

2018

Speakers & Presenters



Welcome



Tim Keller | *Mayor, Albuquerque, New Mexico*

After a successful business career, Tim began a career in public service to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing Albuquerque and New Mexico. He was elected twice to the state Senate for Albuquerque's International District before being elected state Auditor in 2014. His vision for the Auditor's office included developing policies for distributing financial resources throughout the state more equitably and efficiently. He created New Mexico's first Government Accountability Office (GAO) and pushed the office to the forefront of the state's most critical issues. Tim championed a broad range of transparency efforts including highlighting billions in idle infrastructure funds, rebutting the myth of scarcity, and tackling the rape kit backlog. He has an MBA from Harvard and was a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Race Equity Fellow.

Opening Remarks



Charlotte Little | *Chairwoman, San Felipe Pueblo Health Board*

Aside from her work for the San Felipe Pueblo Health Board – which promotes, develops, and improves the delivery of health care services to the residents of the Pueblo – Charlotte also serves on the Board of Directors of the Pueblo Insurance Agency, a federally chartered, for-profit organization owned by the 19 Pueblo of New Mexico. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of NM Voices for Children. Charlotte previously served as Director and President of the Board of Directors of Emerge New Mexico, which identifies women interested in potential Democratic leadership roles, while developing, implementing and maintaining a political leadership training program. Charlotte is a member of the San Felipe and Taos Pueblos and earned her BA from UNM.



Allen Sanchez, MA | *President & CEO, CHI St. Joseph's Children*

Allen was born in Belen, where he was raised on a working cattle ranch. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Services from the College of Santa Fe, a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, and a Master of Arts in Spirituality from St. Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University in Rome. Allen operates the largest home visiting program in U.S. He is a supporter of constitutional amendment for funding early childhood care and education from the state's land grant permanent fund and is an advocate for children's health issues.

Our Children Are Sacred



Dean William Rudoy, PhD | *Psychologist & Consultant*

Dr. Dean Rudoy has taught and written in the fields of psychology, sociology, and political science. He has served as a consultant to both national and international organizations, as well as to several United States Senators. He has served as President of the New Mexico Psychoanalytic Society, was for ten years on the Board of Directors of New Mexico Voices for Children, and is currently Trustee of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

National Perspective: State of Children Across America



Leslie Boissiere | *Vice President, External Affairs, Annie E. Casey Foundation*

As Vice President of External Affairs, Leslie oversees the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT effort, as well as the areas of policy reform and advocacy, strategic communications, leadership development, equity and inclusion, organizational effectiveness, and national partnerships. From 2015 to 2017, she served as a Senior Fellow at the Foundation. In that role, she coordinated the efforts of Casey's external affairs team and led the development of emerging strategies focused on youth and young adults and on improving the well-being of children in the South and Southwest.

Linking Taxes & Budgets to Child Well-Being in New Mexico



James Jimenez, MPA | *Executive Director, NM Voices for Children*

James joined NM Voices in 2013 as the Director of Research and Policy, becoming Executive Director in 2016. In both positions he has drawn from his considerable experience in using the budget as a strategic tool while working in state and city government. James served as the Chief of Staff under Governor Bill Richardson from 2006 to 2008, and as Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from 2003 to 2006. He was also City Manager for the city of Rio Rancho and serves on the boards of directors for several nonprofit organizations.

Making KIDS COUNT in New Mexico: Kids at the Crossroads



Amber Wallin, MPA | *Deputy Director, NM Voices for Children*

Amber oversees the organization's research and policy work. She also manages the KIDS COUNT program and does policy research on education, tax and budget, hunger, and economic issues. She joined NM Voices in 2012 as a Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Fellow, after which she was a research and policy analyst and later KIDS COUNT Director. Amber has worked in the public sector at the municipal, state, and federal levels, and prior to joining NM Voices, worked in the government department at New Mexico State University and the budget department at the city of Las Cruces. She received her Master of Public Administration from NMSU.

