

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION
The Board on Children, Youth, and Families
Forum for Children's Well-Being

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES

Emily Ball holds an A.S. degree from Manchester Community College. Professionally, her time is split between various organizations related to disability. She serves as the Youth Outreach Coordinator (YOC) for Parents Available to Help (PATH.) She helped spearhead a program with the University of Connecticut to speak to young children in their classrooms about disability. Besides these specific endeavors, she has also served as one of two youth advisors for the CT Transition Symposium Planning Committee since 2018. In her free time, she enjoys reading various genres of young adult literature. Her favorite athletic pastimes are therapeutic horseback riding, water skiing and downhill skiing.

Kawanza Billy is Program Manager of the Black Swan Academy. She became involved because of the mission; making young black leadership more than an exception but the rule. She believes that every young person is a leader, with support and tools they can accomplish anything. She is Founder and Social Impact Strategist at K.Billy Push, a consulting company dedicated to creating and improving social impact initiatives. She received her B.A. from The City University of New York at John Jay College where she majored in Political Science concentrating in Urban and Community Affairs. She is known for her ability to utilize her creativity to foster new processes, programs, and systems that impact experience, sustainability and visibility. She's a leader who gravitates towards opportunities to provide resources and support to those in need. When Kawanza isn't igniting the light in others, she is serving as Chapter Leader for the National Cervical Cancer Coalition and Chair of the Civic Engagement Committee of Greater Washington National Urban League -Thursday Network.

Claire Brindis, DrPH, is a Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and Health Policy, Department of Pediatrics and Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Health Sciences and Director of the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Brindis is also the Co-Director of the Adolescent and Young Adult Health National Resource Center. Dr. Brindis' research focuses on ameliorating the impact of social, health, and economic disparities among ethnic/racial populations, with a particular focus on women and adolescents. Her research analyzes how disparities impact health outcomes, access to quality care and health insurance coverage, and the impact of migration and acculturation on Latinx health. As a bi-lingual, bi-cultural researcher, Dr. Brindis' research also includes consumer engagement in health care system re-design, effective substance abuse treatment strategies, and closing the gap between evidence-based innovation and its application to policy and programs. Dr. Brindis also co-authored, *Advocacy and Policy Change Evaluation: Theory and Practice* (Stanford Press, 2017). Dr. Brindis is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), serves on the NAM Council, on the Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Public Policy, and on the Advisory Committee, NAM Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Health and Medicine. Previously, Dr. Brindis served on the Institute of Medicine's (now NAM) Committee on Preventive Health Services for Women, which developed recommendations for preventive services for women without co-payments which were adopted as part of health care reform.

Tameka "Tami" Brown serves as Director for the National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS). In this role, Tami works with the CEO to manage youth programs, communications and fundraising

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initiatives. Previously, Tami served as Executive Director at the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI) providing strategic leadership in furthering evidence-based approaches to reading and learning so that all students acquire the highest levels of literacy. As a non-profit professional, mission-centered leadership is the foundation of her career.

Daniel Busso, Ed.D., is a Director of Research at the FrameWorks Institute, where he conducts multi-method social science research to investigate patterns of public thinking about socio-political issues. At FrameWorks, he works with a multi-disciplinary team of social scientists and communications practitioners who investigate ways to apply innovative framing research methods to social issues and train nonprofit organizations to put the findings into practice. Prior to FrameWorks, his past research focused on emotional, cognitive, and neurobiological mechanisms that underlie the association between early adversity and child and adolescent mental disorders. He holds a B.Sc. in Psychology from the University of Bath, England, an M.Sc. in Cognitive Science from University College London, and master's and doctoral degrees in Human Development from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Conor Curran is a junior at Old Mill High School in Millersville, Maryland enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. Curran has served his local community for the past 6 years being a champion at advocating for a more equitable school system and for increased mental health resources. Being involved is second nature for Curran as he serves as the President of The Chesapeake Regional Association of Student Councils, the official voice of the students of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. Currently he is running for the student position for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education to create change via policy. While fighting for his peers Curran always keeps his peers in mind, thinking of what is best for all of them.

