Cost Analysis Guidance

FRIENDS has developed several tools designed to flexibly support the diverse needs of CBCAP grantees. This session will introduce two such tools, which are available on the FRIENDS website: the FRIENDS Collaboration Toolkit (<https://friendsnrc.org/friends-resources/collaboration-toolkit/>), and tools to support cost analysis (<https://friendsnrc.org/evaluation/cost-analysis/>). This session will discuss attendees' interest and needs for support, in collaboration and cost analysis, respectively. An overview of these resources will be provided, what you can expect to find in each,

and how they might be used to support your programs.

Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research

A Framework for Culturally Effective Organizations

CBCAP Leads and other child and family serving organizations strive to ensure everyone has equal opportunity to thrive by providing high quality services that are accessible to all – yet achieving this can be challenging. Many of us have simply not had access to an effective approach that would turn our goals into broader success. The Culturally Effective Organizations (CEOrgs) Framework is a roadmap that enables, cultivates, and supports the delivery of high-quality services for all people. Originally developed for healthcare organizations, the framework was adapted by FRIENDS National Center, working with one of the developers of the original framework, to maximize its relevance and applicability. Join us for a brief overview of the framework and to learn about some resources and tools available to help SLA's and grantees implement it.

Maria Doyle, FRIENDS' Consultant and Carolyn Abdullah, FRIENDS' TA Coordinator

Wednesday, May 18th: 3:30 pm -4:30 pm ET

Creating Culturally Safe Places for Indigenous Populations

A timeline of history from an Indigenous perspective focusing on how historical and intergenerational trauma continue to impact American Indian communities today. The presentation includes research from Native American scholars and how to utilize a historical context to alleviate barriers and support healing from a holistic approach. Includes knowledge on creating culturally safe spaces while highlighting the complexity of identity and activating resiliency skills for future success.

Turquoise Devereaux, MSW, Coordinator, Office of American Indian Projects, School of Social Work, Arizona State University and Co-owner, Indigenous Community Collaborative

General Information

Meeting Platform

The 2022 Virtual CBCAP Grantee Meeting will be using the Whova platform. You will access all sessions and related CBCAP Grantee Meeting information via this platform. The link to access the platform will be sent out by May 11, 2022. If you have not received the link, please check your spam/junk/clutter folder. Otherwise, please contact Jennifer Gillissen at jennifer.gillissen@kauffmaninc.com. The email will also include an attendee guide that will explain how to use the platform and where information is located.

Poster Session

Please visit the “Poster” tab on the virtual platform during the Poster Sessions on **May 17th from 12:45-1:15 pm ET and from 3:00 – 3:30 pm ET**. Posters will be available for viewing a week prior to the meeting. There are many posters on exhibit by your fellow state programs, the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council, and more. The posters included are:

- ◆ Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs (CBCAP) in Alabama: A Study of Program Outcomes (AL)
- ◆ Reimagining Prevention (CA)
- ◆ The Development of the CBCAP Logic Models for Evaluation-District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) (DC)
- ◆ Culturally Effective Organizations Framework (FRIENDS)
- ◆ Empowering Parent Leadership Through the FRIENDS National Parent Advisory Council (FRIENDS PAC)
- ◆ National Parent Leadership Month: Celebrating the Importance and Contributions of Parent Leaders (FRIENDS PAC)
- ◆ Supportive Communities, Resilient Families, Thriving Children: Indiana's Framework for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (IN)
- ◆ The Journey of Building the South Carolina Family Resource Center Network (SC)
- ◆ CBCAP and Texas, 2022 Update: Innovations for Prevention Programs in Texas (TX)
- ◆ Shifting from Child Welfare to Child Wellbeing (WY)
- ◆ "Los Ninos Bien Educados" Program (Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic)

Meet and Greet

Grab a snack and beverage and join us for a virtual Meet and Greet on **May 17th from 5:00 – 6:00pm ET** for a chance to network with your CBCAP peers, FRIENDS staff, FRIENDS PAC members, and Federal staff. You can access this event thru this Zoom link: <https://friendsnrc.zoom.us/j/83762031892?pwd=OVVBSjJiSUpDK0hCZ0lBNzhtRGpjQT09>

Evaluation Reminders

Please click on the “Survey” tab on the virtual platform (or on the QR code on the front of your packet) to complete the evaluation for each day of the CBCAP Grantee Meeting. Your input is imperative to the content and design of next year’s CBCAP Grantee Meeting.

