



## ECMH 2017 Speaker Bios – *Alphabetical by Last Name*

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Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW	<p>Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW, is the Director of Behavioral Health Services of San Diego County and has served in the capacity of Mental Health Director since 1999. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Network of Social Work Managers (NSWM), is a member of the California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) and is the Co-Chair of the Cultural Competence, Equity, and Social Justice Committee of the CBHDA. Mr. Aguirre also serves on the Board of the California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions and on the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch Council, a national advisory committee to the Children’s Branch of the Center for Mental Health Services under Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In 2017 he was appointed by Governor Brown to serve on the No Place Like Home Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Aguirre has worked in the mental health field for over 37 years as a psychiatric social worker, staff supervisor, manager, and executive. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including Mental Health Person of the Year in 2008, the 2011 Hope Award for his leadership in the County of San Diego’s Mental Health Stigma Reduction Media Campaign, “It’s Up to Us,” and the 2014 NAMI California Outstanding Mental Health Director. Alfredo received his Master’s Degree in Social Welfare in 1978 from the University of California at Berkeley, and he has a special interest in cultural competence development in systems and communities.</p>
Ran D. Anbar, MD	<p>Ran D. Anbar, MD, FAAP, a pediatric pulmonologist, is President and Founder of Center Point Medicine in La Jolla, CA. Until 2015, he served as Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, and as director of the SUNY Upstate Medical University Division of Pediatric Pulmonology for 21 years. Dr. Anbar been involved in clinical hypnosis for the past 19 years, and has been certified as an Approved Consultant in hypnosis by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis (ASCH). He is a Past President and Fellow of ASCH. He has directed or co-directed more than 20 clinical workshops in pediatric hypnosis, and has delivered more than 200 lectures regarding hypnosis in the United States and internationally. Dr. Anbar has published over 50 articles, abstracts, editorials and book chapters relating to pediatric hypnosis. He was Editor of the 2012 book, <i>Functional Respiratory Disorders</i>, and the 2014 book, <i>Functional Symptoms in Pediatric Disease</i>.</p>
Stacey Annand, PhD	<p>Stacey Annand has a PhD in Clinical Psychology and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at ParentCare Family Recovery Center serving pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorders. Stacey’s clinical orientation is rooted in attachment theory, principles of developmental trauma, and prenatal and perinatal psychology. Stacey utilizes a relationship-based and somatic framework as essential avenues of engagement to support whole person wellness and healing across the lifespan. Preventive, conscious parenting and reparative/therapeutic parenting are her primary interests, along with encouraging the implementation of attuned, reflective, and integrative standards of practice with helping professionals.</p>

<p>Kristie Brandt, CNM, MSN, DNP</p>	<p>Dr. Brandt is an internationally known teacher, trainer, clinician, and consultant, and directs the Parent-Infant &amp; Child Institute in Napa, CA that provides clinical services for children age 0-5, consultation for parents and providers, and professional training. She founded the Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship and for 15 years has directed this renowned program now affiliated with UC Davis Extension. She is a Child Trauma Academy Fellow with Dr. Bruce Perry, and visiting faculty at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at Boston Children’s Hospital. Brandt is lead editor of the book <i>Infant &amp; Early Childhood Mental Health: Core Concepts &amp; Clinical Practice</i> and author of the book <i>Facilitating the Reflective Process: An Introductory Workbook</i>. She earned her master’s and doctorate at Case Western Reserve University, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Infant-Parent Mental Health. Brandt is an endorsed Infant Mental Health Specialist &amp; Clinical Mentor through MI-AIMH, and a Specialist and Reflective Practice Mentor in California. She developed the Mobius Care therapeutic model and trains worldwide on this approach, and she provides reflective supervision around the US and abroad.</p>
<p>Abby Brewer- Johnson, PsyD, ABPP</p>	<p>Dr. Abby Brewer-Johnson, ABPP, is a Board Certified Child and Adolescent Psychologist practicing in San Diego, California, with a special interest in working with highly stressed and vulnerable parents. She has extensive experience working with parents and young children in diverse settings including private practice, preschools, and community-based agencies. Recently she has expanded her practice to open The Rose Center for Resilient Kids and Families where she and her team offer services and consultation throughout the community to improve the lives of children and their families. She received advanced training in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy from San Diego Psychoanalytic Center and Institute and training in Mentalization-Based Therapy from the Anne Freud Centre/UCLA Semel Institute. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking and spending time with her two very curious and creative children.</p>
