

March 21, 2016

# Presenter Biographies



## **Alexia Thex, MEd**

Partnership Manager  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Alexia Thex is charged with forming mutually long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with corporations and organizations that fit the mission of NCA. This includes sponsors and exhibitors for the Annual NCA conference. After earning a Master of Education degree in exercise physiology from the University of Texas at Austin and while working to develop health and wellness programs, Alexia realized the lack of funding available, which led her to a career in Development. She has raised funds for several organizations, first as a professional for the Downtown Houston YMCA and the Holocaust Museum Houston. Using her professional development expertise, Alexia has worked with the schools her children have attended to help them maximize their fundraising potential.

## **Alicia Rampulla, USDA Northeast Regional Office**

Northeast Regional Office, USDA FNS

## **Alicia White, MS, RD**

USDA FNS Child Nutrition Programs

## **Allison Cunningham, EdS**

Director  
Early Childhood Professionals Training Institute

Allison Cunningham is the Owner/Director of Early Childhood Professionals Training Institute located in Omaha, Nebraska. Allison has over 20 years of experience teaching adults in professional workshops, community college, and university settings. She has written 25 early childhood workshops for family child care home providers, child care center directors, and staff. Allison has also served the early childhood community while working for the past 10 years with the federally funded Child and Adult Care Food Program. She has led the CACFP sponsoring organization, AnSo Child Development, as Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer, and currently serves as Program Consultant. Allison received her degree as an Education Specialist from Liberty University, and her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In 2014, she became an approved Nebraska Department of Education trainer of child care license required safety and management training courses.

## **Amanda Gallaher, MPH, RD**

Registered Dietitian  
Association for Child Development

Amanda Gallaher is a Registered Dietitian with the Association for Child Development, a nonprofit and CACFP sponsor based in Michigan and Illinois. She specializes in child nutrition and has experience developing and presenting nutrition education for parents, child care providers, and children. She was previously a Nutrition Policy Fellow at the Food Research and Action Center and worked with national partners to develop policy recommendations for the proposed CACFP meal pattern changes. She has a Master's in Public Health in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

**Amanda Theissen**

Compliance Manager  
KinderCare Education

Amanda Theissen has worked for KinderCare supporting the subsidy food program for over 16 years. She is passionate about compliance and provides oversight for the participation of 815 KinderCare centers across 36 states. Collectively, these centers serve more than 2 million nutritious meals and snacks each month through the CACFP. Supporting the largest private nationwide participant in the CACFP, she has the perspective of working with many state agencies and sharing best practices across the country. Amanda ensures all systems and processes used to support the CACFP meet USDA guidelines.

**Amanda Tucker, BS, CHES**

Child Nutrition Consultant  
Region 11 Education Service Center

Amanda Tucker has been working with the CACFP program for over 3 years, including previous work with the Texas Department of Agriculture. She currently is a Child Nutrition Consultant providing technical assistance and training for all facets of CACFP. Her love for getting children off to a healthy start comes from her previous work as a Nutrition Counselor and Nutrition Education Coordinator with the WIC Program. She has a BS in Nutrition from Texas Tech University and is a Certified Health Education Specialist. Amanda previously spoke at the National CACFP Conference in 2015, and the first Texas State CACFP Conference in July of 2015, developing budget, administrative and financial management classes.

**Andrea Farmer, MS, RD, LD**

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Andrea Farmer, MS, RD, LD is a nutritionist with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Programs. After enjoying a diverse career in dietetics, Ms. Farmer found her passion in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, first as a Compliance Specialist with the Florida Child Care Food Program, then currently with USDA. She is leading the USDA effort to create resources and guidance materials to help child care centers and home providers meet the nutrition, physical activity and screen time recommendations in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Ms. Farmer has presented at numerous national conferences.

**Angela Kline**

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

**Angela Leone, MS, RD**

Nutritionist, Lead Interactive Tools Team  
USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

Angela Leone is a Nutritionist and Lead for the Interactive Tools team at USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. She oversees the implementation and maintenance of SuperTracker, ChooseMyPlate.gov website, and What's Cooking? USDA's recipe database. She has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Masters degree in Nutrition.

**Anneliese Feld**

Human and Community Development PhD Student, I-TOPP Fellow  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Anneliese Feld is an Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP) Fellow at the University of Illinois where she has completed her Masters in Public Health and is working towards her PhD in Human and Community Development. Her current research focuses on the impact of childcare licensing regulations on home-based childcare providers participation in the CACFP. Before coming to Illinois, she worked in Washington State as a social worker completing clinical appointment in a therapeutic residential facility for abused and neglected children. She also served as a legislative assistant for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Washington State House Ways and Means Committee. As a student, Anneliese has presented at numerous professional conferences with both poster and oral presentations, and has taught college level courses at two universities.

