

## Session Presenters

**Kimberly Martini-Carvell, MA**

### **Executive Director of the Help Me Grow National Center**

Kimberly Martini-Carvell is the Executive Director of the Help Me Grow National Center. She also holds the position of Associate Director for Capacity Building, Organizational Learning & Professional Advancement for Connecticut Children's Office for Community Child Health.



Prior to joining the National Center, Kimberly worked as Associate Vice President for programs at The Village for Families and Children in Hartford where she created and managed prevention and early intervention programs for families and children. She also worked as a child and family development consultant for the United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut, as director of the CT Family Development Institute of the Children's Trust Fund, and as an adjunct professor for the University of Connecticut's School of Family

Studies. During her career, Kimberly has served on the national Zero to Three Policy Committee, the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network's Birth-6 Workgroup, and the leadership team of the Connecticut Parent Educators Network. She served as a fellow at the National Council on Family Relations and a master facilitator for the Child and Family Partners certificate program. Kimberly has presented the Help Me Grow model at national and international convenings, including the bi-annual World Association of Infant Mental Health Congress.



### **Katie K. Green, MPH, CHES Team Lead, "Learn the Signs. Act Early." National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Ms. Katie Green is a Health Communication Specialist and Team Lead with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities' "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program is a national program to improve early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities. Ms. Green's communication work focuses predominantly on the research, development and dissemination of informational tools and resources to help parents learn about development milestones, early warning signs of developmental delay, and the importance of acting early on developmental concerns. Ms. Green has published on topics including preventing infections in pregnancy, health education during times of crisis, reaching adolescents with birth defects prevention messages, women's knowledge related to smoking and pregnancy, the impact of fortification on neural tube birth defects in the U.S., and the information needs of parents related to early identification of developmental delay. Ms. Green has presented on behalf of the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign at many local, regional, and national meetings across the country. She is passionate about her work and of her work's mission: to help all children reach their full potential. Ms. Green received a Bachelor of Science degree in Bio behavioral Health from Pennsylvania State University, a Master of Public Health degree from Georgia State University, and maintains professional certification as a health education specialist.

## Session Panelists

**Anna Corona, MPH**

**Program Manager, Child and Adolescent Health AMCHP**



Anna Corona, MPH is the program manager on the child and adolescent health team. In this role, Ms. Corona provides needed support and quality improvement expertise to her team members on several key projects, including the AYAH CoIIN, Healthy Weight CoIIN and the current Action Learning Collaboratives led by this team. Ms. Corona previously served as a senior public health nutritionist and site supervisor for a local WIC program under the Virginia Department of Health. She also has experience in program planning, analysis, and evaluation through her previous stints with the Florida Department of Health, particularly in the area of tobacco prevention and cessation. There, she was instrumental in collaborating with state managers to evaluate statewide data, refine data collection tools, and facilitate training on refined tools. Ms. Corona received a dual Bachelor of Science in human nutrition, food, and exercise and in biological sciences from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, followed by her MPH in social and behavioral sciences from the University of Florida.



**Barbara Leavitt VP, Community Impact United Way of Central and Southern Utah**

Barbara graduated with a degree in Business Management in 1981. She spent over 23 years within the business world. Over 20 years were spent co-running a small business which allowed her the opportunity to become very involved on the community level. Her involvement included multiple community councils, parent training, parent advocacy and school level involvement focusing her energies to support parents. As a mother of four wonderful daughters she has come to realize the great influence a community can have on parents to increase their perspective and skill level.

When a life transition brought the opportunity to reeducate she chose the public sector. She received a Masters of Public Administration in 2008. For the last 16 years, she has worked within the United Way of Central and Southern Utah overseeing several programs including a home visitation program manned with volunteers, the Help Me Grow system statewide in Utah, the statewide implementation of Strengthening Families Framework: Five Protective Factors and working within the early childhood area to build regional and state systems that support parents. She has worked with a targeted community to implement a partnership that focuses on outcomes of young children and their families.

She has trained nationally with the Strengthening Families Framework Training Team through the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds. She has supported the national HMG Team in advising states that are in the process of implementing a statewide Help Me Grow. Because of her love for parents, she developed a parent engagement tool disseminated across the Help Me Grow national affiliates called "Books, Blocks and Balls." She has also been involved with parents in writing a curriculum specifically for

parents on embracing the protective factors in their everyday lives. She has worked extensively within her own community to help lead and facilitate early childhood work and is now involved in the process of combining the parent leaders and systems building together. These experiences in systems building have allowed her opportunities to work with national groups that are piloting and experimenting with improved methods of community building.

Her unique skill sets of a business owner, community volunteer-organizer and public administrator have proven to be instrumental in building collaborative teams to meet the needs of an ever-changing generation of new parents

**Deepa Srinivasavaradan, IMH-E® Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at SPAN Parent Advocacy Network.**



Deepa is the Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at SPAN Parent Advocacy Network. She is also the CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Ambassador, the Division for Early Childhood Recommended Practices (aRPy) Ambassador, and the State Parent Lead for New Jersey's Early Childhood Initiatives - Help Me Grow, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems CoIIN, and Home Visiting. Deepa is deeply passionate about improving early childhood and family engagement outcomes and also serves on several state and national advisory groups and workgroups. She is committed to helping individuals with disabilities and their families to navigate systems of care because of her own experiences as an immigrant mother. She is also committed to enhancing family-professional partnerships, supporting parent leadership development, and ensuring that families are partners in decision-making at all levels. Deepa is NJ's Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Family Delegate and the NJ Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders (NJLEND) Family Fellow. She is also the recipient of the 2020 Merle McPherson Award for her exemplary contributions to further family-professional collaborations within state Title V programs and AMCHP. In collaboration with the NJ state team, she has helped create several NJ-specific resources to address gaps in connecting to services when developmental concerns are identified in young children.

**Dr. Cynthia Tate, BUILD Initiative**



Cynthia L. Tate, Ph.D. works with The BUILD Initiative, a national effort that advances state work on behalf of young children prenatal to five, and their families and communities. As a State Services Liaison, she provides consultation and technical assistance to state cross-sector leadership teams, and works with leaders to improve and expand access to opportunities and promote equitable outcomes for young children and families.

As a state Lead for the National Center for Infants and Toddlers Hub, she provides technical assistance and resources to state leaders for the Pritzker Children's Initiative's Prenatal to Three national effort, supporting the state in expanding access to high quality early childhood services. As Faculty of the Equity Leaders Action Initiative, she works with other faculty to develop and deliver webinars and consultation to states on implementing policy and systems change to

increase racial equity in prenatal to three systems.

Prior to joining BUILD, she served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. In this capacity she led strategic partnerships with state agency leadership and private sector partners to develop and implement early childhood policy across multiple state agencies.

Dr. Tate has been a senior administrator for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, creating the first Office of Child Well Being. She led the implementation of the state's birth-through-three federal demonstration project for infants and toddlers in foster care; and initiated the Early Childhood Court Team.

Dr. Tate received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and completed her internship in child/adolescent and community psychology at Rush Medical Center. She received her Bachelor's degree from Fisk University. She is a mom, a sister, an aunt, and a fierce advocate for the country's most vulnerable children.