<p>Melissa Brooks, MSW</p>	<p>Melissa Brooks is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to San Diego in 2006 to attend graduate school. After receiving an MSW from San Diego State University in 2008, Melissa began working as a Case Manager for the YMCA Kinship Support Program. During the last 9 years, Melissa has provided direct client services to Kinship Caregivers, facilitated support groups, assisted with program development and management, and now serves as the Program Director overseeing seven Kinship Navigators and 4-6 MSW Interns. The YMCA Kinship Support Program serves grandparents, other relatives, and non-relative extended family members across the entire County of San Diego and provides in-home navigation and case management, support groups, respite care, emergency funding, and family events.</p>

<p>Jorge Cabrera</p>	<p>Jorge Cabrera is Senior Director for Casey Family Programs. Casey is a national operating foundation based in Seattle, WA providing direct services to foster youth and engages in collaborative and systems improvement efforts in partnership with the public child welfare system and other community organizations. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the direct services in the Casey San Diego field offices, Cabrera leads Casey’s Strategic Consulting work in San Diego and Orange Counties, CA and in Puerto Rico.</p> <p>Mr. Cabrera has a Masters in Social Work (MSW) degree from Arizona State University. Prior to his work at Casey, Cabrera worked in Tucson, Arizona as a family therapist with a focus on serving Latino families and children who were involved in the child welfare system.</p> <p>Mr. Cabrera has a strong interest and experience in building partnerships that effectively impact the lives and well-being of children and families of color. He has been a presenter at national conferences focusing on the development of collaborative efforts that best serve kinship care families, the intersection of immigration and child welfare, and the delivery of clinical services to underserved populations.</p>
<p>Rochelle Calvert, PhD, BCBA-D</p>	<p>Dr. Calvert is the founder of New Mindful Life. She has studied mindfulness for the past 13 years and has taught classes, workshops, and retreats. Dr. Calvert leads classes/courses/seminars in six-week Introductory Training in Mindfulness, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT), Mindfulness-Based Eating, Mindful Parenting, and Mindful Workplace. She also facilitates professional trainings in mindfulness for clinicians. Dr. Calvert also works as clinical psychologist and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in private practice in San Diego.</p> <p>Dr. Calvert offers mindfulness-based therapy as a psychologist for New Mindful Life. This therapeutic approach includes teaching people individual mindfulness meditation specific to their unique concerns to support healing. Dr. Calvert has therapeutic specialty areas of training to support integration of these services to individuals struggling with life transitions, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, PTSD, pain conditions, as well as families of developmentally delayed children/adults.</p>
<p>Rebecca Chambers, MBA, BCBA</p>	<p>Rebecca Chambers has been a clinician in ABA for the past 10 years. She specialize in evaluating and working with the under-five population who are demonstrating developmental delays and/or developmental disabilities including autism. She is also a mother to a beautiful one and a half year old daughter.</p>
<p>Stamatia Daroglou, PhD</p>	<p>Dr. Daroglou is a licensed psychologist specializing in cross-cultural and forensic psychology and psychological assessments. She received a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego in 2003. She received a MS in Psychology, with a specialty in Psychometrics in 1998 and a BA in Psychology in 1996 from the University of Louisiana in Monroe. Her professional experience ranges from providing psychological evaluations for the San Diego courts, serving as a therapist for community clinics, teaching, supervising, and working for the department of corrections in two states. She currently serves as a Behavioral Health Consultant for the US Navy, adjunct faculty at Argosy University and Alliant International University, and maintains an ongoing private practice.</p>

<p>Kathryn Deane, MA, EdS</p>	<p>Kathryn Deane is an Educational Psychologist, and currently is employed by the Chula Vista Elementary School District. She provides administrative leadership to CVESD school sites, trains and mentors school psychologists, provides an array of trainings for teachers, educational service providers, and paraprofessionals, provides solution-focused individual and group counseling, provides cognitive behavioral counseling for students, conducts psycho-educational assessments, neuropsychological assessments, and educationally-related mental health assessments for CVESD.</p> <p>Kathryn is clinically trained in psychology, educational psychology, and school neuropsychology. She currently holds MA and EdS graduate degrees and is finalizing her application to be an American Board Diplomat Neuro School Psychologist. She is also in her final year to obtain her doctorate in Educational Psychology. Kathryn’s goal in her work is to be a positive change agent to the community of San Diego, and to support children, their families, educators, and outside professionals to meet the mental health needs of children so they in turn are able to reach their utmost potential and become contributive members of society.</p>