**Ann-Marie Martin**

Alaska Child Nutrition Programs

Ann-Marie is the Western CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**Arianne Corbett**

Managing Director  
Leading Health, LLC

Arianne Corbett is Managing Director of Leading Health, LLC with over a decade of experience in food and nutrition policy, health promotion, and advocacy. As a consultant, Arianne works primarily on efforts to improve the nutrition quality of food in schools and early care and education settings and to reduce unhealthy food marketing aimed at children. Most recently, Arianne acted as a project team advisor and analyst to conduct a Health Impact Assessment on the CACFP proposed rule. Prior to forming her consulting company, Arianne was Senior Nutrition Policy Associate for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a public health advocacy organization specializing in food, nutrition, and obesity prevention. Arianne also managed nutrition advocacy efforts for the School Nutrition Association, specifically school nutrition program regulation, legislation, and policy issues. Arianne is a Registered Dietitian and holds a Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Florida.

**Audria Perkins**

Customer Service Team Lead  
Association for Child Development

Audria Perkins, is the IL Customer Service Team Lead for the Association for Child Development, a sponsor of the CACFP in Michigan and Illinois. In this role, she trains all Customer Service Specialist while ensuring that they are providing the highest quality of service. Audria has been with the organization for over 5 years and is very passionate about educating providers and providing quality customer service.

**Agustine Navarro**

Field Operations Manager  
Association for Child Development

Agustine Navarro works for the Association for Child Development and is the Illinois Field Operations Manager for the State of Illinois. His job duties include overseeing a team of twelve employees across the state, managing all monitor caseloads, conducting field audits to ensure that providers are receiving exceptional quality service, ensuring that all CACAP guidelines are being followed, and assisting in defusing any field related issues.

**Barbara George**

Director of FCS & Nutrition Sales  
Nasco

**Barbara J. Smith**

Senior Program Analyst  
USDA-FNS-CNP-Program Monitoring Section

Barbara J. Smith is a senior Program Analyst in the Program Monitoring and Operational Support Section of FNS' Child Nutrition Program. Her primary responsibilities are participating with Regional offices in CACFP management evaluations) focusing on the implementation of the SD and appeals processes) and coordinating CACFP Management Improvement Projects. She is the facilitator of the CACFP Management Guidance Workgroup; primary editor of the SD Handbook; and a member of the CACFP Paperwork Reduction Workgroup. She has been recognized for providing expertise and unwavering support to the CACFP Workgroup project to assist in leading and managing a team to update and review guidance.

**Barbie James**

Field Manager  
KinderCare Education

Barbie James has worked for KinderCare supporting the subsidy food program for over 13 years. She oversees 22 CACFP monitors responsible for the participation of 815 KinderCare centers across 36 states. Collectively, these centers serve more than 2 million nutritious meals and snacks each month through the CACFP. Supporting the largest private nationwide participant in the CACFP, she has the perspective of working with many state agencies and sharing best practices across the country. Barbie has presented successful workshops at the CCFP Roundtable conference for multiple years.

**Berenice Aguilar**

Customer Service Specialist  
Association for Child Development

Berenice Aguilar, is a Bilingual Customer Service Specialist for the Association for Child Development, a sponsor of the CACFP in Michigan and Illinois. In this role, she delivers the highest quality of service to child care Providers, specifically through the provision to customer service and processing Provider claims for reimbursements, in the fulfillment of organizational and departmental goals.

**Blake Stanford**

President/CEO  
SW Human Development Services

Blake Stanford is the founder and CEO of Southwest Human Development Services, Inc., a nonprofit agency that sponsors the CACFP for over 1,400 Texas family day-care facilities in Texas. A longtime supporter of CACFP, Mr. Stanford is the past president of the National CACFP Sponsors Association and serves on the NCA Board as Chair for Corporate Development and Partnerships. Previously, he served as president of the Texas CACFP Sponsor Association and as founder of the Southwest Region CACFP Sponsors' Association. Blake is a graduate of Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas with a bachelor of science degree in political science, and economics and a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the University.

