

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mandy Ableidinger, MPA, serves as Policy and Practice Leader at the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation. She leads the Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Initiative and is guiding the development of a Birth-to-Eight Policy Center to serve as a reliable source of information on birth-to-eight policies for North Carolina policymakers, business leaders, philanthropists, early childhood professionals, community leaders and others. She also writes and blogs on state and federal policy issues impacting young children and their families. Mandy has more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit and public sectors, focused on children's issues. Prior to joining NCECF, she was an independent contractor in the early childhood, child welfare, and child mental health fields, including helping to guide the first year of the Pathways Initiative for NCECF. She has previously served as the Director of Policy and Budget Analysis at Action for Children NC (now NC Child), and as a fiscal policy analyst for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Morocco and spent two years there working on education issues with the UN World Food Programme, teaching English, and learning Moroccan Arabic (which she has now, sadly, forgotten). Mandy holds a B.A. from Duke University and a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Princeton University. She lives in Raleigh with her husband, three children, and Vanilla Bean the hamster.

Carol Emig, MPP, has spent her career working at the intersection of public policy, programs, and research related to children and youth. Since 2006, she has been President of Child Trends, an independent, nonpartisan research center. Child Trends improves the lives and prospects of children and youth by conducting high-quality research and applying the resulting knowledge to public policies, programs, and systems. A growing organization, Child Trends' research portfolio includes extensive work in early childhood; youth development; teen childbearing; education; child welfare; reproductive health, family structure, and parenting; child poverty; and the transition to adulthood. Child Trends, as its name suggests, has particular expertise in developing, tracking, and analyzing data on children and youth. Under Carol's leadership, Child Trends has significantly expanded its capacity to communicate research effectively to key stakeholders, and its outreach and interaction with programs that provide direct services to children, youth, and families. In particular, Child Trends works extensively with decision makers to use data effectively, to incorporate evidence-based practices into their programs and policies, to evaluate their effectiveness, and to use all of this information to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and youth. From 2002 to 2006, Carol was Executive Director of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care, a blue-ribbon panel of child welfare experts. Many of the Commission's recommendations were enacted by Congress or adopted by state agencies and state Supreme Courts. Prior to this, she was Vice President for External Relations at Child Trends, where she built the organization's public policy communications department. Carol's other professional experiences include Deputy Director of the National Commission on Children, a bipartisan Congressional-Presidential panel; Senior Associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy; director of a state children's advocacy organization; and, early in her career, research assistant to First Lady Rosalynn Carter. She serves on the Boards of Directors of Reach Out and Read; the Stoneleigh Foundation; and the Children's Chorus of Washington. She is also an advisor to the Board of Directors of Venture Philanthropy Partners. Carol has an undergraduate degree in international relations from Georgetown University and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Joshua Gettinger, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at MAHEC in Asheville, NC, where he serves as the behavioral champion of the family medicine residency. He reflects, "My work as a rural family physician for 33 years drew me to involvement with children's behavioral health. Listening to the stories of my patients led to awareness of childhood trauma, and to working with patients and families on trauma related issues in an integrated health care setting." Since coming to Asheville in 2012, he has been a member of the Steering Committee of the Innovative Approaches project of Buncombe

County Health and Human Services, including the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Subcommittee. After State funds ended, the subcommittee has continued to maintain its community role as the ACEs Learning Collaborative, a Collective Impact endeavor. Dr. Gettinger serves on its Leadership Committee. Dr. Gettinger has also served on the Buncombe County Schools Advisory Committee, involved with the implementation of the trauma-informed schools initiative. Speaking credits include presentations at the ACEs Southeastern Summit in Asheville in 2015 and 2017, at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCA; and community talks in Asheville and Albuquerque, NM. He has recently authored a paper “Buncombe County: One Path Toward a Resilient Community” for the North Carolina Medical Journal (March 2018). Dr. Gettinger is also a member of the Mental Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). He serves on the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities as a parent advocate. He is engaged in active clinical practice and teaching. He is married to Dr. Barbara Levin and has four children and four grandchildren.