<p>Lillian Elbaz</p>	<p>Lillian Elbaz is a proud Israeli/American dance teacher and events program manager, with a BA and teaching certificate (K-12) in Dance-Theatre from Seminar Hakibbuzim in Tel Aviv. In 2014 Lillian founded her own dance company, “Art of Movement,” offering dance programs and classes for all ages. In 2016, Lillian started a unique program called TNUA, a program dedicated to sharing Israeli culture through movement, music, theater, and Hebrew language, connecting children to Israel, and building Jewish and Israeli identity. TNUA Israeli Dance troupe works together with children from the Friendship Circle in the special needs demographic. TNUA brings movement and Hebrew immersion together to Jewish pre-schools, schools and synagogues and brings Israeli children’s plays from Israel.</p> <p>During her five years in San Diego, Lillian has worked with various Jewish and Israeli organizations, including the Tarbuton, Friendship Circle, Chabad, Lawrence Family JCC, Soille San Diego Hebrew Day, Ken Jewish Community, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Beth El, San Diego Jewish Academy and more.</p>
<p>Michaela Ene, PhD</p>	<p>Michaela Ene is a licensed psychologist and Program Director at FFYC CARES. She has over 20 years of experience working with children, adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities. Dr. Ene obtained her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology – San Diego and completed her doctorate level thesis in the area of Autism Spectrum Disorder. While working on her doctoral degree in clinical psychology, she worked at the School for Children with Autism and Pervasive Development Disorders at San Diego Center for Children and at the Laboratory of the Neuroscience of Autism.</p> <p>Dr. Ene has provided consultation and supervision of home and school-based behavior intervention programs for children with autism and related developmental disorders, with extensive knowledge in ABA teaching techniques including discrete trial teaching, pivotal response training, and PECS. Dr. Ene is also proficient in conducting psychological assessments and differential diagnostic evaluations for children and/or adults with autism spectrum characteristics.</p>

Josh Feder, MD	<p>Dr. Joshua Feder is an Associate Clinical Professor at University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, Adjunct Professor at Fielding Graduate University, Faculty with The Interdisciplinary Network on Development and Learning (ICDL) as well as Profectum, and a Senior Associate Member of the International Network on Peace Building with Young Children. Dr. Feder develops programs, conducts research and works with clinicians, caregivers and children to promote regulation, social communication, and learning. He is engaged in peace building through support to early childhood development in regions impacted by conflict. Dr. Feder advocates nationally and internationally on issues related to peace building, informed consent, and Evidence-Based Practices, and he serves as Medical Director at SymPlay, developing interactive technology and distance learning systems to support relationship-based interventions. Many of Dr. Feder’s lectures can be found at <a href="http://circlestretch.com">circlestretch.com</a>.</p>
Maty Feldman-Bicas, MA	<p>Maty Feldman-Bicas is a Bilingual Certified Parent Educator and Bilingual Special Education Teacher. Maty leads One for Each Other Grand Families Groups and Kinship Support Groups (English and Spanish).</p>
Shannyn Fowl, ND	<p>Dr. Shannyn Fowl is a natural medicine expert practicing medicine in La Mesa, a suburb of San Diego, CA. Her passion for old-fashioned medicine began as a teenager when she knew there must be other healing options available. She started her education as a midwife, worked as a nurse aide, and obtained her Bachelor’s in Biomedical Sciences while working in a neuroimmunendocrinology lab. She received her Doctorate at National College of Natural Medicine.</p> <p>Although she sees many children in her private practice, she prefers to see the whole family. Her patients seek her out most often for natural solutions for pediatric challenges, autoimmune and gastrointestinal complaints, and MTHFR. She inspires future doctors by allowing them to witness the practice of natural medicine first-hand in her clinic and is currently teaching the pediatric curriculum at Bastyr University, the local Naturopathic School. Dr. Fowl also has taught over 20 classes at San Diego Community College for the general public and continuing education for nurses, the most popular being “Introduction to Naturopathic Medicine” and “Hydrotherapy and Homeopathy for the Family.” She is also a sought after speaker in the community. More information is available at <a href="http://www.journeyofhealth.org/meet-dr-shannyn">www.journeyofhealth.org/meet-dr-shannyn</a>.</p>
