

Presenter	Biography
Alvarado-Banister, Jane	Jane serves as Program Manager for California Project LEAN (CPL). Based in the Central Valley of California, her primary responsibility is to provide training and technical assistance to communities in the Central Valley and statewide working to advance policy, systems, and environmental change strategies that create healthier communities. Jane works with advocates who seek to implement policy change efforts, including parents, youth, educators, and public health staff. Her professional experience includes thirteen years of working in communities throughout California. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from California State University, Fresno, national certification in Non-profit Leadership and Administration from the American Humanics Program, and certification from the University of California, San Diego in lactation education. Her areas of expertise include school wellness policies, coalition building, policy change, parent engagement, and youth development. Jane is bilingual/bicultural and works closely with Spanish-speaking communities to advance powerful policy work.
Anderson, Amy	Amy began her career in education over 20 years ago, working for the Los Angeles Unified School District in several different capacities: special education teacher, program specialist, and assistant principal. After several years in traditional public schools, she continued in special education within charter schools working as an administrator in an independent study charter school. She joined the El Dorado County Office of Education in 2011, where she held the position of Director of the Charter SELPA. Four years ago, she became the Executive Director of Special Services for the El Dorado County Office of Education. Amy earned an M.A. in special education from Azusa Pacific University and a B.A. in psychology and French from Coe College.
Anthony, Jennifer	Jennifer is a Senior Researcher at American Institutes for Research (AIR), focusing on early childhood program quality, needs assessments, and qualitative program evaluations.
Bandelow, Neva	Neva works at the Alameda County Office of Education as an Early Learning Program Manager. Neva manages the QRIS fiscal contracts, serves on the QRIS Infrastructure and Leadership team, and facilitates the Alameda County Office of Education's Early Learning Network and Early Learning Coaching Cohort. Her career in ECE has spanned over 25 years. Besides her work at the Office of Education, she serves as adjunct faculty at local community colleges where she teaches students on topics focused on equity, diversity, and teaching practice. Neva is passionate in raising equity issues and is honored to be serving with colleagues across the nation on critical policy needs as a fellow in Build's Equity Leaders Action Network. Neva holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, early childhood education, and human and community services, and a Master of Arts degree in 21st century leadership.
Barnes, Diana Lynn	Diana Lynn Barnes, Psy.D., LMFT, is an internationally recognized expert on the assessment and treatment of perinatal mood disorders. She is a frequently interviewed consultant to the media as well as an international trainer and presenter on all facets of perinatal depression. She is a fellow of the American Psychotherapy Association, and a clinical member of Postpartum Support International, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, and the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Baskett, Sharon	Sharon serves as the Assistant Superintendent for the Division of Early Learning Services, with the Riverside County Office of Education. She has worked in the early education field for over 30 years and provides the oversight for federal, state, and local early care and education programs. She volunteers for various organizations and serves as the Vice Chair for California Child Development Administrators Association, southern section and Chair for the Riverside County Local Planning Council. Sharon served as a First 5 Riverside Commissioner for six years and interim Executive Director for one year. Sharon has supported and developed programs for Head Start, State Preschool, subsidized child care services, teen parents, resource and referral, and co-leads the quality rating and improvement system. Sharon's graduate work is in early education leadership from Brandman University. She holds a Bachelor of Science in health administration and minor in child development, and a clear Community College Instructor Credential.
Bauer, Hilaria	Hilaria began her career as a bilingual teacher in Texas and has gone on to serve for decades in school administration. As the superintendent of Alum Rock Union School District, her priorities include raising the academic performance of all students and improving support for the district's English-learner population.
Baum, Nancy	Nancy has 30 years of experience designing business systems and managing data for education at San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and Poway Unified School District and at large corporations (Hewlett Packard and Sempra). She has managed the QRIS data for the SDCOE since 2006. She holds a B.A. degree from San Diego State University.
Becerra, Chris	Chris Becerra, Ed.S., has been working in the field of child and youth development for over 17 years. He has worked every level—as a front line staff member, lead teacher, center director, and as a multi-site program director. He is currently the Administrative Director of Child Development Services for the Brea Olinda Unified School District, overseeing all of the district's early learning (school readiness, preschool, transitional kindergarten) and expanded learning (before and after school, out of school time enrichment) programs. In addition, he is a part-time college professor teaching undergraduate courses in child development, and graduate courses in organizational leadership and administration.
Benz, Leah	Leah is the QRIS administrative lead in Sonoma County at First 5 Sonoma and the Hub lead for Region 1. She has worked in the early childhood education field for 17 years.
Bingham, Hilary	Hilary entered the world of early childhood education as the QRIS Manager of the 7-county North State consortium when it formed 2 ½ years ago. With a background that includes higher education, business management, and social services (addiction and homeless recovery), she has seen first-hand the importance of giving children the best possible start in life. Her graduate degree in organizational leadership has prepared her to support the multifaceted work of QRIS and to guide the large consortium in planning and implementation. Hilary has a heart for education and community supports that provide a hand-up to those engaging in continuous quality improvement activities. She looks forward to seeing the great work of QRIS realized in her region and across the state in the years to come.
Black-Hardaman, Chinayera	Chinayera Black-Hardaman, MPA, is committed to enhancing services and systems that target young children. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of First 5 Madera County. As the founding Director, she began her tenure with the Commission in December 1999 and has been the catalyst in establishing a safety net for young children and their families through advocacy and policy change. Most noteworthy is her leadership in developing a network of Family Resource Centers owned and operated by First 5 Madera County. Eager to share her practical experience with students interested in a public service career, Chinayera spent time as adjunct faculty for University of Phoenix. She is a graduate of the University of California at Davis and the University of Southern California.