Kelly Headrick serves as the senior director of state government affairs and grassroots advocacy for Autism Speaks, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. In this role, she and her colleagues work – together with volunteer advocates and ambassadors – to promote autism research funding, access to critical autism-related supports and services, access to high-quality special education, and to support other issues of concern to the autism community. Prior to joining the staff of Autism Speaks in early 2020, Kelly worked in a variety of state, regional and national roles with organizations including the American Heart Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Cancer Society and Nurse-Family Partnership. Kelly is based in the Denver, Colorado area where she lives with her husband and teenage children.

DeAngelo Hughes is a sophomore at Ferris State University in Michigan, where he is majoring in social work. A mental health and suicide prevention activist, DeAngelo struggled with feelings of grief and isolation for years after he lost his mother to hypertensive heart disease at the age of 13 and later lost a brother to incarceration for life. In 2014, while a high school sophomore on the east side of Detroit, DeAngelo had a vision to support other young people who were experiencing devastating losses and helping them find hope and a sense of comfort in community, so that, one day, no young person ever feels as alone as he did when he lost his mom. With coaching from The Future Project, he launched Detroit Flutter Foundation – a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting youth and young adults

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experiencing loss and grief by teaching them coping skills, raising awareness about teen suicide prevention, mental health, and creating a safe space to share stories of traumatic events. DeAngelo is a proud and devoted father of a one -year old baby daughter, Zoey.

Nicole Kahn, Ph.D., serves as a Program Officer in the Board on Children, Youth, and Families at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies). She is currently the study director for the Committee on Applying Lessons of Optimal Adolescent Health to Improve Behavioral Outcomes for Youth. Before joining the National Academies, Dr. Kahn worked as a social research specialist with the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she collaborated on research projects focused on postsecondary educational attainment, adolescent sexuality, and childhood and adolescent precursors of adult chronic disease. She has also worked as a project researcher at the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development in Washington, DC, and served as a Head Start teacher with the Teach for America program in Phoenix, Arizona. She received her B.A. in psychology from Bates College, her M.Ed. in early childhood education from Arizona State University, and her Ph.D. in maternal and child health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she studied the sexual experiences and related health outcomes of marginalized populations from adolescence to adulthood.

Tamar Mendelson, Ph.D., is a professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Bloomberg Professor of American Health, Director of the Center for Adolescent Health, and co-leader of the Adolescent Health area of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. She served as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Consensus Committee on Promoting Healthy Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Functioning in Children and Youth. A clinical psychologist by training, Dr. Mendelson studies the prevention of mental health issues and promotion of positive development in urban adolescents. For over twelve years, she has tested mindfulness-based prevention programs to enhance student mental health and school success in Baltimore City schools. Through the Center and the Bloomberg Initiative, she collaborates with multiple partners to help reduce the number of young people who become disconnected from school, the workforce, and other key supports.

Edward Schmit co-founded IDONTMIND, a mental health awareness campaign and lifestyle brand working to inspire conversations about mental health, in 2017. Since its launch, IDONTMIND has raised over \$350,000 for mental health organizations across the country, and is now an official program of Mental Health America where 100% of its proceeds support the non-profit. Edward oversees all day-to-day operations for IDONTMIND – including product design, e-commerce, social media, and partnerships – as the IDONTMIND website and social platforms continue to grow into a modern destination for all things mental health. As the former Creative Director of a New York entertainment agency, Edward brings over eight years of experience in design, fashion, and marketing. He has worked with best-in-class brands including Google, Showtime, Starbucks, Icelandic Provisions, Maybelline, and more. IDONTMIND encourages everyone to be open about their minds. After struggling with anxiety, Edward has taken up swimming every morning to prioritize his mental health. He currently lives in New York City.

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Matthew Shapiro is a 2013 graduate of VCU where he completed a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree. Throughout college, he participated in several internships including opportunities with The White House, The U.S. Department of Transportation as well as with several Virginia area disability organizations. In 2014, he developed a disability consulting company called 6 Wheels Consulting. It is the goal of 6 Wheels Consulting, LLC to work with businesses of all types to help advance their understanding of disability culture. In his free time, he enjoys learning about politics, watching sports, and hanging out with his dog, VP.