Keynote Speaker Bios



Alan J. Dettlaff is Dean of the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston and the inaugural Maconda Brown O'Connor Endowed Dean's Chair. Prior to entering academia, Dean Dettlaff worked in the child

welfare system as a caseworker and an administrator. He received his bachelor's degree in social work from TCU, and master's in social work and PhD from the University of Texas at Arlington. Dean Dettlaff's work focuses on addressing and eliminating the impacts of structural and institutional racism on Black children and other children of color impacted by child welfare system intervention. He is co-founder of the upEND Movement, a collaborative movement that seeks to end the involuntary separation of children from their parents through abolition of foster care and the child welfare system.



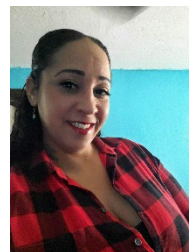
Turquoise Skye Devereaux (she/her/hers), MSW, is part of the Salish and Blackfoot tribes of Montana. She works with organizations and institutions on resiliency, diversity, equity, inclusion, and trauma-informed

approaches to support Indigenous identity revitalization in rural and urban settings. Turquoise has worked in many intersectional capacities to ensure culturally safe spaces for marginalized populations in educational and community settings at local, state and regional levels. Turquoise was the recipient of the Montana Indian Education Association's American Indian Support Staff of the Year Award in 2017. She earned her Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Montana and her Master of Social Work at Arizona State University with a focus in policy, administration and community organizing. Turquoise is the Lead Consultant of IndigenousCC, the founder of Indigenous Skye, LLC and is the Project Coordinator at the Office of American Indian Projects in the ASU School of Social Work.



Maria J. Gehl, MSW is deeply committed to and passionate about supporting relationships, especially the earliest ones, with a spirit of nurturing and inquiry. In her current role, she does this through directing the

Mindfulness in Early Childhood Project at ZERO TO THREE. Her current work focuses on increasing understanding and use of mindfulness and compassion in early childhood settings and parenting. As a trained meditation instructor, Maria supports others in discovering creative ways to integrate mindfulness in their parenting, relationships, and work. In previous roles at ZERO TO THREE, Maria has provided leadership to two national home visiting technical assistance centers. Prior to joining ZTT in 2011, Maria developed extensive experience consulting, coaching, and training on reflective practice, evidence-based program implementation and early childhood system development in Washington State.



Christina Romero is a founding member and Parent Leader of the Family Engagement Advocacy Council. She is a mother of 4 children and a grandmother of 2. Ms. Romero also raised her sister's three children. She put herself

through Culinary School and graduated with an associate degree in science.

Ms. Romero has lived experience dealing with the Child Welfare System, some good and some not so good. From that experience, she promised herself that she would do anything to help other families going through similar situations. Ms. Romero's goal is to help them navigate the system a little easier with her knowledge.

Through her lived experience, she received an excellent opportunity to become a Family Engagement Advocacy Council member. This opportunity

Keynote Speaker Bios

has led to other doors opening and giving her a voice to advocate.

She has also joined the Racial Equity Workgroup, the Birth Parent National Network, the People of Color Caucus, the Statewide Parent Advisory Board, the Birth Parent Advisory Committee, and was nominated and appointed a chair of the Racial Equity Task Force in Broward County.

She believes every voice counts, so she decided to use hers to help make a difference in the community. Ms. Romero would like to influence the necessary changes to our Child Welfare System and end racial injustice. Also, she'd like to see families strengthened and supported and not separated unnecessarily. As a member of the FEAC, Ms. Romero wants to advocate for funding to remain with the families who need assistance and concrete support rather than funding a broken system.

There is still a lot to learn and still a lot of work to do. Ms. Romero is willing to do whatever it takes to be a part of the solution and help make those changes. We can have a better future for generations to come if we choose to become a champion for change.



Aysha E. Schomburg, J.D., is the associate commissioner in the Children’s Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, located within the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services. As associate commissioner she heads the Children’s Bureau.

Schomburg joined the Biden Administration in March 2021 after serving as the senior administrator for program oversight for New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS). There she worked collaboratively with agency leaders to develop and implement plans for the operational infrastructure of ACS, while also developing and coordinating comprehensive organizational capacity-building

strategies across programs. In addition, during the COVID-19 public health crisis, she worked closely with New York City’s Department of Education and Department of Homeless Services to create and coordinate guidance for frontline staff. She also worked with the New York City mayor’s office to coordinate a platform for listening to nonprofits and social services agencies regarding COVID-19 challenges and proposed solutions. She provided counsel to New York City’s Office of Equity Strategies regarding implementation of the ACS race equity plan and has provided recommendations to the agency on how to tackle inequities and racism in child welfare. In 2019, she was awarded the ACS Distinguished Service Award for “Assisting Children Separated from their Families at the Border.”