Blakemore, Elizabeth	Elizabeth serves as Director of Early Learning and Family Support in Child Development Programs and Services at the El Dorado County Office of Education. She administers the Quality Counts California Region 3 Training and Technical Assistance Hub, El Dorado High 5 for Quality program, the Together We Grow Family Engagement Program and Child Abuse Prevention. She has thirteen years of experience coordinating the Early Care and Education Planning Council and associated programs, including workforce development, data collection, and state and local advocacy. Before joining the El Dorado County Office of Education, she served as administrator for the Early Childhood Counseling Center, a parent educator, and program manager. Elizabeth holds a masters degree in education from the University of California at Davis.
Bowlay-Sutton, Raechelle	Raechelle is the Quality Early Learning Manager in San Luis Obispo County. She serves as the Local Child Care Planning Council Coordinator and Local QRIS Administrator implementing a joint effort of IMPACT, CSPP QRIS Block Grant, and Infant Toddler QRIS Block Grant. She is a Regional Environmental Rating Scales Anchor (ECERS, ITERS, FCCERS) and CLASS Affiliate Trainer (infant, toddler and pre-K).
Branom, Christina	Christina earned her doctorate degree in social welfare from the University of California, Berkeley, and has been coordinating First 5-sponsored school readiness assessments at Applied Survey Research since 2013.
Bremond, Deborah	Deborah is an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist in private practice. She is currently working as a consultant on California Project LAUNCH. Dr. Bremond has worked in the field of infant and early childhood mental health for the past 30 years. She has a broad range of experience conceptualizing, developing, and implementing integrated service delivery models. She has sought to integrate the importance of early social and emotional development into pre-school special education sites, neonatal follow-up programs, and primary care environments. Dr. Bremond received her doctorate degree from the Wright Institute in clinical psychology in 1992. In 1999, she received a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley in maternal and child health.
Bremond, Kevin	Kevin is the Alameda County Fathers Corps Administrator and co-founder. The Fathers Corps is currently working to create father-specific support and education opportunities, and to implement a county-wide Father-friendly Principles Awareness, Training, Adoption, and Implementation Campaign. Kevin is committed to supporting and advocating for the intentional inclusion of fathers in the delivery of services to families in Alameda County and beyond.
Brody, David	David is the Executive Director of First 5 Santa Cruz County and previously served as the Chief Program Officer at First 5 Santa Clara County. Prior to joining First 5 Santa Cruz, he worked at the Corporation for Standards and Outcomes, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, and the Urban League of Portland, Oregon. In his career, David has played a leadership role in the development of a number of successful initiatives, including the "Thrive by Three" program in Santa Cruz County, which is in part funded through local marijuana taxes. He received his B.A. degree in planning, public policy, and management from the University of Oregon, and a master's degree in management with a concentration in children, youth, and family services from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.
Bugarin-Jebejian, Anika	Anika is an early Learning Quality Coach at Kidango Incorporated. She is interested in creating quality educational programs for early learners ages 0–5 years by focusing on an effective coaching model for educators to get the most out of their professional development pursuits. She works to analyze the effectiveness of current training, coaching, and mentoring programs, and facilitates a quality improvement plan.
Burkhard, Joy	Joy is the founder and Executive Director of 2020 Mom, a nonprofit organization working to close the gaps in maternal mental health care. She also has worked for the insurer Cigna for over 20 years as a compliance officer. Joy is a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology expert work group on maternal mental health and the California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative.

Burrell, Jennifer	Jennifer was a consultant for the Children and Families Commission of Orange County for 17 years and is now the Executive Director for the Orange County Association for the Education of Young Children.
Burt, Sloane	Sloane is an Operations Specialist who coordinates the administration and implementation of various aspects of the Ventura County QRIS system, with a focus on professional development and ratings. She has 10 years of experience as a professor as well as experience in research, project management, and as an ECE consultant. Sloane has a bachelor's degree in child development and a master's degree in early childhood education, .
Carpenter, Kim	Kim came to Applied Survey Research in 2011 and has coordinated evaluations, assessments, and strategic planning processes in the areas of early child development, child mental health, and parenting skills programs. Some recent projects with First 5 Contra Costa County include an evaluation of parenting measures and a study on the relation between the quantity and quality of family home learning activities and child readiness for kindergarten. Kim's published works include a study in the Journal Child Maltreatment in 2008 on the impact of child neglect on development entitled 'Emotion Knowledge in Young Neglected Children,' as well as conference presentations over the past 15 years at meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, the International Conference on Infant Studies, and the Association for Psychological Science. Other major projects include a comprehensive evaluation of the Positive Parenting Program for First 5 Santa Cruz County. She holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in developmental psychology from Vanderbilt University, and a B.A. degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara.
Casillas-Sanchez, Leticia	Leticia serves as a seasoned Senior Program Officer within the Family Supports Department at First 5 Los Angeles overseeing the agency's portfolio on Family Engagement. In her current role, Leticia is leading a collaborative team to build cross-sector partnerships to infuse family engagement strategies beyond school settings. She has over 17 years of experience designing and leading innovative initiatives for children and families. In her previous capacity, she focused on designing and implementing home visiting programs in both Orange and Los Angeles Counties within hospitals and community-based organizations. She holds a Master of Public Health degree from Loma Linda University.
Chacon, Jenifer	Jenifer Chacon, MSW, is a Senior Writer, Training Specialist at the ZERO TO THREE Western Office. She is the lead trainer for the P-5 Cross-Sector Core Competencies Training that supports cross-sector work across Los Angeles County. She previously worked as an educator and home visitor supporting young children and families in the Los Angeles area. She holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with a concentration in language and literacy from California State University, Long Beach and a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in community organization, planning, and administration from the University of Southern California.
Chandler, Arnold	Arnold is an advocate, researcher, trainer, and social change strategist who, for more than 15 years, has helped nonprofits and foundations develop evidence-informed strategies to advance programs and policies focused on social and economic equity. He is the co-founder of Forward Change Consulting based in Oakland, California. Recently, he was a Senior Research Associate at the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. Before that, he was a research analyst working with a team to reform the Oakland Police Department as part of a federal lawsuit settled in 2001. He also was a researcher and policy strategist at PolicyLink for six years. Chandler has authored several important policy analyses and studies in the social justice field as well as advised several nonprofit organizations on the use of Internet tools for supporting advocacy and social change efforts. He has a bachelor's degree in sociology and an M.S. in information systems.

