

## Act Early Ambassadors: 2022-2023 Roster

| State | Name                        | Title  | Institution  | Email                        | Phone        |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------|
| AL    | <b>*Tish MacInnis</b>       | Alabama Strengthening Families Coordinator   | Alabama Partnership for Children (APC)   | tmacinnis@apcteam.org        | 334-271-0304 |
| AK    | <b>*Carmen Wenger</b>       | Director of Programs   | All Alaska Pediatric Partnership / Help Me Grow Alaska                           | Carmen@a2p2.com              | 907-301-3321 |
| AZ    | <b>*Megan Wills</b>         | Chief Community Programs Officer   | Easterseals Blake Foundation   | mwills@blake.easterseals.com | 520-327-1529 |
| AR    | <b>Amanda Fender</b>        | Program Coordinator and Family Navigator   | University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dennis Developmental Center         | FenderAmanda@uams.edu        | 501-259-4808 |
| CA    | <b>*Michele Rogers</b>      | Executive Director, Community Trainer, Certified Childbirth Educator, Lactation Specialist | California Early Learning Institute  | michelerogerseli@gmail.com   | 707-328-4706 |
| CA    | <b>Patricia Moore</b>       | Director, Help Me Grow Santa Barbara County  | Family Resource Centers Network of CA, Family Voices of California, Help Me Grow | pjmoore@alphasb.org          | 805-252-5585 |
| CO    | <b>*Eileen Auer Bennett</b> | Executive Director   | Assuring Better Child Health and Development                                     | eileen@coloradoabcd.org      | 720-333-1351 |
| CT    | <b>*Bethanne Vergean</b>    | Early Childhood Project Coordinator  | University of Connecticut Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities    | vergean@uchc.edu             | 860-679-1500 |
| DC    | <b>*Yetta Myrick</b>        | President/Executive Director   | DC Autism Parents  | ymyrick@dautismparents.org   | 202-246-3793 |
| DE    | <b>*Sarah Mallory</b>       | Assistant Professor  | University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies                           | smallory@udel.edu            | 302-831-8757 |



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|----|---------------------------|---|---|--|--------------|
| FL | <b>Christina Smith</b>    | Early Interventionist/ Behavior Specialist                                    | The Village Early Learning Center   | <a href="mailto:Christinasmith20@yahoo.com">Christinasmith20@yahoo.com</a>         | 813-651-0779 |
| FL | <b>Liz Randall</b>        | Statewide Director of Help Me Grow Florida                                    | The Children's Forum  | <a href="mailto:lrandall@thechildrensforum.com">lrandall@thechildrensforum.com</a> | 908-256-0985 |
| GA | <b>*Bridget Ratajczak</b> | Child and Family Development Supervisor                                       | GA Department of Early Care and Learning  | <a href="mailto:bridget.ratajczak@decal.ga.gov">bridget.ratajczak@decal.ga.gov</a> | 770-359-5547 |
| GU | <b>*Elaine Eclavea</b>    | Guam Early Learning Chairperson   | Guam Early Learning Council   | <a href="mailto:eeclavea@gmail.com">eeclavea@gmail.com</a>                         | 671-483-4578 |
| HI | <b>*Jeffrey Okamoto</b>   | Chapter President   | American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter Inc.                                 | <a href="mailto:Jokamoto@hawaii.edu">Jokamoto@hawaii.edu</a>                       | 808-373-7555 |
| ID | <b>*Melissa Crist</b>     | Core Director   | University of Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development                    | <a href="mailto:mcrist@uidaho.edu">mcrist@uidaho.edu</a>                           | 208-885-6169 |
| IL | <b>*Cari Roestel</b>      | Nurse Care Manager and ECHO Autism Program Coordinator                        | Pediatric Development Center, Advocate Children's Hospital, Illinois Masonic Center | <a href="mailto:Caroline.Roestel@aah.org">Caroline.Roestel@aah.org</a>             | 872-843-0300 |
| IL | <b>Jean Davis</b>         | Special Projects Manager  | Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood                  | <a href="mailto:jean.davis@illinois.gov">jean.davis@illinois.gov</a>               | 773-805-5716 |
| IN | <b>*Stephan Viehweg</b>   | Associate Director of Indiana LEND  | Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics                     | <a href="mailto:sviehweg@iu.edu">sviehweg@iu.edu</a>                               | 317-557-2425 |
| IA | <b>Michelle Holst</b>     | State Coordinator, 1 <sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services  | <a href="mailto:Michelle.holst@idph.iowa.gov">Michelle.holst@idph.iowa.gov</a>     | 515-954-6087 |
| KS | <b>*Peggy Kemp</b>        | Professional Development/Trainer  | University of Kansas  | <a href="mailto:pkemp@ku.edu">pkemp@ku.edu</a>                                     | 785-383-4188 |
| KY | <b>*Christine Hausman</b> | Content Coordinator of Training   | University of Kentucky  | <a href="mailto:christine.hausman@uky.edu">christine.hausman@uky.edu</a>           | 859-519-0401 |