Ali Freedman, PsyD	<p>Ali Freedman is a licensed Clinical Psychologist in San Diego who has also completed an MBA with an interest in supporting the sustainability of social services for youth and families. She oversees a variety of mental health programs at Fred Finch Youth Center and Fred Finch CARES. Ali was the Co-Chair of San Diego’s System of Care Early Childhood Mental Health Committee and is the Co-Chair of the annual We Can’t Wait Early Childhood Mental Health Conference.</p> <p>Ali Completed an Advanced Infant Preschool Mental Health Certificate Program at Alliant International University and she has consulted for Head Start Preschools. She volunteers and helps to support the Community Wraparound Initiative where an amazing group of people, including reformed gang members, come together to support gang-involved youth working to change their lives.</p>

<p>Pradeep Gidwani, MD, MPH</p>	<p>Pradeep Gidwani, MD, MPH is the Director of Projects at the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3, San Diego and Imperial Counties (AAP-CA3), and works as part of the team that provides Countywide Coordination and Support for First 5 San Diego’s Healthy Development Services and its Home Visiting Program, First 5 First Steps. The programs have reached over 25,000 children annually for the last 10 years. He is a Past President of AAP-CA3.</p> <p>Dr. Gidwani completed a Pediatric Health Services Research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and earned a Master’s in Public Health degree at Harvard University. He completed his residency at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH, and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from George Washington University. Prior to medical school, he worked for the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality in Washington, DC, and for the Centers for Disease Control. He received his BA in Anthropology from Northwestern University.</p>
<p>Julie Guy, MM, MT-BC, NTM-F</p>	<p>Julie graduated with a Master's in Music Therapy from Western Michigan University. She is a music therapy entrepreneur, co-founding The Music Therapy Center of California in 2004 and Banding Together in 2009. In her work with special needs children, Julie co-authored the “In Harmony: Integrated Learning Program.” She is co-founder and co-owner of NoteAbilities, Inc. which produces “Kibbles Rockin’ Clubhouse,” a DVD series to teach social and communication skills to children with autism, and is co-host of “Autism Toolkit Podcast,” a resource for parents, teachers and therapists.</p> <p>Julie was awarded the 2015 Profiles in Music Education Award by the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory and received a California Legislature Assembly Members Resolution NO. 2184 (presented by the Honorable Marie Waldron, 75th Assembly District). Julie recently co-authored “Teaching Social Skills Through Song: A Music Therapy Learning Hierarchy,” published in 2016 by <i>Imagine Childhood Magazine</i>.</p>
<p>Laurie J. Hall, LCSW</p>	<p>Laurie Hall has 22 years of experience working with children and families in individual, group and family therapy within clinic, school and private practice settings. Laurie has trained and practiced extensively in trauma treatment to at-risk children and youth, EMDR for children and adults, and attachment-based therapy with children and caregivers.</p>
<p>Mary Anne Haskell, DO, FACOP</p>	<p>Dr. Mary Anne Morelli Haskell is a 1988 graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific and completed a pediatric residency at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Dr. Haskell practiced with Dr. Viola Frymann for 13 years before opening her private practice in Coronado, CA in 2005. She has lectured nationally and internationally in the field of pediatric osteopathy for over 25 years. An avid student of osteopathy, homeopathy, and integrative medicine, Dr. Haskell creates a unique blend of integrative osteopathic pediatrics.</p>
<p>Karina Helgeson</p>	<p>Karina has over 10 years of experience working in the community, six of which are in wraparound. Born and raised in San Diego she is a resources master and prides herself in supporting families find sustainable resources and connecting them with their natural supports. Karina’s roles at Fred Finch have grown from Family Support Partner to Coach &amp; Wraparound Trainer to her current position in Development and Fundraising. Karina has presented on various peer support topics at conferences throughout the state including CMHACY &amp; Partnerships For Well Being. She is a mother of two teenage girls and two Miniature Schnauzer’s and enjoys spending time with her family traveling. Karina is currently working on a book that she hopes will support young girls with positive self- image.</p>

Dawn Herring, MS, LMFT	Dawn Herring is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over 20 years of experience and currently works at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as a clinical supervisor at the Community Counseling Center. Previously, Dawn has worked in the area of family violence, both with the military and law enforcement. Dawn has extensive public speaking experience and has a passion for work/life balance, self-care, and manifesting our passionate pursuits. She is also trained in attachment-focused EMDR for developmental trauma.