Francie Zimmerman is a senior associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy and works primarily on the Youth Thrive initiative, focusing on adolescents in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She coordinates Youth Thrive's National Network and supports New Jersey's implementation efforts. Previously, Francie was director of family services for Acelero Learning Head Start centers in North Philadelphia and Camden, NJ. In philanthropy, Francie established and operated the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Child Abuse Prevention Program, making grants to national nonprofit organizations for over a decade. For many years, she was a consultant to the F. B. Heron Foundation which promoted asset building, homeownership, and economic development strategies in low-income communities. Early in her career, she was an advocate for children in foster care, a special needs adoption caseworker, and assistant to the director of New York City's secure detention facility for children, ages 10-15 years old. She has served on several advisory boards, including Project FUTURES and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Knowledge into Action Committee. Francie has a master's degree from Hunter College School of Social Work and a bachelor's degree from Barnard College, Columbia University.

PLANNING COMMITTEE BIOSKETCHES

Cheryl Polk, Ph.D., (Planning Committee Chair) is Safe & Sound's first Chief Program Officer. Safe & Sound has worked for more than 45 years to prevent child abuse and reduce its devastating impact. In this position, Dr. Polk supervises the agency's clinical and family teams: Integrated Children & Family Services that bolster mental health, and Community Education & Strategic Partnerships. Prior to this role, she served as president of HighScope Educational Research Foundation. For more than 25 years, Dr. Polk has promoted healthy child development, especially for children at risk of school failure and their families, through her work as a psychologist, academic, and civic volunteer. She served as the executive director of the Lisa and John Pritzker Family Fund where her insight into early childhood development and philanthropy helped create innovative intervention programs for children exposed to community and interpersonal trauma. She was president of the board of directors of Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families and served as a board member of that organization for more than 10 years. Dr. Polk received her Ph.D. in psychology from California School of Professional Psychology-SF/Alliant International University.

Stephanie M. Jones, Ph.D., is the Gerald S. Lesser Professor in Early Childhood Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her research, anchored in prevention science, focuses on the effects of poverty and exposure to violence on children and youth's social, emotional, and behavioral

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development. Over the last ten years, her work has focused on both evaluation research addressing the impact of preschool and elementary focused social-emotional learning interventions on behavioral and academic outcomes and classroom practices; as well as new curriculum development, implementation, and testing. Dr. Jones is a recipient of the Grawemeyer Award in Education for her work with Zigler and Walter Gilliam on *A Vision for Universal Preschool Education* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and a recipient of the Joseph E. Zins Early-Career Distinguished Contribution Award for Action Research in Social and Emotional Learning. Dr. Jones' research portfolio emphasizes the importance of conducting rigorous scientific research, including program evaluation that also results in accessible content for early and middle childhood practitioners and policymakers. Her developmental and experimental research investigates the causes and consequences of social-emotional problems and competencies; strategies for altering the pathways that shape children's social-emotional development; and programs, interventions, and pedagogy that foster social-emotional competencies among children, adults, and environments. Her policy-driven research with colleague Nonie Lesaux focuses on the challenge of simultaneously expanding and improving the quality of early childhood education, at scale (*The Leading Edge of Early Childhood Education*, Harvard Education Press, 2016). Dr. Jones serves on numerous national advisory boards and expert consultant groups related to social-emotional development and child and family anti-poverty policies, including the National Boards of Parents as Teachers and Engaging Schools. She consults to program developers, including Sesame Street, and has conducted numerous evaluations of programs and early education efforts, including Reading, Writing, Respect and Resolution, Resolving Conflict Creatively, SECURE, and the Head Start CARES initiative. Across projects and initiatives, Dr. Jones maintains a commitment to supporting the alignment of preK-3 curricula and instructional practices. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University.