Chang, Hedy	Hedy is the founder and Executive Director of the non-profit initiative, Attendance Works. Attendance Works is the nation's "go to" resource for strategies to reduce chronic absence (missing more than 10% of school for any reason). Since its founding in 2010, Attendance Works successfully moved chronic absence from a little-known term to a required reporting and optional reporting metric for school quality in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Hedy has spent nearly three decades working in the fields of family support, family economic success, education, and child development. She served as a senior program officer at the Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Fund and as co-director of California Tomorrow, a nonprofit committed to drawing strength from cultural, linguistic, and racial diversity. She has a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and B.A. degree from Occidental College.
Cheng, Vincent	Vincent has worked in early childhood for over 21 years as a teacher, director, R& R and Early Head Start Manager, and most currently, the Help Me Grow Alameda Community Liaison.
Covig-Niclai, Lisa	Lisa has spent the last 22 years leading child-focused planning and evaluation efforts in Asia and the US, such as the Alum Rock Prenatal to Third Grade Health and Early Learning System, Solano Kids Thrive Collective Impact Initiative, First 5 Solano and First 5 Sacramento Strategic Plan and Systems Plans, and dozens of large-scale kindergarten readiness studies.
Crow, Sarah	Sarah is responsible for developing information that supports First 5 Contra Costa's increasing role as an advocate for children and families. Her background is in public policy research, evaluation, and advocacy, focused on California children and families.
Daleiden, Gina	Gina has been Executive Director of First 5 Yolo for two years. Her background is in public policy and politics, having served previously as Deputy Supervisor to Yolo County Supervisors Jim Provenza and Helen Thomson. Gina also served as an elected member of the governing board for Davis Joint Unified School District for nearly a decade.
Danielson, Caroline	Caroline is a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research focuses on multiple dimensions of the social safety net, including its role in mitigating poverty. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School.
de Matos, Miriah	Miriah de Matos, MPH, M.A., is a Senior Project Specialist with the American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3, working on the countywide coordination and support of First 5 San Diego's Healthy Development Services and First Steps projects. Miriah holds master's degrees in Latin America studies and public health, and bilingual special education, and a bachelor's degree in international studies and Spanish. Miriah has been working to improve the lives of children and families for over 15 years. Her experience includes direct service, program development, and community-based evaluation in the United States and abroad. In her current work, she has developed and adapted curriculum for multiple psychoeducational groups for parents with a focus on the social-emotional development of young children. Miriah has a passion for developing and supporting others to reach their fullest potential which she achieves through the development and facilitation of training and working groups with providers and managers.
Dickens, Wendy	Wendy has served as the Executive Director for First 5 Shasta for two years. She oversees the lead fiscal agency responsibilities for both the 7-county North State QRIS consortium for IMPACT and the Hub Region 2. Currently, she participates on many collaboratives to make sure that efforts toward early childhood education are being recognized as important in the community as well as providing support for families. These collaboratives include Reach Higher Shasta (including two subcommittees regarding literacy and early childhood services), Strengthening Families, Executive Committee for Foster Youth Education, Shasta College Family Studies Committee, and several others. Wendy is an ACE interface trainer and ambassador in relaying information about ACEs and the Five Protective Factors within the community. She previously worked at Shasta County Health and Human Services agency as a Program Manager in the Children's Branch for 15 years and holds a master's degree in social work.

Dickey, Amanda	Amanda is the Director of Intergovernmental and Legal Affairs for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). Her areas of expertise include early education, special education, school-based Medicare programs, charter schools, research, and federal legislation and advocacy. Amanda is a graduate of Pacific McGeorge School of Law where she concentrated in legislative interpretation and civil rights. She is admitted to practice law in the state of California.
Dillon-Shore, Angie	Angie is the Executive Director of First 5 Sonoma County. She has worked across human service, public health, and education landscapes over the last 30 years in various roles, but always as a passionate advocate for vulnerable and marginalized children and families.
Dobson, Graham	Graham trained to be a nursery/elementary teacher in London between 1980-84 and received a Bachelor of Education (honors) degree. After working as a classroom teacher in preschool classrooms and nursery schools in London for six years, Graham relocated permanently to San Francisco in 1990, where he worked at the Tenderloin Child Care Center (now known as Compass Children's Center) for 13 years as Teacher, Assistant Director, Program Director, and Administrative Coordinator. In September 2006, Graham became the Coordinator of the San Francisco Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (known as CPAC). He moved into his current role as Senior Policy Analyst at the San Francisco Office of Early Care and Education in September 2012. Graham completed a Masters of Arts in education at Mills College in 2011, as part of the Leadership Program in Early Childhood.
Dominquez-Pareto, Irenka	Irenka Dominguez-Pareto, Ph.D., works as a Senior Program Associate at WestEd and teaches child development at Mills College. Previous to this, she co-directed research projects focused on issues of child development, family diversity, culture, and educational equity. For eight years, Irenka worked as a clinical psychologist with children with disabilities and their families in Barcelona, Spain.
Filucci, Sierra	Sierra is the executive editor of parenting content and distribution. She has been writing and editing professionally for more than a decade, with a special interest in women's and family subjects. She has a master's degree in journalism from the University of California at Berkeley. With an extensive and abiding interest in pop culture and kids, her role as executive editor of parenting content brings her skills and obsessions together in perfect harmony.
Fisher-Dahms, Cecelia	Cecelia is the Administrator of the Quality Improvement Office in the Early Education and Support Division of the California Department of Education. She is responsible for California's early learning foundations and quality improvement activities described in the state's Child Care and Development Fund State Plan. She was formerly responsible for the administration of the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant. Since her appointment in September 2008, she has worked to create a cohesive early childhood education (ECE) professional development system and to update the Desired Results Developmental Profile. She was a Child Development Consultant in the Division's Policy Office for eight years. Prior to entering state service, she administered ECE programs for 18 years and taught mathematics at the middle school level and ECE courses at the community college level.