Mark Katz, PhD	Mark Katz, PhD is a clinical and consulting psychologist and author of <i>Children Who Fail at School But Succeed at Life</i> , and <i>On Playing a Poor Hand Well</i> , both published by W.W. Norton and Company. For over 30 years, Dr. Katz has served as the Director of Learning Development Services, an educational, psychological and neuropsychological center in San Diego, CA. He is a past recipient of the Rosenberry Award, a national award given yearly by Children’s Hospital in Denver, CO, in recognition of an individual’s contribution to the field of behavioral health. Dr. Katz is a contributing editor for <i>Attention Magazine</i> , and also writes the magazine’s promising practices column. He has been a keynote presenter at a number of national conferences on topics pertaining to resilience and overcoming adversity, and has conducted numerous trainings for schools, healthcare organizations, and community groups working to improve educational and mental health systems of care.
Hollis S. King, DO, PhD, FAAO	Dr. King is a Professor of Family Medicine in the Center for Integrative Health and Medicine at UCSD. He is also a service provider in the Osteopathic Center for Children (OCC). Dr. King had also worked with Viola N. Frymann, DO the founder of OCC in the mid 1980s. He is currently doing research on the impact of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment on Plagiocephaly, Traumatic Brain Injury, Parkinson’s Disease, and Glaucoma at UCSD.
Shannon Lerach, PhD	<p>Shannon Lerach was born and raised in San Diego, California, received her undergraduate degree from the University of San Diego, then her Masters and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology graduating Magna Cum Laude from the California School of Professional Psychology and became a Licensed Clinical Psychologist. Shannon has spent her professional career working for a variety of county, non-profit and charitable organizations, including Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall, Juvenile Forensic Services, The Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady’s Children’s Hospital, and the Fred Finch Youth Center. Her professional career has focused on serving the underserved and disenfranchised, and she has specialized in working with children and adolescents and their families who have experienced abuse and trauma.</p> <p>Shannon has a private practices in Solana Beach where she works as a trauma-specialist working with children, adolescents, adults and families utilizing therapeutic approaches including Child-Centered Play Therapy, Attachment-informed therapy, family-systems therapy, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR/IA Certified), Mindfulness and parental coaching. Additionally, Shannon specializes in supporting families going through divorce and custody disputes, providing a variety of forensic and clinical services, such as 730 Evaluations, co-parenting, mediation, individual and family therapeutic services, to help ease transitions and minimize trauma for changing and blended families. Shannon is a triathlete, surfer and outdoor enthusiast and lives happily in Solana Beach with her four spoiled dogs.</p>

Marta Leyva, MA	<p>Marta Leyva is the founder and owner of Voz de Victoria, a special education advocacy and educational consulting firm. She currently works to improve the lives of children with disabilities and their families by creating a collaborative partnership to ensure students receive a free appropriate public education while having both their academic and social/emotional needs met. Previously, Marta served elementary-aged students for over 20 years as a bilingual elementary teacher, an instructional coach, and school administrator. Marta believes that teachers have the power to heal through the implementation of positive and responsive personal interactions and teaching practices. Her personal and professional experiences have provided Marta with a 360° view of the education process and its ability to heal through caring relationships at school.</p>
Lisa J. Loegering, MD	<p>Dr. Loegering is a board certified pediatrician with a specialty in child development and behavior. She also has additional training through the Institute for Functional Medicine and the Walsh Research Institute. She received her medical degree from UCLA School of Medicine and also completed her residency in pediatrics and fellowship in child development at UCLA.</p> <p>Dr. Loegering was previously in practice at Scripps Clinic where she ran a clinic for children with Attention Deficit Disorder and learning disabilities. She also had a general pediatric practice and was involved in quality of care activities. More recently she has been active in giving medical care to orphans in Tijuana, raising her two daughters, and caring for her elderly parents.</p>
Diane Lowrie, MA	<p>Diane’s experience is as varied as her education. Coming from an Early Childhood Development perspective, she received a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Human Development from Prescott College in 2010. During that time, she completed classes at The International School of Professional Bodywork in San Diego, The Expressive Arts Institute of San Diego, University California San Diego, and Sky Mountain Expressive Arts Therapy in Escondido, CA. Diane received her Master’s Degree in Humanities, Expressive Arts Therapy and Education in 2013.</p>