Searchlight New Mexico: Raising New Mexico



Rob Dean | *Executive Director, Searchlight New Mexico*

Rob was editor of *The Santa Fe New Mexican* from 1992 to 2013. Before that he was metro editor at *The News Tribune* in Tacoma, Wash., where he also taught journalism at Pacific Lutheran University. The New Mexico Foundation for Open Government has honored him for lifetime achievement. The Ukraine Media Partnership, a program encouraging an independent press in the old Soviet Bloc, named him a fellow in 2006, assigning him to a newspaper in southeastern Ukraine. Dean edited the book *Santa Fe, Its 400th Year: Exploring the Past, Defining the Future*. He has a Bachelors in Journalism from the University of Montana and Masters in History from Norwich University.



Sara Solovitch | *Executive Editor, Searchlight New Mexico*

Sara's investigative and long-form stories have appeared in *Esquire*, *Wired*, *Politico*, the *Washington Post*, and other publications. She has been a staff reporter at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, wrote a weekly column on kids' health for the *San Jose Mercury News*, and worked as a medical writer at Stanford University's Children's Hospital. She has traveled widely through New Mexico and Alaska while reporting for The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on access to health care in under-served areas. Her book, *Playing Scared: A History and Memoir of Stage Fright*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2015.



Lauren Villagran | *Staff Writer, Searchlight New Mexico*

Lauren has covered the financial and energy markets in New York, the drug war in Mexico, and immigration and border security in New Mexico. Formerly the *Albuquerque Journal's* border correspondent, she has also reported for the Associated Press, *Dallas Morning News*, and *Christian Science Monitor*, among other national media. She is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and is based in southern New Mexico for Searchlight NM.



Ed Williams | *Staff Writer, Searchlight New Mexico*

Ed has reported on poverty, public health, and the environment in the U.S. and Latin America for digital, print and radio media outlets since 2005. He comes to Searchlight New Mexico by way of KUNM Public Radio in Albuquerque, where he worked as a reporter covering public health. Ed's work has appeared in the *Austin American-Statesman*, NPR, *Columbia Journalism Review*, among other outlets. He earned a Master's in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010.



Diana Murillo-Trujillo | *Mayor, Anthony, New Mexico*

Diana has faced many obstacles in her lifetime, including taking care of her family from a very young age and overcoming poverty. She persevered through her circumstances, supported her family, and became among the first in her family to attend college. In 2001, she was the victim of a drunk driving accident and was paralyzed from the waist down. She adjusted to a complete lifestyle change, and went on to raise her three children on her own, start a small business, and become the primary caretaker for her parents. She graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in government in 2010 before running for office in the newly-incorporated city of Anthony, where she has been a life-long resident.

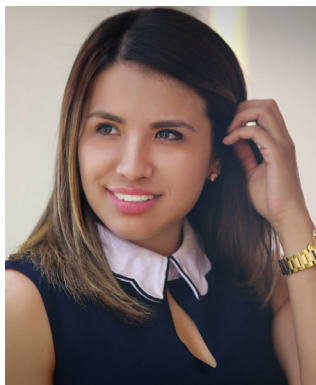
Closing Remarks: Everybody's Child



Frank R. López, JD | *Director of New Mexico Programs, W.K. Kellogg Foundation*

As Director of New Mexico Programs, Frank provides leadership and oversight of the Kellogg Foundation's investments in the state, ensuring all children, families and communities – regardless of race or income – have opportunities to reach their full potential. Frank served as the Executive Director for NGAGE New Mexico in Las Cruces, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the well-being of all people in Southern New Mexico. Since 2014, Frank has served as a coach mentor for the New Mexico cohort of the Foundation's inaugural Class One – Community Leadership Network program. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin and his Juris Doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law.