Gaarde, Jenna	Jenna is a Senior Health Program Planner with San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health section. She leads the planning, evaluation, and health policies approaches to programs and services for low-income families. Prior to joining SFDPH, Jenna received her Master of Public Health degree from UC Berkeley, and worked in sexual and reproductive health as well as adolescent health.
Gale, Denise	Denise is the Quality Counts Region 3 IMPACT Coordinator. Region 3 consists of 14 counties in Northern California. Denise landed in the QRIS world in 2016, and prior to that she spent nearly two decades working for a Head Start grantee. Denise has an extensive early childhood education background in both the private and public sector, including teaching preschool, monitoring programs for compliance and quality, grant writing, training, coaching, and providing technical assistance.

<p>Garay, Lucia</p>	<p>Lucia is the Executive Director of Early Education Programs and Services at the San Diego County Office of Education where she integrates her experience in early education and care and the early childhood special education fields into all of her work. Her collective experiences as an aide, teacher, site administrator, and district administrator have provided a strong base for her work in support of all 0–5 program types in the county. She has been a strong leader in the county’s Quality Rating and Improvement System, engaging in numerous community and state-wide collaborations. Her knowledge of 0–5 best practices and alignment to state processes and accountability provides a platform through which she provides technical assistance on a variety of topics to SELPA directors, district directors of special education and child development, Early Head Start, Head Start, and State Preschool administrators. Lucia obtained a B.A. in French Literature and a Master’s degree in special education, and holds an administrative services credential as well as several special education credentials and certificates. She serves on various local and state-level committees and advisory groups.</p>
<p>Gerry, Jenna</p>	<p>As an attorney in the Work & Family program, Jenna focuses on the employment rights of pregnant women, new parents, and caregivers. She provides direct representation, advocacy to advance family-friendly workplace policies, and engages in community education. Jenna directs the Healthy Mothers Workplace Coalition and the Medical Legal Partnership with the Women’s Clinic at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. She holds a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where she made dean’s list, and a B.A. in political science from New York University.</p>
<p>Glore, Angela</p>	<p>Angela joined the First 5 Del Norte Children and Families Commission in November, 2015, as the Executive Director. Prior to becoming part of the First 5 family, she worked in food and agriculture policy and education, and was an archaeologist, a farmer, and a professional cook. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis.</p>
<p>Goins, Catherine</p>	<p>Catherine has 25 years of experience with private, non-profit, and publically funded early care and education programs. She is Assistant Superintendent at Placer County Office of Education and is an adjunct faculty member at Sierra College. Prior to coming to PCOE, she managed early childhood programs at SETA Head Start, a \$47 million program serving 5,000 children. A relentless, outspoken advocate for children, Catherine has served as President for Child Development Policy Institute, Chair of the Sierra College Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee, and Chair of the First 5 Placer Commission. She was named Sacramento County Child Care Provider of the Year in 1999 and in 2003, and was honored as the Educator of the Year from the CSUS College of Education. Catherine holds a B.A. in child development from CSUS, an M.A. in human development/leadership in education from Pacific Oaks College, and an MPA from the University of San Francisco.</p>
<p>Grant Gould, Margot</p>	<p>Margot is the Policy Director for the First 5 Association of California, an organization charged with representing all 58 county First 5 agencies and elevating the needs of children across the state. Prior to joining the First 5 Association, Margot was the Communications Director for a member of the California State Assembly, where she also staffed the office on K-12 and early education policy. During graduate school, Margot was an Education Pioneer Fellow and worked on the policy team at Code.org. She holds a master’s in public administration from the University of Washington and a B.A. from Bucknell University.</p>
<p>Guerrero, Carlos</p>	<p>Carlos Guerrero, M.D., LCSW, has a degree in general medicine from the Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, and a MSW from California State University, East Bay. He works as a Clinical Social Worker III / Parent-Child Psychotherapist with the Early Childhood Mental Health Program at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital, Oakland. He provides home-based intensive individual and dyadic mental health services to young children and their families with emphasis on outreach and engagement of father figures. Dr. Guerrero is an alumni of the Harris Early Childhood Mental Health Training Program and the Child Trauma Training Institute in San Francisco. He is a roster Parent Child Psychotherapist by The Child Trauma Research Program and is a certificated COS Parenting Facilitator, and a trainer and fidelity coach on this intervention. Dr. Guerrero has been a member of the Alameda County Fathers Corps since its inception in 2013. He has been working over the last decade in designing and implementing groups to support the father-child relationship in early childhood.</p>

Guerrero, Kathleen	Kathleen is the Executive Director at the First 5 El Dorado Commission. She has more than thirty years of early childhood experience in the areas of program administration, child care, family engagement, planning, and resource and referral. She earned her Master's degree in sociology from CSU, Sacramento, applying that knowledge in collaboratively funding five Community Hubs to increase access to prevention and early intervention services for families with children birth through 18 years of age in El Dorado County.
Hackett, Nicky	Nicky is the Deputy Director for Children and Family Services, Placement Resources Division, in San Bernardino County. She has 20 years of experience in child welfare as a social worker, supervisor, manager, and executive. She is currently responsible for San Bernardino County's implementation of Continuum of Care Reform that seeks to overhaul the foster care placement and approval process. Nicky has a master's degree in social work from Loma Linda University.
Hansen, Mary Ann	Mary Ann Hansen, M.A., IFECMH, is the Executive Director of First 5 Humboldt and a child and family policy instructor at Humboldt State University. Mary Ann joined First 5 in 2015. For the 2017–18 budget year, Humboldt County allocated \$400,000 of marijuana tax revenues toward preventative children and family mental health programming.