Rosa Ana Lozada, LCSW	<p>Rosa Ana Lozada, LCSW, is the Chief Executive Officer of Harmonium, Inc. and has more than 27 years of dedication, service, and leadership in mental health, human, and social services. At Harmonium, a non-profit agency serving the well-being of children, youth, and families throughout the San Diego region, Ms. Lozada leads Harmonium by providing fiscal and program oversight, leveraging agency funding and service resources through public and private collaborations, integrating local and state initiatives, and implementing health prevention and intervention strategies. Her accomplishments at Harmonium include fiscal solvency and agency-wide integration of physical and mental health initiatives.</p> <p>Ms. Lozada was awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in Social Welfare and Ethnic Studies/Community Development from San Francisco State University. She also holds a Master’s Degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and became a Licensed Clinical Social Worker through the California Board of Behavioral Science in 1985.</p>



<p>Meghan Lukasik, PhD</p>	<p>Meghan Korey Lukasik, PhD has been a licensed Clinical Psychologist since 1998 and has been working at Rady Children’s Hospital since 1999. She is currently the Clinical Director for KidSTART, an innovative program that provides transdisciplinary assessment and treatment for children with complex developmental, mental health, medical, and family needs, and is also a clinical lead at The Developmental Evaluation Clinic. Dr. Lukasik has extensive experience in diagnostic assessment across a range of developmental disorders and infant/toddler mental health, including childhood trauma. She received her doctorate in psychology from The California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego, CA (now Alliant University). Dr. Lukasik has presented extensively across the nation. Recent presentations include: We Can’t Wait Conference (2015, 2013), the Chadwick Center Child &amp; Family Maltreatment Conference (2015, 2013), Georgetown University Training Institutes (2014), Children’s Cove Conference, Cape Cod, MA. (2013), and the Zero to Three National Training Institute (2012).</p>
<p>Nick Macchione, MS, MPH, FACHE</p>	<p>As Director of the County of San Diego’s Health and Human Services Agency, Nick Macchione manages one of the largest health and human services networks in the nation, supporting the public health, safety, and well-being of the over 3.2 million residents of San Diego County. With an annual budget responsibility of \$2 billion, Mr. Macchione oversees a workforce of 6,000 employees, hundreds of volunteers and 1,000 contractors that collectively provide direct services to over one million clients annually. With a focus on innovation and service integration, he directs the delivery of health and social service safety net programs, including public health services, behavioral health services, Medicaid managed care and other safety net health insurance programs, nutrition assistance for the indigent, child and adult protective services, and early childhood development programs. Mr. Macchione implements policy direction of an elected Board of Supervisors and oversees the operations of the County’s Psychiatric Hospital, Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility (2014 winner of a Silver Achievement in Quality Award by the American Health Care Association and the National Center for Assisted Living), Polinsky Children’s Center (a 24-hour facility for the temporary emergency shelter of children), and San Pasqual Academy, a first-of-its kind residential campus for foster youth.</p>
<p>Chris Muecke, MEd</p>	<p>Chris Meucke serves as a lecturer in the Department of Child and Family Development at San Diego State University. She was an onsite coach in the SEBRIS Program from 2010–2016 at SDSU. Prior to that, she was an Infant Parent Educator for San Diego Unified School District and an Educational Therapist in private practice for over 20 years. She was honored as Most Influential Faculty Member, Department of Child and Family Development at San Diego State University in 2015. She has served on the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference Planning Committee since its inception in 2008.</p>

<p>Angela Neve, MM, MT-BC, NMT-F</p>	<p>Angela is a board-certified neurologic music therapist, songwriter and co-owner of The Music Therapy Center of California. She received her master’s degree in neurologic music therapy from Colorado State University and received her bachelor’s degree in Music Education/Music Therapy from Wartburg College, graduating Summa Cum Laude. In 2015 she was awarded the Profiles in Music Education Award by the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory. Also in 2015, she was awarded the California Legislature Assembly Resolution by the Honorable Marie Waldron, 75th Assembly District, Members’ Resolution No. 2184. She has published several products, including the In Harmony program, an educational product targeting speech and social skills through music. She is the music director of Kibbles Rockin’ Clubhouse and stars as Miss Angela. She currently serves as the Phase 3 Early Intervention Director for the Autism Tree Project Foundation in which she trains preschool teachers on inclusive music strategies.</p>