Amy Biehl Youth Spirit Awards



Cindy Nava | *Executive Director, Learning Alliance New Mexico*

Cindy left Chihuahua, Mexico, at the age of 7 with her parents and siblings and was raised in Santa Fe. She is proud to call herself "a Mexican-New Mexican" and to serve the state she loves so much. Cindy managed to surpass many barriers to take on key positions in education and immigration policy work at the state and national levels – being the first undocumented student to do so. She is a national motivational speaker and has been rated as one of the "40 under 40s: Latinos in U.S. politics" by the Huffington Post. Cindy has worked as an education analyst for the state House of Representatives and research assistant at the Educational Policy Research Center of UNM. She is President of the American Mexican Association of Young Immigrants (AMAYI) and is a 2017-18 national fellow at the Latino Center for Leadership Development. Cindy is completing her Masters in Education Leadership and Policy.

Breakout Session: Data 101



Armelle Casau, PhD | *Research & Policy Analyst, NM Voices for Children*

Armelle joined NM Voices for Children in 2013 as a policy and research analyst. She works on a variety of policy issues, ranging from early childhood education and college affordability, to Medicaid, food security, and access to work supports. She also works with the New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network on their STEM education policy and systems-building efforts. Prior to joining NM Voices, she was one of the directors at the Explora Science Center and spent time abroad doing international development and public health work. She has a PhD in Molecular Biology from Princeton University.



Stephanie Brinker, PhD | *Volunteer, NM Voices for Children*

Stephanie joined NM Voices as a volunteer in 2014. She is a 40-year resident of Albuquerque where she first arrived to work as a member of the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories in materials engineering (she holds a PhD from Cambridge University). After raising two daughters, she got her teaching license at UNM and taught math at Eldorado High School. After retiring and needing an outlet for her belief that society's wellness depends on the well-being of its children, she applied at NM Voices to fill whatever role was useful to their mission. She enjoys using her newly-learned computer skills to update the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which keeps her in touch with the state of New Mexico's children and families.

Breakout Session: New Mexico Tax and Budget 101



Bill Jordan, MA | Senior Policy Advisor & Government Relations Officer, NM Voices for Children

Bill has been with NM Voices since 1998, leading legislative advocacy efforts in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C., working primarily with lawmakers on issues such as raising the minimum wage, creating a state-level earned income tax credit, expanding access to health care, and increasing funding for early care and education. Bill is relied upon by many legislators for data and information relating to the legislation that impacts New Mexico's children and families. He was appointed to Governor Richardson's Equal Pay Task Force and his Budget Balancing Task Force. Previously, Bill was executive director of the HIV Coordinating Council of New Mexico.

Breakout Session: Regional Approaches to Early Childhood Care & Education



Rex Davidson | Executive Director, Las Cumbres Community Services

Rex joined Las Cumbres Community Services as Executive Director in January, 2010. Prior to this position, Rex served as President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey for 30 years. Rex has devoted many hours to volunteering with other nonprofit organizations. He has served on the boards and/or advisory committees of organizations such as the State University of New York, Stony Brook, Disabled and Alone Life Services for the Handicapped, Lamb's Center (New York), Better Business Bureau Education and Research Foundation, and several Goodwill Industries International groups. Other professional affiliations have included New York City Workforce Investment Board, New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce, and Acme United Corporation.



Lori Martinez, MSW | Executive Director, NGAGE New Mexico

Lori was the Assistant Director for NGAGE, where she was primarily responsible for a variety of activities in support of Doña Ana County's SUCCESS Partnership. She also played an important role in day-to-day functions at NGAGE including human resources and grants management before she was hired as the Executive Director by the Board of Directors. Lori came to the organization with a Bachelor and Master's in Social Work, and significant work experience in the development of resources and networks supporting community members in at-risk situations.