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|    |                                |  |   |                             |              |
|----|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--------------|
| LA | <b>Julie Emory</b>             | EPSDT Coordinator  | Bureau of Family Health   | Julie.emory@la.gov          | 318-503-4284 |
| LA | <b>Leslie Lopez</b>            | Assistant Professor  | Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans                      | llope4@lsuhsc.edu           | 504-568-4341 |
| MA | <b>*Kate Barlow</b>            | Associate Professor  | American International College  | Kate.Barlow@aic.edu         | 757-880-6713 |
| MD | <b>*Kristen Paul</b>           | Director of Early Childhood Programs   | The Parent's Place of Maryland  | Kristen@ppmd.org            | 240-317-4885 |
| ME | <b>*Nancy Cronin</b>           | Executive Director   | Maine Developmental Disabilities Council  | nancy.e.cronin@maine.gov    | 207-480-1478 |
| MI | <b>Ashley Shayter</b>          | Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst   | Pathways Community Mental Health  | ashayter@up-pathways.org    | 717-265-3883 |
| MN | <b>*Jennifer Hall-Lande</b>    | Researcher/Principal investigator on MN ADDM (Autism and Developmental       | University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration (ICI) and Minnesota LEND | Hall0440@umn.edu            | 612-626-1721 |
| MS | <b>*Leslie LaVergne</b>        | Assistant Director   | The University of Southern Mississippi, Institute on Disability Studies             | Leslie.lavergne@usm.edu     | 601-266-6225 |
| MO | <b>*Alicia Curran</b>          | Director of Strategic Initiatives, ECHO Autism Communities; Program Director | The Curators of The University of Missouri  | Currana@health.missouri.edu | 573-884-7544 |
| NE | <b>*Kerry Miller</b>           | Assistant Professor  | University of Nebraska Medical Center- Munroe Meyer Institute                       | kerry.miller@unmc.edu       | 402-321-4932 |
| NH | <b>*Jennifer Pineo</b>         | Lead Trainer/Family Leader   | NH Family Voices  | jsp@nhfv.org                | 603-271-4525 |
| NJ | <b>*Deepa Srinivasavaradan</b> | State Parent Lead & Director of Early Childhood Initiatives                  | SPAN Parent Advocacy Network  | deepas@spanadvocacy.org     | 609-665-2696 |
| NM | <b>Alyx Medlock</b>            | LEND training Director/Speech-language Pathologist                           | New Mexico UCEDD/LEND   | almedlock@salud.unm.edu     | 505-238-4445 |
| NY | <b>Liz Isakson</b>             | Executive Director   | New York Docs for Tots  | liz@docsfortots.org         | 917-318-4201 |