Harris, Michele	Michele is the Executive Director of First 5 Solano. With a master's degree in public administration and a B.A. in business administration, Michele's 21 years in local government and non-profit leadership has helped her excel at finding new ways to "do more with less," including improving the strategic focus, integration, quality, and accountability of early childhood systems while reducing fragmentation and duplication of scarce resources.
Hentschel, Ann	Ann is the Quality Research and Program Development Manager at Branagh Group. Ann has been in the field of early childhood education for over 35 years. Her passion is in developing innovative ways to support teachers and program leaders in providing high-quality early learning for young children. Most recently, Ann was the Director of Quality Assessment at the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership. In that role, she oversaw the implementation of quality assessments along with training of technical assistance specialists for the Illinois QRIS. Currently, Ann is one of the primary content authors for new CQI tools linked with the Environment Rating Scales. Ann is coauthor of two books: <i>A Great Place to Work</i> and <i>Inspiring Peak Performance</i> with Paula Jorde Bloom and Jill Bella.
Herman, Ariella	Ariella Herman, Ph.D., is the Research Director of the Health Care Institute (HCI) at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Since 2001, she has successfully designed a systematic approach to health promotion intervention, developed tools, and resources to lead effective health care trainings in Head Start and preschool community settings.
Hiremani, Renuka	Renuka is a regional director with Kidango, primarily supervising and leading eight center directors from a region. She also is a facilitator for Early Learning Department, assisting with coaches/teachers trainings. As part of a trainer team, she also assumes a role as a Master Coach, supporting center directors with coaching skills at the center level, with curriculum, collecting student assessment data, analyzing student data, and creating a cohesive plan with teachers to implement intentional, planned intervention for individual student success also called RTI.
Hwang, Chris	At First 5 Alameda, Chris directs a team that supports staff and community partners in developing evaluation plans, facilitates the use of technology to collect data, and collaborates with county and place-based partners on the actionable steps following the conclusion of evaluation efforts.

Irons, Phadie	Phadie currently serves her community as the Local Child Care Planning Council Coordinator under the Glenn County Office of Education. She has held this position for the past three years. Phadie brings six years of classroom experience to her role with the LPC, including experience as a teacher in the private sector and as a Teacher/Director in a Head Start and State Preschool blended program. Her commitment to education is a result of her own search for continued professional development in early care and education, which drives her passion for assisting others in meeting their career goals, while increasing the quality of the services they provide. Supporting the North State QRIS Consortia as the Glenn County, County Lead, provides an opportunity for Phadie to expand her role and support all aspects of quality early learning experiences in her community. Phadie is a graduate of Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo.
Kelley-Knutsen, Melissa	As Teachstone's Regional Director of California, Melissa supports large-scale CLASS implementation, including First 5 California's efforts. Melissa's passion, knowledge, and dedication to the field helps clients to ensure their CLASS quality improvement goals are achieved. Since joining Teachstone in 2013, Melissa has supported teachers with one-on-one coaching through the MyTeachingPartner program and provided CLASS observation and coaching trainings. Melissa holds a J.D. degree with a certificate in Child and Family Law, has worked as a researcher, and also has worked for Chicago Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Education.
Kennedy, Gail	Gail is an inspirational leader at ACEs Connection who works locally and at the state level to promote resilience. She is a community manager and data specialist for the ACEs Connection Network. For nearly 20 years, she worked at the University of California, San Francisco, where she set up and managed international HIV collaborative efforts, assisting countries to collect and use data to respond to the needs of their communities. Gail's public health interests began while working as an advocate in a child abuse prevention and rape crisis center before her MPH training. She joined ACEs Connection Network in May 2015. She is developing tools that she hopes will help groups monitor their progress and identify priority areas of focus for outreach. She also is helping communities, organizations, and initiatives in Northern and Central California start groups on ACEs Connection. Gail has helped launch the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative, and the Sacramento County ACEs Connection groups. Others in the pipeline include Napa and El Dorado counties. She has a MPH degree from Columbia University, where she focused on socio-medical sciences, health promotion, and disease prevention.
Kubiak, Jena	Jena currently works as a Coordinator in the Early Education Student Services and Support Division at the San Diego County Office of Education. She has been involved in education for over 15 years. Jena taught preschool and kindergarten until entering the role of administrator in the State of Wisconsin as a principal. Subsequently, Jena became an Education Coordinator in Ohio. Most recently, she taught as a professor at the university level in California until joining the San Diego County Office of Education.
Lawrence-Toombs, Caitlin	Caitlin serves as Glen Price Group's (GPG) Vice President and provides critical leadership for GPG projects. A graduate of UCLA, Caitlin has supported many successful statewide initiatives in the public education sector in California, including several statewide education task forces. She also is experienced in developing and supporting large-scale grant proposals to state and federal public agencies, as well as private foundations.
Little, Heather	Heather is First 5 Association's Health Policy Manager, overseeing the coordination efforts of Help Me Grow California and supporting the advancement of the Association's health policy agenda.
Manship, Karen	Karen is a Principal Researcher at American Institutes for Research (AIR) in San Mateo. Her work focuses on evaluating educational programs for preschool and early elementary students, and on analyzing data to understand patterns of access to early childhood services for families.

McFadden, Rea	Rea serves as the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Supervisor and has served as the Local Child Care Planning Council Coordinator in Shasta County for over two years with Shasta County Office of Education. Rea works closely with North State QRIS staff, agencies from partnering counties, and Shasta County early care and education providers. Her goal is to increase the quality of early care and education in Shasta County and partnering counties through the coordination of the North State QRIS Scholarship and other QRIS activities. She strongly believes education is the gift that keeps on giving. Rea's gift of education is a Bachelor's degree in dietetics from U.C. Davis.