**Brenda Miller, CFLE**

National ECELC Project Trainer  
Nemours

Brenda Miller is a trainer on the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives (ECELC) Project. She conducts trainings for child care centers on the best practices for healthy eating, physical activity, breastfeeding support, and reduced screen time. Ms. Miller also provides on-site and remote technical assistance to participating child care centers to support them in improving policies and practices.

**Candice McElhane**

Policy Associate  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Candice McElhane is the organization's policy associate. She assists the policy chair, committee, and Board in advocacy for the CACFP through conducting research, contact outreach, creating press releases, content creation for our website and social media outlets, and developing policy partnerships. Candice graduated from Marshall University with a BA in International Relations and recently obtained her MA from Texas State University majoring in International Studies with a focus in development. Candice's academic background, prior work experience through Oxfam America and recent birth of her now one year old daughter have bolstered her belief in nutrition as a right for all.

**Caroline Cahill, MPH**

Child Hunger Corps Member  
Feeding America

Caroline Cahill is a member of Feeding America's Child Hunger Corps placed at Feeding the Gulf Coast (formerly, Bay Area Food Bank) in Theodore, Alabama, which serves the central gulf coast of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The Child Hunger Corps is Feeding America's nationwide service program designed to increase the capacity and capability of its network food banks to execute programs targeted toward the alleviation of child hunger. Ms. Cahill works primarily on program development, which includes community needs assessment and analysis, expansion of child feeding programs in underserved areas, and program evaluation. Ms. Cahill holds a BS in Exercise Science from Willamette University (Salem, Oregon) and an MPH from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health (Atlanta, Georgia).

**Carolyn Wait, RD**

No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices Program Manager  
Share Our Strength

In her role at the No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices, Carolyn Wait identifies and disseminates tactics to improve and expand access to the CACFP Afterschool Meals Program by working with sponsors, state agencies, and other stakeholders. Prior to joining Share Our Strength in August 2015, Carolyn was a CACFP Specialist for the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Carolyn was also a National Nutrition Policy Fellow at the Food Research and Action Center, where she assisted with Child Nutrition Reauthorization and an Institute of Medicine committee report on the CACFP meal patterns. Carolyn, a Registered Dietitian, holds a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Ohio State University and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Cathy Foran**

Finance Coordinator  
YMCA of Greater Rochester

Cathy Foran manages the YMCA of Greater Rochester's CACFP portfolio, and works closely with the Greater Rochester team, our state, and our community partner, Foodlink, to review menus, train staff, and ensure that food quality and food access remain key priorities for our organization.

**Cherese Myree, CFE**

Vice President  
MH Miles Company, CPA, PC

Cherese Myree is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University and specializes in the USDA Food Programs and Compliance. She has over 10 years of experience in the fields of auditing, accounting, and consulting with specialized experience in governmental contract auditing and contract compliance. Cherese is a veteran presenter on financial management topics and is deeply versed on CACFP & SFSP program requirements.

**Cheryl Jackson Lewis, MPA, RD**

USDA FNS

**Christine Vineyard**

USDA FNS Midwest Branch Chief  
Chicago, IL

**Clarissa Hayes**

Child Nutrition Policy Analyst  
Food Research and Action Center

Clarissa Hayes joined FRAC in February 2015 and works with anti-hunger organizations as well as with local, state and national governments to expand the use of afterschool and summer nutrition programs. Before joining FRAC, Clarissa was an anti-hunger program associate at Maryland Hunger Solutions (an initiative of FRAC) and worked to increase participation in the child nutrition programs across the state. She has also completed two years of national community service through AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTA. Clarissa earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin

**Claudette Barber**

CACFP Program Specialist  
Child Care Resources

Claudette Barber has been with Child Care Resources (CCR) since July 2010 as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Specialist. Since 2013, she has been teaching movement and activities to child care providers helping them enhance the care they provide. Prior to working for CCR, Claudette was a child care provider for 11 years. Claudette owned and operated her own family group home child care, which was accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). She has completed numerous hours of early childhood training and nutrition related topics. Claudette also facilitates CACFP online and classroom workshops for providers in CCR's region.

**Claudia Mincemoyer, PhD**

Director  
Penn State Better Kid Care

Claudia Mincemoyer, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education at Penn State University and Director of the Penn State Better Kid Care program, an outreach education program providing professional development to early care and education and out-of-school time professionals. Her research and outreach scholarship focuses on the development, implementation and evaluation of strength-based child and youth development programs and the exploration of effective models of technology-assisted professional development for child and youth development practitioners. As a Cooperative Extension faculty specialist, Dr. Mincemoyer assists in the translation of research findings and incorporating evidence-based practices and curricula into Cooperative Extension programming.