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|----|----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| NY | <b>*Romina Barros</b>            | Chef, Division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics    | NYU Long Island School of Medicine  | Romina.barros@nyulangone.org      | 516-663-4600 |
| NC | <b>*Rebecca Edmonson Pretzel</b> | Professor, Psychologist                                  | University of North Carolina  | becky.edmondson@cidd.unc.edu      | 919-949-6148 |
| ND | <b>*Hilory Liccini</b>           | Associate Director/ Assistant Professor                  | North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, UCEDD/Minot State University | hilory.liccini@minotstateu.edu    | 701-858-3008 |
| MP | <b>Christlaine Manibusan</b>     | Family Support Specialist                                | FamilyToFamily Health Information Center  | christlaine.manibusan@chcc.health | 670-783-1902 |
| OH | <b>*Steph Weber</b>              | Clinical Psychologist; LEND/UCEDD Training               | Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center                                   | Stephanie.Weber@cchmc.org         | 513-550-0354 |
| OK | <b>*Bonnie McBride</b>           | Associate Professor of pediatrics                        | University of OK Health Sciences Center   | bonnie-mcbride@ouhsc.edu          | 405-371-9896 |
| OR | <b>*Sherri Alderman</b>          | Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician                    | Alderman Boreal Consulting, LLC.  | sherri.alderman23@gmail.com       | 505-571-3907 |
| PA | <b>*Ilecia Voughs</b>            | Consultant for Home Visiting and Family Support Programs | Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network                          | ivoughs@pattan.net                | 717-979-6344 |
| PR | <b>*Nancy Nieves-Munoz</b>       | Health Policy Consultant                                 | Puerto Rico Department of Health  | Nancy.nieves@salud.pr.gov         | 787-615-4783 |
| RI | <b>*Jenn Sanchez</b>             | Early Intervention Technical Assistance Specialist       | Rhode Island College  | jsanchez@ric.edu                  | 401-456-8411 |
| SC | <b>Taylor Bagwell</b>            | Care Coordinator, Developmental Screening Lead           | Help Me Grow South Carolina   | TBagwell@scimha.org               | 843-709-5061 |
| SD | <b>*Lisa Sanderson</b>           | MCHB Family to family Health Information Center Project  | South Dakota Parent Connect Inc.  | lsanderson@sdparent.org           | 605-361-3171 |



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|-----|-------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------|
|     |                         | Director and Grants Coordinator                                    |  |                                 |              |
| TN  | <b>*Toni Whitaker</b>   | Professor of Pediatrics, Developmental Pediatrician, LEND Director | University of TN Health Science Center, Department of Pediatrics     | twhitak1@uthsc.edu              | 901-448-3043 |
| FSM | <b>Clare Camacho</b>    | Speech Language Pathologist and Early Childhood Interventionist    | FSM Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program                 | Clare671joy@gmail.com           | 671-482-9335 |
| TX  | <b>*Laura Kender</b>    | Chief of Child and Family Services                                 | My Health My Resources of Tarrant County (MHMR Tarrant)              | Laura.Kender@mhmrtc.org         | 817-569-5301 |
| TX  | <b>Julie DiGirolamo</b> | State Child Health Coordinator                                     | Texas Department of State Health Services                            | Julie.DiGirolamo@dshs.texas.gov | 646-843-6662 |
| UT  | <b>*Janel Preston</b>   | Special Educator and Autism Specialist                             | Institute for Disability Research, Policy, and Practice - USU        | Janel.preston@usu.edu           | 435-512-5171 |
| VT  | <b>*Janet Kilburn</b>   | Early Childhood Director   | Vermont Department of Health   | Janet.Kilburn@vermont.gov       | 802-5405723  |
| VA  | <b>*Deana Buck</b>      | Early Childhood Consultant   | Early Childhood Consultant and Affiliate Faculty Member VCU, Retired | deanabuck@gmail.com             | 804-405-9604 |
| WA  | <b>Chris Gray</b>       | Pregnancy and Early Childhood Developmental Manager                | WithinReach, Washington State  | chrsg@withinreachwa.org         | 206-284-2465 |
| WI  | <b>*Kris Barnekow</b>   | Pediatric Occupational Therapist and Associate Professor           | Emeritus UW-Milwaukee, Families First, LLC.                          | barnekowkris@aol.com            | 414-788-0385 |
| WV  | <b>*Jackie Newson</b>   | Program Director   | West Virginia Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health            | jackie.j.newson@wv.gov          | 304-414-0648 |
| WY  | <b>Peg Monteith</b>     | Education Consultant   | University of Wyoming, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities            | Psherar2@uwyo.edu               | 720-215-6695 |

