

# **Forum for Children's Well-Being: Promoting Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Health for Children and Youth**

## **Committee**

### **Kyle R. MacDonald**

#### **Ex Officio Member**

Kyle R. MacDonald, M.D., M.P.H., CPH, is the Chief Impact Officer at Education, Training, and Research Associates (ETR), leading communications, training, and strategy implementation. A licensed physician with training in pediatrics and public health, Dr. MacDonald is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Pediatric Population Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. Previously, he has held positions as a researcher, senior program lead, state government consultant, and executive leader at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, KPMG, and Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Along with supporting the National Academies, Dr. MacDonald serves on the Alumni Board for Columbia Mailman and on the national steering committee for the Connected for Kids initiative through Child Trends and the Thrive Center at Georgetown University. He holds a B.Sc.H. from Queen's University, an M.D. from Memorial University, trained in pediatrics at the University of Ottawa, and holds an M.P.H. from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

# Allysa N. Ware

## Ex Officio Member

Allysa Ware, PhD, MSW, is the Executive Director of Family Voices. She is a family leader and researcher with extensive experience in strategic planning, family engagement, grant writing, human relations, and systems change, and she believes strongly in family and community leadership in developing solutions and improving systems.

Dr. Ware's research is focused on the lived experience of individuals and families with an autism diagnosis. Her commitment to advocacy for individuals on the autism spectrum began with her personal experience as a parent and expanded through her practice as a social worker. She became increasingly frustrated with pushing families toward ineffective and inaccessible systems and made it her mission to help improve these systems with a goal of improving the overall functioning of children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

In addition to contributing to numerous academic journals, including *Pediatrics*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Advances in Social Work*, *Health Policy*, and *Academic Pediatrics*, Dr. Ware was recognized in 2022 with the Researcher Award for Milestones Autism Resources, an Ohio-based nonprofit organization that provides lifelong strategies and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. She has collaborated with notable researchers to conduct in-depth research on kinship care, transition to adult care, and early childhood systems.

Dr. Ware is the principal investigator on several initiatives at Family Voices, including a PCORI Eugene Washington Engagement Award for building capacity for autism research in the African American community; the ACL-funded Center for Transition to Adult Care for Youth with Disabilities; and *Pediatrics Supporting Parents*, an early childhood social-emotional development initiative.

Dr. Ware holds a BA in Psychology from University of Maryland Global Campus and a master's and PhD in social work from The Catholic University of America. She's an immensely proud mother of an autistic young adult daughter who is majoring in music performance.