Michels, Dia	Dia is an award-winning, internationally published science and parenting writer. She has written or co-authored a dozen books. Her titles include <i>Milk, Money & Madness: The Culture and Politics of Breastfeeding</i> ; <i>Breastfeeding Facts for Fathers</i> ; <i>Nurtured and Nuzzled</i> , and <i>If My Mom Were A Platypus: Mammal Babies and their Mothers</i> . She is the editor of <i>Sleeping with Your Baby: A Parent's Guide to Cosleeping</i> and <i>The Quick Guide to Safely Sleeping with Your Baby</i> , both by James J. McKenna. She is founder and President of Platypus Media, an independent press dedicated to promoting attachment parenting, breastfeeding, and safe infant sleep. A popular speaker, she presents across the country at healthcare, parenting, and education conferences. She is heard frequently on radio shows as well as on <i>Born to Be Breastfed</i> on the VoiceAmerica Network.
Morse Roberts, Lucy	Lucy's expertise is in creating transformative programming. She serves as Director of Family Hui and was responsible for overseeing the creation of Family Hui's ACES education components and reflective, resilience building activities. In addition to her work with Family Hui/Lead4Tomorrow, she co-founded ArtReach Orlando, Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute in Orlando, Florida, and has consulted on multiple projects and programs throughout the southeastern portion of the United States and West Coast. Lucy has an M.A. in multicultural education.
Munro, Eunice	Eunice has worked in the field of early childhood education for 25 years. Among the many roles she has held are that of preschool teacher, center director, program director, accreditation manager, coach, early education specialist, and currently program specialist for the San Diego County Office of Education, supporting the work of QRIS and professional development.
Murphy, Carrie	As the Director of Early Childhood Programs at Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), Carrie oversees multiple projects, all focused on improving access to high-quality early learning experiences. She collaborates with early childhood leaders to guide the implementation of federal, state, and local quality improvement initiatives. Carrie has a master's degree in human development and a bachelor's degree in business administration.
Murphy, Jill	Jill is Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Common Sense Media. Jill has been instrumental in helping to build the editorial department. She oversees the ratings and reviews for all media channels including movies, TV, games, apps, and books. She also develops and manages the content strategy for parenting advice. Jill works closely with content partners, including the Huffington Post, Yahoo, DirecTV, Comcast, Netflix, and others to further leverage the library of Common Sense Media reviews and advice.
Murphy, Krista	Krista Murphy, M.Ed., is the Region 9 QRIS Lead, as well as coordinator supporting the QualityStart OC QRIS at the Orange County Department of Education. Krista also is a Governing Board Member for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
Murphy, Krista	Krista leads the Region 9 QRIS Hub, and supports QualityStart OC QRIS. She co-authored the winning 2017 Help Me Grow National Innovation Grant project with HMG Orange County. Krista is a Coordinator at Orange County Department of Education and a Governing Board member of NAEYC.

Neville-Morgan, Sarah	Sarah is the Director of the California Department of Education (CDE) Early Education and Support Division, where she oversees a division that provides leadership and support to the early learning and care community, providers, and contractors statewide, ensuring high-quality early education programs for young children. Neville-Morgan most recently served as Deputy Director of Program Management at First 5 California, and managed a team of professional staff and managers focused on closing the achievement gap and enhancing early brain development. She also worked as the Deputy Executive Director of the California Early Learning Council and as an Academic Child Development Specialist at the UC Davis Center for Child and Family Studies. Sarah earned a B.A. in psychology at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and an M.S. in child development at UC Davis.
Nicholson, Julie	Julie serves as Deputy Director with WestEd’s Center for Child & Family Studies (CCFS), where she leads new CCFS projects and product development efforts, manages and supports staff, and further builds CCFS as a leader in the early childhood development field. Julie also is Associate Professor of Practice in the School of Education at Mills College. While at Mills, she directed the Leadership Program in Early Childhood, co-directed the Joint MBA/MA Educational Leadership Program, chaired the early childhood department, and established and directed the Center for Play Research. Nicholson’s research, peer reviewed articles, and books emphasize social justice and equity in several areas, including leadership, play, trauma informed practices, kindergarten readiness, assessment, teachers use of data, and gender inclusive pedagogy. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for Childhood Education International.
Nigrelli, Christina	Christina is the Senior Director of Programs for the ZERO TO THREE (ZTT) Western Office in Los Angeles. Prior to joining ZTT, she worked in higher education as early childhood education faculty at California State University, Long Beach and Saddleback College. She has over twenty-five years of experience in early childhood beginning her career as an Infant and Toddler Specialist for a privately funded child care program in Irvine, California. She has extensive experience in local and statewide workforce development. As Senior Director of Programs, Christina oversees the Prenatal to Age Five Workforce Development Project that promotes cross-sector engagement in professionals across Los Angeles County. She received a B.A. in child development and family studies as well as an M.A. in early childhood education from California State University, Long Beach and an Ed.S. in early childhood education from Walden University.
Osborne, Tamarra	Tamarra is an Early Childhood Content Expert for WestEd’s Desired Results Training on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in state-funded programs. She directed nonprofit childcare centers for 10 years, and served as a Professional Growth Advisor for the Child Development Training Consortium. Tamarra earned a B.A. degree in early childhood education at California State University, Sacramento and an M.S in education with an early childhood curriculum option from California State University, East Bay.
Parada, Lucy	Lucy has over 12 years of experience in the education sector. A native of Sinaloa, Mexico, Lucy is passionate about working with underprivileged and immigrant communities. Lucy worked within the West Contra Costa Unified School District for 10 years, and is currently the Contra Costa Program Supervisor for Tandem, Partners in Early Learning. Lucy also is a lead trainer for Tandem’s Family Leadership Program, Literacy Champions. She received her B.A. from UC Berkeley in Spanish, with an emphasis on hispanic languages and bilingual issues.
Ponivas, Angela	Angela is Chief of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, California Department of Social Services, which has integrated strength-based approaches into their grants and services. Prior to working for the State, Angela was an Executive Director of a family resource center and counseling center in Placer County for seven years. In addition to nonprofit leadership, Angela has provided direct service in the child welfare field working in various areas of the continuum of care including family maintenance, court investigations, and has worked for a foster family agency, matching families and children, stabilizing placements, and conducting adoption home assessments. Angela also started a nonprofit agency called “Love Little Children,” a food program for in-home daycare providers, in Sacramento. Angela has an undergraduate degree in business administration and a graduate degree in social work.