Carlos E. Santos, Ph.D., is an assistant professor at University of California, Los Angeles' Luskin School of Public Affairs. Dr. Santos' research draws on diverse disciplines, theories and methods to better understand how oppressions (e.g., racism, heterosexism, etc.) overlap to create unique conditions for individuals; conditions that are shaped by the contexts one occupies, with implications for one's development and well-being. He is interested in how individuals cope with these overlapping stressors through attitudes associated with membership in different social groups (e.g., having pride in one's ethnic-racial and/or sexual identity group), and positions one occupies (e.g., being undocumented), and whether such coping attenuate or amplify the negative consequences of overlapping oppressions on mental health, educational outcomes, and civic engagement. Dr. Santos has authored nearly 30 peer reviewed publications. His co-edited book with Adriana Umaña-Taylor, *Studying Ethnic Identity: Methodological and Conceptual Approaches Across Disciplines*, was published in 2015 by the American Psychological Association Press. He co-edited a peer reviewed journal section on the applications of intersectionality to the helping professions published in the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, and he co-edited a special issue on the integration of an intersectionality lens in developmental science published in *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*. Along with colleagues, he has received funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health. In 2017, he was awarded the "Emerging Professional Contributions to Research Award" by the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity, and Race of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Santos received his Ph.D. in developmental psychology from New York University, a master's degree in education from Harvard University, and a bachelor's degree from New York University.

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Deborah Klein Walker, Ed.D., is the current president of the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatric Association) and a former president of the American Public Health Association and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. She formerly served as vice president and senior fellow at Abt Associates, Inc. and as associate commissioner for programs and prevention at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Prior to state service, Dr. Walker was an associate professor of human development at the Harvard School of Public Health and a faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Walker has authored three books and over 100 articles and book chapters. Her research and policy interests include child and family policy, program implementation and evaluation, public health practice, disability policy, community health systems, health outcomes and data systems. She received her Ed.D. in human development from Harvard University.

Leslie R. Walker-Harding, M.D., is the Ford/Morgan Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Associate Dean at the University of Washington and the Chief Academic Officer and Senior Vice President of Seattle Children's Hospital. Prior to returning to Seattle Dr. Walker-Harding was Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Penn State Children's Hospital. From 2007 to 2016, she was the Division Chief of Adolescent Medicine and Vice Chair of Faculty Development in Pediatrics at the University of Washington. Dr. Walker-Harding serves on a number of national boards and committees including the Council of the American Pediatric Society (APS). She currently is chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (CODI) in the APS. She serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Substance Use and Prevention (COSUP), and she is a past President of the Society of Adolescent Health and Medicine. She has served on a number of committees at the National Academies of Medicine focused on adolescent and young adult health. Her research has been focused on prevention of adolescent risk behaviors spanning adolescent and young adult substance abuse and ADHD to adolescent pregnancy prevention. Diversity and inclusion in the workforce of health providers as a way of creating excellence in academic medicine and eliminating health disparities has also been a national focus of hers. She has publications both in adolescent and young adult health, and improving excellence in health care and research by increasing workforce diversity and inclusion.

David W. Willis, M.D., is a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Social Policy. He leads a national initiative to advance early relational health for child health and communities. A board -certified, developmental-behavioral pediatrician, Dr. Willis was a clinician in Oregon for more than 30 years with a practice focused on early childhood development and family therapy. Most recently, he was the first executive director of the Perigee Fund, a Seattle-based philanthropy focused on strengthening of the social and emotional development of all babies and toddlers, and on advancing the workforce to do so. From 2012-2018, he served as director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal Child Health Bureau, in Washington DC, and continues to be thought leader in home visiting and early childhood systems. During his career, Dr. Willis has also been a Harris Mid-Career Fellow with childhood development nonprofit ZERO TO THREE; the past president of the Oregon Pediatric Society; an executive member of the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Early Education and Child Care; and chair of the

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The Board on Children, Youth, and Families
Forum for Children's Well-Being

AAP's Board's Early Brain & Child Development Strategic Initiative. Dr. Willis has been a national lecturer, advisor to early childhood national policy and visionary for the transformation of child health care in coordination with early childhood communities and focused on the advancement of early relational health and young children's social-emotional and developmental well-being. Dr. Willis received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.