<p>Ruth P. Newton, PhD, CEO</p>	<p>Dr. Newton is the founder and director of the Newton Center for Affect Regulation (NCAR). She has developed a neurobiological, evidence-informed scaffolding for evidence-based therapies for all ages called Integrative Regulation Therapy (IRT) and trains licensed and license eligible clinicians in its use. Dr. Newton is endorsed by the California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health as an Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist and Reflective Practice Facilitator III/Mentor.</p>
<p>Brooke Olson, OTR/L</p>	<p>Brooke Olson is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist with over 21 years of experience. Brooke has lived all over the country and enjoyed working in a variety of different settings including home care, early intervention, school-based, inpatient, outpatient, mental health and private practice. She is currently practicing in the KidSTART program at Rady Children’s hospital and she works as a private vendor for the Early Start program in San Diego homes.</p>
<p>Charmi Patel Rao, MD</p>	<p>Charmi Patel Rao, MD is board certified in general psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. She received her undergraduate degree from University of California, Riverside, her medical degree from University of California, Irvine, and completed her internship and residency at University of California, San Diego, and her fellowship at University of California, San Francisco and UC San Diego. She has developed an interest in early childhood mental health and dual diagnosis (mental health/developmental delays) and integrating mental health treatment into primary care. In pursuit of these interests, she is the consulting psychiatrist for Rady Children’s KidSTART Clinic and for Vista Hill Foundation’s Stein Education Center. She is also a consulting psychiatrist for North County Health Services Behavioral Health Department and Vista Hill SmartCare Behavioral Health Consultation Services. She previously provided psychiatric consultation for San Diego Unified School District’s Whittier Psychiatry Services and Esperanza Mental Health Services, programs that worked with children with developmental disabilities with co-morbid mental health issues.</p>
<p>MaryAnne Paschel</p>	<p>MaryAnn Paschal is the adoptive mother of Nine Girls, She resides in San Diego. She has been Foster parenting for 30 years caring for hundreds of children primarily newborn to preschool age with array of Behavioral /Trauma issues .MaryAnn was a part of the Breakthrough Collaborative for the Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System trained by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) MaryAnn is a Trainer for Grossmont College Foster/Adoptive Kinship Care Education. MaryAnn provides classes in parenting children affected by trauma and abuse.</p>

Pam Plimpton, MSW	Pam has a Master of Social Work degree from Brigham Young University. She has over 20 years of experience in the social service field, with particular expertise in the areas of geriatric social work, program development, client assessment, information and referral, care coordination, and training. For the past 10 years, she has worked for Aging & Independence Services (AIS), the County of San Diego’s Area Agency on Aging, and currently is the Intergenerational Coordinator for AIS. In this role, she supports, implements, and promotes efforts in San Diego County to bring people of various ages together for the mutual benefit of all. These efforts include working with fellow Intergenerational Coordinators within the county as well as numerous community partners to provide supportive services and resources to grandparents raising their grandchildren, other kinship caregivers, and the children in their care.
Jeff Rowe, MD	Dr. Rowe is the Supervising Psychiatrist for the Juvenile Forensic Services Division of the Behavioral Health Services Department of the County of San Diego. He is also an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego. He is the Co-Chair of the planning committee for the We Can’t Wait conferences and has worked in early childhood mental health for 17 years.
Jeanne Salvadori, BSN, RN, Med	Jeanne is a registered school nurse, nurse consultant and a grandparent raising four grandchildren.
Seth Schwartz, JD	Seth Schwartz, Esq. is a special education attorney and managing partner at the Law Offices of Schwartz & Storey. His firm helps children with disabilities to address educational concerns, ages 0-22, and handles select cases dealing with In-Home Supportive Services, Regional Center, and general disability related Civil Rights issues. Mr. Schwartz graduated Magna Cum Laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2011 and began his own special education practice before partnering with Matthew Storey, Esq. Schwartz & Storey currently has six attorneys and handles hundreds of educational related cases a year. Their focus is always to ensure the best possible outcomes, whether seeking placement, assessments, or services. The Law Offices of Schwartz & Storey operates with an open door philosophy, making themselves available to the community to provide answers and insight to those with questions.