Prior to joining ACS, Schomburg held a number of key leadership positions with the New York City Council, including assistant deputy director. Under this title, she managed legislative activities of 13 committees in the human services division and provided legal counsel to the speaker and council members. Prior to that she served as senior counsel, and counsel to the Committee on Education.

Schomburg began her career at ACS as the director of parent recruitment where she focused on supporting foster and prospective adoptive parents. She also served as the director of youth development initiatives for the agency, where she developed a number of critical programs including pioneering the implementation of the nurse family partnership program for parenting youth, and the preparing youth for adulthood plan.

Associate Commissioner Schomburg, who has bar admissions in both the states of New York and New Jersey, received her B.A. from the University of Virginia, her M.A. from New York University and her J.D. from New York Law School.

Speaker Bios



Carolyn Abdullah is a Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator for the FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP where she provides technical support and training to CBCAP State Leads. Carolyn has over 25 years of experience working on issues related to children, youth, and families. Prior to joining FRIENDS she held positions at Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and the DC Children's Trust Fund. She has experience working with parent leaders to expand and advance meaningful roles for parents in family strengthening programs. This includes working in partnership with parents and practitioners to host guided community conversations where participants share their knowledge and experiences as they create strategies to improve the lives of children, families and communities.



Sarah Abrahams currently serves as the Deputy Chief Officer for Prevention and Early Intervention at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services where she oversees systems efforts and program initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for Texas children and families. She led the Home Visiting and Early Childhood work at the Texas Health and Human Services Commission as the Director of the Office of Health Coordination and Consumer Services, managing cross-systems programs and policy coordination efforts with a focus on children and families. Before joining HHSC, Sarah was a Systems Improvement Analyst with Casey Family Programs, providing strategic planning, implementation support, technical assistance, and policy analysis for systems improvement work targeting child welfare practices on national, state and local levels. Sarah has 15 years of nonprofit project management and program development experience, has worked as the Program Development Director for a statewide parent education and support agency, and as a Development Associate for a statewide nonprofit

focused on women's health and economic wellness. Sarah holds a master's in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.



Donna Bailey is the Director of the Addison County Parent/Child Center in Middlebury, Vermont and has been since 2000. She has worked at the Center since 1998. Donna earned her bachelor's degree and M.Ed. at the University of Vermont and has worked as an educator and in human services in Vermont for three decades. Donna is a passionate advocate for children and families and is committed to societal change regarding issues of class, race, gender and justice in our world. She is a parent of an amazing actor and of an amazing 10-year-old. Donna lives in Bristol, Vermont.



Leslie Bergeron is the Policy and Process Administrator for the State of Vermont Child Development Division, and program manager for our CBCAP grant agreements. Leslie is new to the role since joining the Child Development Division in November 2021. Prior to working with CDD, Leslie was part of the Reach Up department, Vermont's TANF Program for 8 years.



Debbie Comstock's experience in the Family Strengthening and Support Field spans over 28 years and across two States. Her experiences include serving as a director of a community-based family resource center in San Diego, CA. There in that setting she was able to combine in home case management with the Family Strengthening approach. Debbie is a Certified Trainer on the evidence informed 5 Protective Factors. She has been able to currently focus her efforts through multidisciplinary teams as a primary prevention strategy for domestic violence, child abuse, mental health, and school-based challenges with students and their families. The 5 Protective Factors became a model in an FRC in

Speaker Bios

the Davis Community Learning Center, in the Davis County Utah School District.

Debbie is also a Trainer with the National Family Support Network on the Standards of Family Support Practice. Supporting this framework within State Networks, has allowed greater support to implement the 5 Protective Factors for all families.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Debbie has a private practice where she specializes in trauma treatment and promotion of trauma informed guidelines of practice.