Kristen Guillory, MPA, is a Policy Advisor in the Office of Governor Roy Cooper with a primary focus on early childhood policy issues. In this position, she manages the NC Early Childhood Advisory Council appointed by the Governor. She previously served as the Project Manager for North Carolina’s federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant that funded a variety of statewide projects over several years to improve early learning and development opportunities for young children and strengthen the state system of services. Other previous positions she has held include Policy and Planning Consultant in the NC Department of Public Instruction’s Office of Early Learning and Policy Analyst in the Office of the Governor, in which she contributed to the development, implementation and growth of North Carolina’s More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program (now called NC Pre-K). She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) and bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Kella Hatcher, JD, is the Executive Director for the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force. Previously, she served as lead author for the University of North Carolina School of Government publication “Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina.” She also has worked as Associate Counsel for the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program where she authored an attorney practice manual and led the Juvenile Code Revision Committee for the North Carolina Court Improvement Project. She started her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orange County, North Carolina. Other pursuits include serving in various volunteer leadership roles and time spent as an entrepreneur. She has a degree in professional writing from Purdue University and a law degree from the University of North Carolina.

Sharon Hirsch is the president and chief executive officer of Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina. Hirsch brings over 25 years’ experience in nonprofit and government agency management, public relations, budgeting, advocacy and child well-being to PCANC. In her previous role as executive director for Donate Life North Carolina she enhanced relationships with statewide partners and the Division of Motor Vehicles leadership, established the Donate Life license plate, and expanded outreach to teens and older adults resulting in significant increases in newly registered organ donors. Prior to joining Donate Life North Carolina, she served in two leadership roles at the Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS), as the first executive director of the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services, and as staff director at The Council for State Governments in Lexington, KY. Her experience includes creating the DSS Leadership Academy to develop future agency leaders, managing a DSS agency budget of \$300+ million, including monitoring and reporting on Medicaid spending, and lobbying the NC legislature on child welfare reform. Hirsch holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Furman University and has completed coursework towards a master’s degree in public administration. She lives in Durham with her husband, Steve, and has an empty nest with two adult children attending college and graduate school.

C. Chris Payne, PhD, is a Research Professor in the Office of Research and Engagement at UNC Greensboro and adjunct graduate faculty in the department of Human Development and Family Studies. Recently she served as Director of the Center for Youth, Family, and Community Partnerships. Dr. Payne holds a Ph.D. in Child Development and Family Relations with certifications in Educational Administration and Supervision. Her work focuses on both intervention and prevention-based programs for vulnerable families which stress early development, parenting, community partnerships, and school success. She is President Emeritus of the North Carolina Infant/Young Child Mental Health Association (NCIMHA) and on the leadership team for Ready for School, Ready of Life, a 0-8 collective impact initiative in Guilford County. Dr. Payne is committed to work which bridges research, policy, and practice and has over 25 years of experience in educational administration, research and academe. She has developed and directed model school-based programs for children, served on state and national task forces, provided professional consultation, training, protocol development, and evaluation services for various community and state agencies and for university colleagues both nationally as well as internationally. Dr. Payne's work has been funded by the NICHD, SAMHSA, ACF, DOE, the NCDPH and numerous foundations and state agencies. She is one of the investigators of the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, a 20-year, 10 site national study of more than 1,200 children and families, resulting in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and professional presentations.

Susan Perry-Manning, MA, is the Deputy Secretary for Human Services at the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. Susan Perry-Manning has more than 25 years of experience in early childhood development and learning at the local, state and national levels. She has developed programs and policies that support young children's healthy development and strong families, including parent education and home visiting programs, child care and early learning, and early health and mental health services. Perry-Manning's prior work has included serving as: Executive Director for the Early Care and Education Consortium, a national nonprofit alliance representing child care businesses; Executive Director for the Delaware Office of Early Learning, working with public and private partners across Delaware to create, fund and implement early development and learning services and policies; and Deputy Executive Director at Child Care Aware of America, a nonprofit membership association working to improve child care quality, access and affordability. She has also served in several roles in North Carolina, including as the: founding Executive Director for the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation; Senior Director for Policy and Programs at the North Carolina Partnership for Children; Deputy Director for Child Care Services Association; and Executive Director for the Durham Child Care Council. Perry-Manning holds a Master of Arts in early childhood education from Concordia University – St. Paul and a Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College.