Jacob Vigil, MSW | Research & Policy Analyst, NM Voices for Children

Jacob works on NM Voices' anti-poverty initiatives, including tax, safety net, and education policies through research and statewide outreach and advocacy. Prior to joining NM Voices, Jacob worked in advocacy and coalition building in Illinois and California on early childhood and children's health issues. He also worked as a government relations representative advocating for quality subsidized child care in several western states. Before entering public policy, Jacob was a social worker and educator. Jacob holds a BA in Latin American History from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, and a Master's in Social Work from Loyola University, Chicago.

Breakout Session: Advocacy Tactics 101



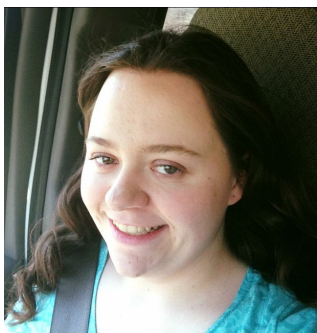
Ezra Spitzer | *Executive Director, New Mexico Child Advocacy Network*

Ezra joined New Mexico Child Advocacy Networks (NMCAN) in 2007 and has had the privilege of being Executive Director since 2012. Previously, he served in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan where he worked closely with a women's crisis center and a youth empowerment center to build organizational capacity and cohesive strategies. Ezra also worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, helping resettle political refugees, and has mentored youth from the juvenile justice system as they transition to adulthood. Ezra holds a Master's of Public Administration and is co-chair of the NM Children's Court Improvement Commission.



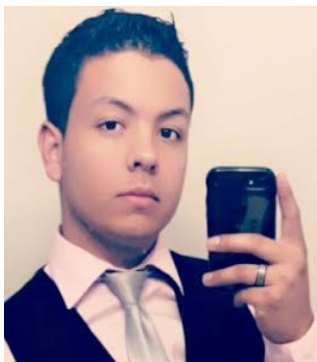
Micaela Baca | *Youth Activist & Trainer, New Mexico Child Advocacy Network*

Micaela is a 21-year-old mother of two. As a Youth Leader with NMCAN she helped successfully advocate for the 2018 passage of the foster youth employment tax credits law. She has also participated in advocacy against sex trafficking through the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD). Micaela was unsheltered for a total of three years and lived in more than four different shelters in locations such as Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos. From age six to 11 she experienced violence such as sexual abuse and sex trafficking while in foster care. She was adopted at the age of 11 but ended up back in the foster care system, from which she eventually aged out. Micaela hopes to share her voice and make a difference in the world through prevention of and intervention in sex trafficking not only in the foster care system but in our communities. She is inspirational, resilient, and gives a voice for other young mothers both in and out of the system.



Krystal Goolsby | *Youth Activist & Trainer, New Mexico Child Advocacy Network*

Krystal spent one year in foster care and has served as a youth advocate since aging out of care. She has been a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative Young Fellow since 2013. Krystal enjoys being an advocate because she wants younger youth to know that they can stand up for themselves and make a difference. During the 2014 legislative session, she served as an expert witness providing critical testimony in favor of the tuition waiver for foster youth. Krystal has shared her experience and expertise on multiple episodes of KNME's *Public Square* and *New Mexico In Focus*. In her spare time, she savors "tedious" things like crocheting and coloring. She also enjoys volunteering with her church and participating in community theatre. Krystal has a bachelor's of science from UNM and works at UNM Children's Psychiatric Center.



Marco Martinez | *Youth Activist & Trainer, New Mexico Child Advocacy Network*

Marco spent more than two years in foster care and has served as a Youth Advocate for more than seven years. He loves being an advocate because he believes that in order to create change in the world everyone's voice should be heard. He also enjoys it because it allows him to meet new people and to witness people coming together as one. In 2015, Marco served as a youth consultant to the collaborative workgroup that successfully created the New Mexico Prudent Parenting Standard and policies that support young people having normalized experiences while in foster care. In 2017, he participated in the Youth Leadership Institute at the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. Marco's ultimate goal is to bring people together to create change, peace, and more love in this world.