Michael Cupeles is a champion of early childhood education, paternity, family, and community. Michael focuses on Fatherhood and is Nationally Certified through F&FCA and NFI. As an ordained minister and

chaplain, his passion is to stand up for human rights. Michael is the coordinator of the men's initiative at Gateway Community Action Partnership Early Head Start & Head Start and Chairman of the AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents Advisory Committee. He serves on school boards and is a board member of the New Jersey Local Selective Service System Region 1, and a member of the New Jersey Department of Children & Family, Office of Family Voice Fatherhood Engagement Committee acting as a Liaison to the New Jersey Head Start Association. Michael is also the VP/Chief Strategy Planning and Development Officer for Latino X Radio, a non-profit in New Jersey. His heart and passion is to see community grow as we walk together through the human experience that we like to call life.



Lori Derrick is a Program Manager at Parents and Children Together Family Resource Center (PACT) in Decatur Alabama. PACT's mission is to prevent child abuse and strengthen families. Mrs. Derrick began her affiliation with PACT as a

volunteer in 1996, while staying home with her two young boys. In 2002 she began working at PACT as a program facilitator and supervisor for the school-based programs. She has taught parenting classes,

Baby Talk classes, and supervised the Parents as Teachers program, the school-based Family Assistance Program, and the Community Education program. Mrs. Derrick and her husband are currently enjoying their new roles as grandparents.



Maria Doyle (she/her) has been consulting with FRIENDS National Center since 2018. Maria spends the rest of her work life working for NH CBCAP State Lead, NH Children's Trust. As part of her work with the Trust, she is pleased

to serve on the [NH Equity Collective Culturally Effective Organizations Workgroup](#) which works to promote and support the implementation of the CEOrgs Framework. She coordinated the FRIENDS' effort to adapt the framework for CBCAP leads and other child and family serving agencies. She's looking forward to her favorite pastimes sitting on her deck with her wife overlooking the lake and kayaking with Skye, her COVID rescue pup.



Julie Fliss, MSW, is a Child Welfare Program Specialist with the Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect and a national expert on child abuse prevention. She has over twenty years of experience in the field of child

welfare at the local, state, and federal levels, specifically in the areas of community-based prevention, child protection, continuous quality improvement, and family-centered practice. Her current portfolio includes oversight of and support to initiatives related to community-based child abuse prevention, children and families involved with child welfare and experiencing domestic violence, adverse childhood experiences, and support for Native American/Alaskan Native populations impacted by violence.

Speaker Bios



Rochetta Gordon, MSW, has over 20 years of experience in providing comprehensive training opportunities, support, as well as services to families, targeting parents and their children from birth through adolescence age. Mrs. Gordons’

interest lies in supporting early childhood professionals as they navigate emotional, intellectual, developmental, and educational challenges both in the community, classroom and in the home. Her experience in Family Support Centers and Early Head Start has helped her to lead the charge in transforming professional development opportunities to professionals statewide.



Margot Holmes is the Executive Director for the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. She has a BA in Psychology and a MS in Nonprofit Management from Northeastern University. Margot has worked with

children and families in many roles over the last 10 years including teaching American Sign Language, providing developmental and behavioral supports to young children, and coaching with families whose children are placed in foster care. Margot believes in the valuable role of nonprofit organizations to bring people together and to offer responsive, community-based support to everyone regardless of need. Margot enjoys horseback riding with her daughter, listening to her son play music, and watching her youngest son play hockey – all the things they love best!



Barbara Leavitt has worked within the United Way of Utah County overseeing several programs including a home visitation program manned with volunteers, the Help Me Grow system statewide in Utah, majority of internal programs offered

through United Way and worked with the initial Leadership Team for the statewide implementation

of Strengthening Families Framework: Five Protective Factors. She has also worked within the early childhood area to build regional and state systems that support parents. She has worked with a targeted community to implement a partnership that focuses on outcomes of young children and their families. She continues to oversee several programs within the United Way of Utah County as VP of Community Impact. Her oversight includes leadership training and mentoring, grant acquisition, policy development and collaborative partnerships across programming. She has trained nationally with the Strengthening Families Framework Training Team through the National Alliance of Children’s Trust and Prevention Funds and supported the national HMG Team in advising states that are in the process of implementing a Help Me Grow. She developed a parent engagement tool that has been disseminated across the Help Me Grow national affiliates. Barbara is also a Trainer on the National Family Support Standards of Practice.

Her unique skill sets of a business owner, community volunteer and organizer and public administrator have proven to be instrumental in building collaborative teams to meet the needs of communities, families, and children.