Phillip H. Redmond, Jr., JD, is the Director, Child Care Program Area, at the Duke Endowment. Mr. Redmond joined the The Duke Endowment in 2000 as assistant director of the Child Care Program Area and was promoted to associate director in 2006. In 2016, he became director of the Child Care area. While at the Endowment, Mr. Redmond has directed several projects on a variety of topics including, among others, wellness, evidence-based programs, implementation science, building the evaluation capacity of non-profits and education. Mr. Redmond previously was the executive director of The Children's Law Center in Charlotte, North Carolina and formerly was in private practice in North Carolina. Mr. Redmond's education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1986 and Juris Doctor degree from Campbell University School of Law, Buies Creek, North Carolina, 1989. Mr. Redmond chairs the board of directors for the Council on Accreditation.

David Reese, MBA, President and CEO of the East Durham Children’s Initiative, brings more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience to the organization. Throughout his career, David’s work has focused on creating opportunity for low-wealth families and developing chances for children to succeed. David previously served as chief operating officer for Food Recovery and Distribution at Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. He is past co-chair of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham and past vice chair of the Northeast Central Durham Leadership Council. David currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Durham Rotary Club, Durham’s Partnership for Children, East Durham Children’s Initiative, BB&T Bank’s Durham Advisory Board, United Way of the Greater Triangle and Leadership Triangle. He also serves on the Durham YMCA’s advisory board, and the Mayor of Durham’s Poverty Reduction Task Force. In 2006, he was recognized as one of the Triangle Business Journal’s “Top 40 Under 40” business leaders. David holds a Master of Business Administration. He hails from the Bronx, NY, and lives in Durham with his wife, Iris, and their three children.

Michelle G. Ries, MPH, is a project director at the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. As project director, Ries has managed task forces and served as primary author on task force reports including the Task Force on Health Care Analytics, tasked with developing a concise set of metrics to improve population health and quality of care under Medicaid reform; Dementia-Capable North Carolina, the state plan for addressing the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers; and the Task Force on Essentials for Childhood, a statewide collective plan to prevent child maltreatment and ensure child and family well-being. Prior to her work at NCIOM, Ries worked as senior program associate in the International Health Policy and Practice Innovations program at the Commonwealth Fund, a nonprofit foundation dedicated to achieving a high-performing health care system. Previously, Ries also completed the Health Research Training Program at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Health Media and Marketing, where she managed citywide health media campaigns on various health issues, including cardiovascular disease, childhood obesity, and adolescent mental health. Ries received her MPH from Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and a BA with honors in dramatic art and anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

Michele Rivest, MPA, is a dedicated advocate for children and early childhood education, Michele currently serves as the Executive Director of the North Carolina Child Care Coalition (NCCCC), a statewide, early childhood advocacy association of state and local organizations across North Carolina. She was a founding member of the NCCCC and has served in leadership roles since the mid-1980s. She directs the Coalition’s public policy development, lobbying efforts and advocacy strategies, and frequently speaks to policy leaders and community agencies on key issues related to early care and education. Michele is the President of Michele Rivest Consulting, Inc. that specializes in strategic planning and special project development to increase opportunities for early childhood success. Her clients have included the N.C. Partnership for Children, the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, Prevent Child Abuse and other state and local organizations. Prior to starting her own consulting firm, Michele served on former Governor Hunt’s transition team to create Smart Start and served as the founding Executive Director of the Orange County Partnership for Young Children, the first Smart Start organization in North Carolina. Throughout her career, Michele has worked at the national, state, and local levels providing technical assistance on early childhood issues. Michele also works as the Early Childhood Project Associate for the Natural Learning Initiative at NC State University on initiatives to address childhood obesity prevention through renovation of outdoor learning spaces for young children in child care.