Porter, Nathan	Nathan is a data manager at Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health working on kidsdata.org.
Prusso-Hatch, Laurie	Laurie is a retired Professor of Child Development. She holds a B.A. in human development and an M.S. Ed., from California State University. She focuses on emotional and social development in young children, the effects of trauma on children and families, and the role of relationships in healing. She has worked with Head Start and state-funded programs, Local Planning Councils, resource and referral agencies, First 5, CARES projects, school-age programs, and has been a popular provider of keynote addresses and workshops at many conferences for three decades. Laurie has taught children, students, and adult learners in a variety of settings and is a Certified Positive Discipline [®] Trainer and Parent Educator. She also has been published in recent issues of CAEYC Connections.
Rexroad, Jennifer	Jennifer is Executive Director of the California Alliance of Caregivers. She has over a decade of K-12 & adult classroom teaching experience, including educational programming, leadership, training, curriculum, and staff development. She has developed, implemented and managed educational technology programs and other programs and activities. Jennifer is a Yolo County First 5 Commissioner, and is on the Yolo County Local Child Care Planning Council. She has been a foster parent for 4 years, and is the founder and Executive Director of California Alliance of Caregivers. California Alliance of Caregivers represents the voice of relative and non-relative caregivers to promote the well-being of children in foster care. Jennifer advocates on youth and child welfare issues locally and statewide.
Richards, Megan	Megan is the Deputy Director of First 5 Solano. Prior to joining First 5 Solano, she worked in both public health and mental health for Solano County Health & Social Services, providing her multiple perspectives of agency operations.
Richards, Megan	Megan has been with First 5 Solano as Deputy Director since 2013. She oversees the budget, operations, and roll out of new programs. Prior to coming to First 5 Solano, Megan served with Solano County Health & Social Services for seven years in both the Public Health and Mental Health Divisions, including managing the Family Health Services' primary care and mental health clinics in Vallejo, which averaged over 2,000 patient visits a month. Megan’s focus on quality improvement, data collection and evaluation, and fiscal accountability make her an ideal fit for First 5 Solano. Megan has a B.A. from Wesleyan University and an Executive Master of Public Administration from Golden Gate University.
Rinki, Christine	Christina is currently an epidemiologist with the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division of the California Department of Public Health, where she manages the Maternal and Infant Health Assessment survey. She holds a Masters degree in public health from Columbia University.
Robb, Michael	Michael is Common Sense’s Director of Research, overseeing the program, evaluation of organizational impact, and program development research. Michael has been involved in media and children issues for over 15 years. He has published research in academic journals on the impact of electronic media on young children's language development, early literacy outcomes, and problem-solving abilities. Michael has done outreach to help parents and teachers make the most of quality children's programming.
Romero, Maria	Maria joined the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in 2015. Her responsibilities span across the areas of child care, public health, and mental health within the Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services. Currently, she is the Project Manager for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children. Prior to joining DCFS, she served as a Legislative Deputy for the County’s First Supervisorial District. Maria has a master’s degree in public administration from California State University, Los Angeles.

Sandoval-Gonzalez, Araceli	Araceli is an independent strategy, policy, and philanthropic consultant with over 15 years of experience advocating for equitable learning opportunities for all students. She has spearheaded and supported program and initiative development, implementation, and stakeholder and political engagement efforts that resulted in the passage of policies such as transitional kindergarten (TK), Expanded TK, Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, and Birth to Third Grade Initiative, and increased state budget and school district investments benefiting early learning programs and its workforce.
Savage, Susan	Susan has led research and evaluation projects for over 25 years and is currently the Director of Research at Child Care Resource Center, a human service agency that cultivates child, family, and community well-being in Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. She and her team have led local, countywide, and statewide evaluations across a diverse set of topics, including child development, school readiness, impact of child care subsidies, workforce development and quality improvement, child welfare, obesity prevention, disaster preparedness, and pandemic awareness in child care settings. She and her team develop web-based data collection and data linkage methods across siloed systems to obtain a more accurate picture of services for children and families. In the area of social policy, Dr. Savage leads policy-relevant research and partners with legislators and policy-makers in Sacramento and Washington, DC to help make informed, data-driven decisions. She holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology with a minor in quantitative methods from UC Riverside and a B.A. in psychology from UCLA.
Serwanga, Ramee	Ramee is a Project Specialist with Sacramento County Early Learning Department working for the past five years with Sacramento County's QRIS through its progression to Raising Quality Together providing support to a variety of public and private early childhood settings. Her 20 years of early childhood education experience includes preschool teacher, program direction, parent engagement, and staff coach. She holds a Masters of Art degree in human development with a specialization in early childhood education and is a trainer in the use of the California Preschool Foundations and Frameworks and the Program for Infant Toddler Care as well as a certified CLASS trainer.
Singley, Danielle	Danielle serves as the IMPACT Region 3 Coaching/CLASS Specialist and provides coaching support, CLASS observations, and CLASS trainings throughout the region. She served as an MTP Specialist and Coach in the Statewide CARES Plus program through First 5 California. Her goal is to bring coaches together to create community and provide support in an often solitary field of work. She graduated from California State University, Sacramento with her master's degree in early childhood education and also earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential through CSU, East Bay.
Smith, Christine	Christine is a Director of Early Learning, currently working with the Sacramento County Office of Education RQT team. She has 11 years in the early learning field, including preschool teacher, kindergarten teacher, site supervisor, First 5 school readiness coordinator, and school district Director of Early Learning.
Smith, Jolene	As the CEO of First 5 Santa Clara, Jolene has been a catalyst for changing the way local systems serve children and families, creating strategic, evidence-driven county-wide partnerships to tackle issues such as children's health insurance, screening and assessment for developmental delays, high-quality early education, early literacy, and parent education.