Valerie Lebanion has been an advocate for children since her first child started school 28 years ago and she hasn’t stopped yet. She has earned her master’s degree in Mental Health Counseling and serves

as the Kentucky State Parent Leader for Community Collaboration for Children. Valerie has served with Parents Anonymous as a Parent Group Facilitator and currently is working as a certified Nurturing Parenting instructor. Valerie serves on the state Child and Family Services Plan Continuous Quality Improvement Committee. Valerie lives in Corbin, Kentucky. She is the mother of six children, grandmother of three beautiful children, and has been happily married for 30 years.

Speaker Bios



Melanie Martin, a Social Worker by profession, has worked extensively in the field of maternal and child health and family support. Her primary focus has been working with adolescent and young adult parents and their children promoting healthy outcomes for both. Her philosophy is to plant seeds, to empower families with the tools and information needed enabling them to make decisions that will enrich their lives creating a path towards self-sufficiency and self-determination. Advocacy and leadership development are aspects of her work for which she is most proud. Currently she serves as the Family Support Network Director at Maryland Family Network, overseeing the Network of Family Support Centers and supporting the program staff who provide training and technical assistance to the staff. In her personal life, Ms. Martin is a wife, mother of two adult children, and the proud grandmother of a four-year old--bringing her life full circle.



Dana Powell works at Children's Trust of South Carolina to make sure all community members have the information they need to strengthen protective factors for children and families. She serves as the lead trainer for early childhood development and the responding to abuse and neglect trainings as well as the developer and trainer on middle childhood development. Dana is also an adverse childhood experiences (ACE) master trainer and one of the leads teaching new ACE master trainers.

In addition, Dana serves as a coach for Empower Oconee – a community initiative using the Empower Action Model to promote protective factors and prevent ACEs. She also works to ensure parents have an equal voice in areas that impact children and families. She has served on the Child Well-Being Coalition and Home Visiting Consortium and is a project lead for the Building Hope for Children Conference.

Prior to joining Children's Trust, she worked with the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for nearly 10 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in

English and secondary education from Carson-Newman University and a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina. Dana is a certified speaker, trainer, and coach with the John Maxwell Team.



Susan Roberts is the Executive Director of Parents and Children Together Family Resource Center (PACT) in Decatur, Alabama. PACT works to prevent child abuse by providing various education programs. Prior to serving as Executive Director, Mrs. Roberts managed various programs at PACT: Parents as Teachers home visitation, school-based family assistance, and parenting. Prior to her work at PACT, Mrs. Roberts worked with family preservation programs in both Alabama and Tennessee providing training and consultant services. Mrs. Roberts and her husband enjoy spending time with their family, especially their two grandchildren.



Jessica Sprague-Jones, PhD, is an Assistant Director at the Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas. She has partnered with FRIENDS for over eight years to develop tools and resources to support the evaluation of child maltreatment prevention programs, including the Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2), and tools to conduct cost analysis.



Memwe Wapum, my name is Watheepakahthoqua and my English name is **Johanna Thomas**. I am a member of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas. I am a mother of 7 and I work for my tribe as Vice Chairman and Program Director of CBCAP. I was born and raised in Pyramid Lake Nevada and now reside in Horton Kansas on the Kickapoo Reservation. I attended DQU in Davis California and Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence Kansas. Some hobbies of mine include beading and moccasin making along with cooking for my family and friends.

Speaker Bios



Jill Wener, MD is a board-certified Internist, expert in physician wellness, anti-racism educator, and allyship coach. She is passionate about helping people take responsibility for their problems and

teaching them practical, easy, rewarding tools to take self-improvement to the next level. Jill employs meditation, mindfulness, and the evidence-based technique of Tapping, (also known as the Emotional Freedom Technique) in the arsenal of powerful tools that help her clients manage stress, improve their physical and emotional health, and explore the ways that their mindset and self-limiting beliefs create their own reality.

Jill has published [several articles on KevinMD](#), led CME-accredited physician wellness programs around the country, and lectured at the national level on stress and the benefits of meditation and tapping. She has been interviewed on [multiple TV and radio shows](#) as well as podcasts.

Jill is the co-creator of the CME- and SHRM-accredited Conscious Anti-Racism training program, in which she (along with her business partner Dr. Maiysha Clairborne) combines her insights on her own anti-racism journey with her mind-body expertise and her 10 years of experience practicing medicine. They have worked with clients both in healthcare and corporate, such as the Pittsburgh Business Group on Health, Atkins Global, and the National Alliance for Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. Jill is a facilitator for the ACGME's 'Equity Matters' program, the host of the [Conscious Anti-Racism podcast](#), and the author of the best-selling [Conscious Anti-Racism](#) book with Dr. Clairborne.

