

2024 Distinguished Speakers

Ania Boyd, MPH

Community Engagement Lead
BrightLife Kids

Joy Brewster, MEd, SLP

Speech Language Pathologist
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

Rahil Briggs, PsyD

National Director of Zero to Three's HealthySteps
Pediatric Primary Care Program
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and
Behavioral Sciences
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Francisco Castillo, BA Psychology

Developmental Services Specialist
Palomar Health

Lori Scott Clarke, MA

Director/Principal Investigator
Social Policy Institute
San Diego State University

Kelly Curtis Hughes, LMFT, RPT

Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

Miriah de Matos, MPH, MA

Training and Technical Assistance Senior Manager
American Academy of Pediatrics,
California Chapter 3

Natalie Elms, MA,

Manager, KidSTART
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

Krysta Esquivel, MSW

Vice President Social Services
YMCA of San Diego County

Angeles Flores, MEd, CEIM

Developmental Services Specialist
Healthy Development Services
Palomar Health

Ali Freedman, PsyD, MBA

ECMH We Can't Wait Conference Co-Chair

Pradeep Gidwani, MD, MPH, FAAP

Medical Director, Healthy Development Services
(HDS) and First Steps, American Academy of
Pediatrics, California Chapter 3

Lauren Gist, MD, MPH

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego
UC San Diego Department of Pediatrics

Sarah Glass, MSW

Deputy Director, County of San Diego Child and
Family Well-Being Department
Office of Child and Family Strengthening

Aneesah Grayson, MPA

Program Coordinator/Lead Facilitator
Tarzana Treatment Centers
Co-Chair, Public Health Advisory Council (OC/LA)

Alfredo Guardado, MSW

Assistant Director
County of San Diego Health and Human Services
Child and Family Well-Being Department
Office of Child and Family Strengthening

Kristina Halmai-Gillan, LMFT

Youth and Family Services
YMCA of San Diego County

Cinnamon Harper, LCSW

Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

Amy Isiaho, MSW

Policy Analyst
County of San Diego Health and Human Services
Child and Family Well-Being Department
Office of Child and Family Strengthening

Shannon Jeng-Lin Apel, MA, CCC-SLP

Bilingual Mandarin-English Speech Language
Pathologist
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

Hannah Kenny, MSW

Social Worker
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

2024 Distinguished Speakers

Richard Knecht, MS

Managing Partner
Integrated Human Services Group, Inc. and
Integrated Services Advisor, State of California

Brynn Knight, DPT

Pediatric Physical Therapist
Healthy Development Services
Palomar Health

Heidi Leininger, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech Language Pathologist
Healthy Development Services
Palomar Health

Caroline Loretan, LMFT

Bilingual Mental Health Clinician
Behavior Specialist
Healthy Development Services
Palomar Health

Honor Medina, LMFT

Advanced Clinical Hypnotherapist
Equus Master Facilitator
Certified Transpersonal Coach

Clorinda Merino, MA

Integrated Learning Director
Social Policy Institute
San Diego State University

Melanie Morones, LMFT, ATR, ECMHS

Early Childhood Mental Health Clinical
Program Director
YMCA of San Diego County

Vi Thuy Nguyen, MD

Fellow of Environmental Health
American Academy of Pediatrics,
California Chapter 3

Brandi Paniagua, MEd

Program Director, Partners in Prevention
Community Engagement and Well-Being
YMCA of San Diego County

Charmi Patel Rao, MD

Co-Medical Director
Vista Hill Foundation

Ariane Porras, SEP

Community Collaborative Director
Childcare Resource Service
YMCA of San Diego County

Monica Rollins, MA

Education Manager and Wellness Consultant
Vista Village

Jeff Rowe, MD

ECMH We Can't Wait Conference Co-Chair
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

Renee Sievert, RN, LMFT, PCC

ECMH Conference Coordinator
Equus Master Facilitator, Executive Coach
Member of the Motivational Interviewing
Network of Trainers (MINT)

Liz Sizemore, MA, AMFT, AT

Family Therapy
San Diego Center for Children

Denise VonRotz, LMFT, RPT-S, IF-ECMH, RPF II

Therapist/Owner
Hope and Healing Child and Family Therapy, Inc.

Christopher Walsh, LMFT

Clinical Supervisor
Community Resource Center

Aimee Zeitz, LMFT

Associate Executive Director
Community Well-Being
Childcare Resource Service
YMCA of San Diego County