Mary Sonnenberg is President, Partnership for Children of Cumberland County. As President, Mary is responsible for representing the Partnership in the community. She assists and reports to the Board of Directors and manages the Partnership on a daily basis. Her duties include: developing and establishing objectives and long-range plans; assuring all goals are met; assuring the promotion of activities that will

enhance the growth and development of the total service area; assuring the development and execution of an effective staff development program as well as a dynamic public information program; and pursuing the application of management concepts that promote the growth of the employees and of the organization.

Adam Sotak, MSW, is Public Engagement Director at NC Child. Adam joined NC Child in November 2015. In his role as Public Engagement Director, he leads NC Child's advocacy efforts to promote economic opportunity and improve children's health and well-being. He has over 15 years of community organizing and policy advocacy experience here in North Carolina. During his career he has received numerous awards including the Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP's "Unsung Hero" Award in 2005. Born in West Virginia, Adam moved to Salisbury, NC (the home of Cheerwine) at age 12. He received his BSW from Appalachian State University and MSW from UNC-Chapel Hill. He lives in Durham with his wife, Tara, and three children Anders, Harriet, and Bennett.

Rob Thompson is Deputy Director of NC Child. Rob joined NC Child in January 2014. As the deputy director, Rob oversees the organization's communications, research, and advocacy staff and programs. Prior to joining NC Child, Rob worked from 2008 to 2013 as the executive director of the Covenant with North Carolina's Children. In that role, Rob oversaw the organization's government relations, membership network, and fundraising. From 2005 to 2008, Rob directed NC Public Interest Research Group, a consumer and good-government advocacy group. From 2003 to 2005, Rob worked as an organizer at the Center for Campus Free Speech and directed grassroots fundraising offices in Chapel Hill, NC, and New York City. Rob grew up in Atlanta, GA, and attended Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, where he graduated with a degree in English literature. He enjoys backpacking, basketball, and talking about the weather

Berkeley Yorkery, MPP, is the Associate Director of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine. Ms. Yorkery served as Project Director at the NCIOM for seven years prior to becoming the Associate Director. As a project director she administered projects on mental health and substance abuse, child health, oral health, health care coverage, and other health issues affecting North Carolinians. Prior to joining the NCIOM, Berkeley worked on child health policy issues in North Carolina and nationally. Berkeley earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University in 2005. While at Georgetown, she was a research fellow for the Center for Research on Children in the US. She earned a Bachelor's in Psychology and Public Policy from Duke University in 2001.

Henrietta Zalkind, JD, is the founding Executive Director of the Down East Partnership for Children (DEPC) in Rocky Mount, NC. Since 1994 she has worked with the board, staff, and community to launch every child in Nash and Edgecombe counties as a healthy, lifelong learner by the end of the third grade. Prior to working at DEPC, she worked for legal services in Rhode Island and North Carolina, specializing in education law. She has a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Originally from Philadelphia, Henrietta has one daughter who's now in high school.

Adam J. Zolotor, MD, DrPH, is the president and CEO of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and an associate professor of Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Dr. Zolotor has practiced family medicine in a small-town practice, rural emergency department, county health department, and academic medical center. Dr. Zolotor started his academic career in child injury research and is well-known nationally for his work on the prevention of physical abuse, shaken baby syndrome, and child discipline, as well as the policy issues around prevention. Dr. Zolotor joined the NCIOM in 2012 as the Vice President and has served as the President and CEO since 2014. Dr. Zolotor has been involved in the Institute's leadership in developing many new initiatives, including the rural health plan, the child maltreatment prevention plan, the plan for Alzheimer's and related dementia, and the legislative health policy fellowship program. He also led the *North Carolina Medical Journal* through



a transformative change to a mostly online distribution with dramatic increase in the statewide footprint. Dr. Zolotor still practices family medicine at the University of North Carolina. He earned both his master's degree and doctorate in public health as well as his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His undergraduate degree and residency training were at the University of Michigan.