Renee Sievert, RN, MFT	<p>With over 30 years in the healthcare field, Renee specializes in consulting, teaching, and coaching in the areas of leadership and team development. As a leadership coach and consultant, she travels nationwide to design and facilitate Equus team-building workshops where participants are introduced to a unique way of assessing self-awareness, leadership presence, communication skills, and team dynamics as they interact with horses. Renee also provides equine-assisted learning activities for individuals, couples, and families in the San Diego area.</p> <p>Renee is a Master Certified Equus Facilitator. She holds a Master’s Degree in Counseling and is a Registered Nurse, with advanced certification in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing and HIV/AIDS. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) in California and provides clinical education on a variety of topics including Motivational Interviewing, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Co-Occurring Disorders, Crisis Intervention and Ethics. Renee is a Certified Daring Way™ and Rising Strong Facilitator, and a member of the International Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT), the International Coach Federation (ICF), and the p.Link (Positivity Link) Coaching Center for Excellence.</p>

<p>Danny Singley, PhD</p>	<p>Dr. Singley is a San Diego-based board certified psychologist and Director of The Center for Men’s Excellence. His research and practice focus on men’s mental health with a particular emphasis on reproductive psychology and the transition to fatherhood. He is Past President of the American Psychological Association’s Section on Positive Psychology and serves on the Board of the APA’s Society for the Psychological Study of Men and Masculinity as well as Postpartum Support International.</p> <p>Dr. Singley conducts trainings and presentations around the country to assist individuals and organizations to enhance their level of father inclusiveness and founded the grant-funded nonprofit Basic Training for New Dads, Inc. in order to give new fathers the tools they need to be highly engaged with their infants as well as their partners. In his free time, he likes to cook, surf, read, and take his two sons on hikes to get muddy and throw rocks at things. Follow Dr. Singely @MenExcel and <a href="http://www.facebook.com/MenExcel">www.facebook.com/MenExcel</a>.</p>
<p>Sundiata Skata</p>	<p>Sundiata Kata has worked at the San Diego Center for Children for more than 42 years. As the Director of Music he has harnessed the power of rhythm to help Center students adopt new ways of dealing with their anger, emotions and suffering. The powerful inspiration of music used for outcomes that have less to do with music and more to do with health and well-being is changing the lives of children at the San Diego Center for Children, restoring trust and hope in children who have suffered trauma, abuse, or have severe behavioral and emotional challenges. Through music, Kata helps these children cope with their pain and destructive behaviors.</p> <p>The HealthRHYTHMS programs help reduce stress and were developed to be a creative outlet for the challenging emotions that the children process on a daily basis. Through the San Diego Center for Children’s hands-on music program, children and adolescents can express themselves and sense feelings of accomplishment. Kata sees more than 100 students each week, having them participate in HealthRHYTHMS and choir. He and his staff provide jazz and rock music lessons, and teach students to express creatively what they've seen in their lives through blues music.</p>
<p>Tufia Steidle, PsyD</p>	<p>Dr. Steidle has practiced for over 15 years in various clinical settings including; a college counseling center, a federal prison, an AIDS/HIV agency, an inpatient substance abuse facility, and several community mental health agencies. She is trained in several Evidence Based Practices, including; Seeking Safety, Trauma Focused CBT, and Interpersonal Therapy for Depression.</p> <p>For 10 years, Dr. Steidle held a senior management position at a nonprofit community mental health agency in Los Angeles. As a Director, she oversaw the care of over 1,000 clients, supervised 100+ staff, and managed budgets and contracts across 8 clinics serving adults and children.</p> <p>Dr. Steidle’s lifelong passion for horses lead to a certification in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy through EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association). Solutions Through Horses, her private practice, serves all ages and several residential substance abuse centers. She has seen the therapeutic power of horses to facilitate growth and healing.</p>

Deb Stolz	Deb Stolz is mom to eight children, four birth and four adopted. She has been a foster parent for over 30 years, caring for over 500 children. She is a Parent Trainer through Grossmont College Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Care Education Program.
Chris Vinceneux, OTR/L	Chris Vinceneux has been an occupational therapist since 1985. He is considered an expert at evaluating and treating the impact of sensory processing disorders in individuals with varied diagnoses and conditions. Chris is known for his holistic approach; he excels at solving complex behavioral and social-emotional challenges, helping individuals become more independent, and empowering parents and caregivers with practical knowledge aimed at improving quality of life. He often consults on school cases and has many times provided expert testimony during legal proceedings regarding school services. Chris frequently conducts presentations and training sessions for parents and professionals. He strives to think outside of the box to design interventions that can minimize or sometimes eliminate the impact of sensory processing challenges. He is always focused on helping his clients to achieve the best possible quality of life. Chris currently works for Therapeutic Approach to Growth, Inc. in San Diego.
Brooke Wagner, MA	Brooke Wagner is CEO of Therapeutic Approach to Growth and has supported individuals with special needs locally and internationally since 2000. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Santa Clara University and a Master’s Degree in Human Behavior from National University. Brooke is an RDI® (Relationship Development Intervention) Program Certified Consultant and an RDI® supervisor through RDICoNECT in Houston, TX. In this role, she guides and supervises RDI® consultants in training through their supervision requirements. She believes in a supportive and comprehensive approach and, therefore, uses a variety of methodologies based on her past experiences when providing recommendations. In addition, she finds it necessary to regularly communicate with all other specialized therapists (Speech, OT, PT, etc.). As a native of San Diego, Brooke believes in supporting her local community through outreach opportunities, sharing information and resources and connecting with clients and those impacted with developmental delays on a human level.