Steakley, Maggie	As a former 2nd grade teacher, Maggie brings a strong passion and commitment to public service to her work at Glen Price Group (GPG). She provides leadership and project management expertise to GPG projects and excels at writing, analysis, facilitation, planning and management, and synthesizing large bodies of information. Maggie has a masters in public policy from UC Berkeley.
Tadlock, Lisa	Lisa Tadlock, MPA, is a Program Manager for the Public Health Institute Center for Wellness and Nutrition, overseeing their early childhood programs. Lisa is a former First 5 Executive Director, with over 15 years providing technical assistance to organizations serving families.
Teutsch, Carol	Carol Teutsch, M.D., is a medical consultant at the Health Care Institute, at the UCLA Anderson School of Management, specializing in diabetes education and prevention.

Thompson, Gary	Gary is the Family Health Services Fatherhood Coordinator for the Family Health Services (FHS) Division of the Alameda County Public Health Department. He manages two MPCAH programs, the Juvenile Probation Transition Center and Fatherhood Initiative, and a recently created male staff unit that addresses the life skill needs of local fathers and their families. Gary also is one of the co-founders of the Fathers Corps, a learning community of male service providers which is administered in collaboration with First 5 Alameda County.
Thorsteinson, Christine	As part of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, Center for Early Learning, Christine works to bridge the gaps between preschool and K–12 systems in the Silicon Valley. Recognizing the importance of early childhood education and its impact on future success, Christine strives to support communities in their efforts to develop systems of communication and collaboration that provide a continuum of support for students and families from age three to third grade. Recent work experience includes serving as the early learning program consultant for Pacifica School District and Executive Director of Pacifica School Volunteers. Christine received her bachelor's degrees in English and education from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada. As a passionate believer in the importance of high-quality public education, she spends many of her free hours volunteering with local education initiatives.
Tilling, Marta	Marta is the Assistant Director of School Readiness Programs at Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County. As teacher, social worker, and program developer and director, she has been committed to improving the lives of young children and their parents.
Torres, Juan Carlos	Juan Carlos has worked at the San Diego County Office of Education for 20 years in the ITS department and the Early Education unit where he is currently advancing San Diego County's QRIS efforts. He is a graduate from San Diego State University's School of Business Administration (MIS).
Turk-Bicakci, Lori	Lori is a senior manager at the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. In partnership with the Foundation's Kidsdata team, she ensures the quality, relevance, and utility of the research and content on kidsdata.org. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology from University of California, Riverside.
Valmidiano, Lillian	Lily, a Certified Health Education Specialist, is a Project Director and Site Supervisor at the American Academy of Pediatrics, California Chapter 3. She has over 20 years of program management, planning, and evaluation experience, including her work to develop and implement Healthy Development Services, a comprehensive developmental and behavioral system of care for young children. She was the Associate Director of Education and Programs at the American Lung Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties where she managed an asthma initiative for children. In her role at the Center for Child Health Outcomes at Children's Hospital, San Diego, Lily worked in child health services research where she co-authored a chapter in the book, <i>Child Health Services Research: Applications, Innovations, and Insights</i> . Lily earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona and master's degree in public health from San Diego State University.
Wahl, Kathryn	Kathryn is the Director II of Inclusion Collaborative at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. She has worked for the Inclusion Collaborative since 2014, being involved in the development and implementation of the EPIC Credentialing Program and the State Annual Inclusion Conference held at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE). Kathryn has worked for SCCOE since 1995, starting as a Nutrition Consultant and then as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher/Nutritionist for the SCCOE Early Start Program. She has worked with teachers, students, and families across the county in center-based and home-based programs, and currently supports local districts in creating new inclusion programs. She has taught at local community colleges, developed inclusive training tracks for community colleges, and worked for many community agencies in Santa Clara County. Kathryn earned her B.S in dietetics and food administration at California Polytechnic State University, and her M.A in early intervention services, Special Education Program from Santa Clara University.

Wesley, LaWanda	LaWanda is the Quality Improvement Program Manager for Alameda County's Quality Counts QRIS initiative. Prior to joining Alameda County in June 2015, she spent 10 years with Child Development, Inc. as the Northern California Program Resource Manager. She has a long-standing history as a collaborator on major early childhood education initiatives funded by the California Department of Education, Early Education Support Division. She is a former adjunct faculty instructor at Consumnes River College in Sacramento. While at the California Association for the Education of Young Children, she served as the Director for the state-funded Prekindergarten Learning and Development Guidelines Training Project. Child Care Exchange, a national early childhood leadership childhood organization, has recognized LaWanda as one of the emerging leaders in the country. She is personally and professionally moved by issues of equity and social justice. She is dedicated to changing the lives of all children, especially those from communities of color, poverty, and furthest reach from opportunity.
Wheelahan, Melissa	Melissa is part of the QRIS team at the Orange County Department of Education and is a Board Member and Chair of the Professional Development Committee for OCAEYC.
Wirtz, Steve	Steve is Principal Investigator for the Essentials for Childhood Initiative at the Safe and Active Communities Branch, California Department of Public Health. As an acting chief with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Steve has dealt with myriad issues facing today's youth, including drug, alcohol, and child abuse. Steve is a clinical psychologist and has been with CDPH for 16 years. He oversees programs involving child neglect, fatal child abuse, alcohol, drugs and violence against women. His efforts include prevention programs and the development of systems to report and track abuse. When working at the Child Abuse Prevention Council, he created and managed several programs involving perinatal substance abuse and child death reviews. Steve volunteers on many boards and commissions in the area. He is an active member of the Sacramento County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board and also part of the Blue Ribbon Commission on disproportionate African-American Child Deaths. Steve earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from California State University, Sacramento. He has a doctorate degree in developmental psychology from Boston University.
Zighera, Theresa	Theresa improves social service systems and programs through meaningful application of evaluation practices. At First 5 San Francisco she supports staff and the Commission by assessing the impact and effectiveness of funded programs and community investments, while also overseeing San Francisco's Help Me Grow Early Identification and Intervention Initiative.