5th Annual
KIDS COUNT
Conference 2017

5th ANNUAL KIDS COUNT CONFERENCE
Opportunity Matters: Advancing the Well-Being of Children, Women, and Families in a New Political Era

Monday, June 26, 2017
Marriott Pyramid
5151 San Francisco Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM

Event Summary

Nationally and at the state level, we are entering a new political era. Unprecedented roll-backs of social support systems continue to stream from the pen of the federal administration while in New Mexico we’re entering a gubernatorial and legislative election year in 2018. This year’s conference will be dedicated to acknowledging and analyzing both the threats and opportunities before us as they relate to the health and happiness of children and families.

The first half of the day is dedicated to sharing updated rankings on child well-being in New Mexico AND, importantly, laying out the policy landscape both nationally and for New Mexico in light of the current federal and state administrations’ tactics.

The second half of the day will center on discussing the linkages between the well-being of women, with a focus on women’s economic security, and the well-being of children. The afternoon will be coordinated in partnership with NewMexicoWomen.org (and several other community-based organizations), who will soon release their two-part report “The Heart of Gender Justice in New Mexico: Intersectionality, Economic Security and Health Equity.”

Event Program Summary

7:15 – 8:00  Registration and Breakfast
8:00 – 8:10  Welcome & Opening Remarks
             Don Simonson | Co-Chair, NM Voices for Children Board of Directors
             Allen Sanchez | President & CEO, CHI St. Joseph’s Children
8:15 – 8:45  Enhancing Child Well-Being in New Mexico: Policy Agenda
8:50 – 9:45  The National Policy Landscape: Impacts on Child and Family Well-being
Dennis Campa | Associate Director, State Policy Reform and Advocacy, External Affairs, Annie E. Casey Foundation
Nick Johnson | Senior Vice President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

9:50 – 10:10  Searching for Light: Investigative Journalism, A Children’s Agenda for NM
Ray Rivera | Founder, Searchlight New Mexico

10:10 – 10:20  Break

10:20 – 11:15  Celebrating 30 Years: Retrospective, NM Voices for Children
Jerry Ortiz Y Pino | Senator, New Mexico State Legislature
Ona Porter | Executive Director, Prosperity Works
Veronica Garcia | Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools
James Jimenez | Executive Director, NM Voices for Children

11:20 – 11:30  Break/Move to Lunch

Lunch Awards Ceremony
Amy Biehl Youth Spirit and Spirit of Hope Awards
11:30 – 12:30

Masters of Ceremonies:
Chris Schueller | President/CEO, Christopher Productions
Cindy Nava | Education Analyst and Board Member, New Mexico Voices for Children

Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awardees
1st Place, Age 13 – 19: Natalie Chambers, Next Gen Academy
2nd Place, Age 13 – 19: Isabella Baker, ABQ Institute for Math & Science
1st Place, Age 20 – 26: Janelle Astorga-Ramos, University of New Mexico
2nd Place, Age 20 – 26: Avery Aguilar, University of New Mexico

Alice King Awardee
Fred Harris | Former US Senator, Professor of Political Science at UNM

Patty and Polly Citizen Advocate Awardee
Notah Begay | Founder, Notah Begay III Foundation (NB3)

Spirit of Hope Awardees
Marcela Diaz | Executive Director, Somos un Pueblo Unido
Rachel Lazar | Executive Director, El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos

Legislative Advocacy Awardee
Senator Mimi Stewart | District 17, NM Senate
12:30 – 12:55  **Art for Social Change Sessions**
Rujeko Dumbetsena and Armando Ortega of Wagogo perform traditional Zimbabwean music and dance in honor of women and children.

1:00 – 1:20  **Heart of Gender Justice: Intersectionality, Economic Security, & Health Equity**
Sarah Ghiorse | *Program Director*, NewMexicoWomen.org
Lisa Cacari Stone, PhD, MA, MS | *Assistant Director*, RWJF Center for Health Policy
Dr. Claudia Diaz Fuentes | *Lecturer III*, University of New Mexico

Alicia Edwards | *Coordinator*, Healthy Kids Healthy Communities Grant County
Pamelya Herndon | *Executive Director*, Southwest Women’s Law Center
Jessica Riggs | *Program Manager*, Tewa Women United
Diana Maze | *Network Member*, Organizing in the Land of Enchantment
Sarah Ghiorse | *Program Director*, NewMexicoWomen.org
Moderator: Farah Council | *Director of Development*, NM Voices for Children

2:15 – 3:05  **Policy Solutions for Women and Child Well-being in New Mexico**
Women legislators in New Mexico share strategies for engaging with policymakers and securing victories at the policy level for women, children, and families of NM.

Sen. Mimi Stewart, District 17, NM Senate
Rep. Georgene Louis, District 26, NM House of Representatives
Rep. Christine Trujillo, District 25, NM House of Representatives
Rep. Sheryl William Stapleton, District 19, NM House of Representatives
Moderator: Bill Jordan | *Senior Policy Advisor & Government Relations Officer*, NM Voices for Children

3:10 – 3:20  **Closing**

*To register, visit us at:* [https://donate.nmvoices.org/kidscount](https://donate.nmvoices.org/kidscount)


*Contact Farah Council at* [fcouncil@nmvoices.org](mailto:fcouncil@nmvoices.org) *or at 505 244 9505 with any questions.*