**Cynthia Snyder**

Childcare Specialist  
Novick Brothers

Cynthia Snyder is a Childcare Specialist at Novick Brothers and has been working with their 600+ childcare clients for more than 6 years. She brings with her 20 years of school food programming experience, with 12 of those years in early childhood. She is also a certified PQAS trainer in the state of Pennsylvania. Being a lifetime member of Weight Watchers, Cynthia has a passion for educating her participants on the importance of portion control and healthy dietary choices. Cynthia and her husband Bill live in Collegeville and are the proud parents of 6 grown children.

**Dara Jacobs**

Consultant  
Brighton Training Group

Dara Jacobs recently retired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Program Specialist after 36 years of service. While employed by Pennsylvania, Dara was responsible for developing and implementing a training plan for over 1,000 CACFP sponsors. Dara was instrumental in initiating Pennsylvania's move to technology-based training with capabilities to assess successful completion by institutions. She presently is working with Pennsylvania and with Brighton Training Group to develop e-Learning lessons for CACFP and SFSP at the state and sponsor levels

**David Thibodeaux**

Louisiana Department of Education

David is the Southwest CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**David Youngblood**

National Civil Rights Director  
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

David Youngblood currently serves as the National Civil Rights Director for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service where he oversees all aspects of civil rights policy, compliance and compliant processing in FNS assisted programs totaling over \$110 billion annually. Prior to his current position, Mr. Youngblood worked for USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. Prior to his time in Federal civil rights enforcement, he served as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, a member of the State Bar of Michigan and also holds a Master's Degree in Social Work.

**Dawn Perez**

Senior Implementation Specialist and Training Director  
Minute Menu Systems

Dawn has personally helped over 200 Sponsors across the nation transition to Minute Menu software applications, including both Center and Home Sponsors. As one of the co-creators of the new Minute Menu Training website ([training.minutemenu.com](http://training.minutemenu.com)), she manages and produces new content for the website in the form of documents, videos, blogs, e-Learning courses, webinars, and more. In addition to her current 10 year tenure with Minute Menu, Dawn also worked for Southwest Human Development Services, one of the largest sponsoring organizations in Texas. Dawn worked closely with child care providers, processing their claims and developing a thorough knowledge of CACFP regulations. Dawn has provided training workshops at the NCA conference, Roundtable conference, and Minute Menu conferences, in particular, and has also provided training to Minute Menu clients and state agencies across the country. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Community Services.

**DeAnna Certain**

Illinois Customer Service Manager  
Association for Child Development

DeAnna Certain is the Customer Service Manager for the Association for Child Development (ACD), a sponsor of the CACFP in Michigan and Illinois. In this role, she coaches staff members on delivering the highest quality of service in addition to interpreting CACFP related information in order to inform ACD Providers about rules and regulations of the CACFP to ensure compliance. She received her BSBA from DeVry University and has been in the customer service field for over 15 years. Through previous work in the customer service industry, DeAnna is very passionate about providing quality customer service.

**Debby Hammack**

USDA FNS Mountain Plains Branch Chief

Debby Hammack is a Branch Chief for Community Nutrition Programs at the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service in Denver, Colorado. Debby has been with the FNS regional office for 23 years. She oversees administration of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and all Food Distribution programs in a 10-state region that includes Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. In addition to the 10 States, Debby also works with 21 Indian Tribal Organizations to administer the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

**Debra Ghia**

Vice President CACFP  
Lehigh Valley Childrens Center

The LVCC is the largest sponsoring organization in Pennsylvania, located in 20 counties that sponsors 600 homes and 20 centers serving over 4,000 children. Debra and the CACFP team at Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, Inc. have grown the program over the last 30 years to be the largest sponsor in the Commonwealth. Lehigh Valley Children's Centers' sponsorship is dedicated to incorporate fresh foods in their menus as well as being dedicated to educating providers on the importance of teaching good nutrition to young children. Debra's goal as a member on the NCA Board of Directors is to reach out to all sponsors to meet their needs. She believes in not only educating the child but also educating the entire family on the importance of good nutrition. She currently serves on NCA's governance and policy committee and is currently the Secretary of the NCA board of Directors.

**Denise Meyer**

Field Operations Manager  
Association For Child Development

Denise Meyer has been the Field Operations Manager at the Association for Child Development (ACD) for 8 years. Ms. Meyer graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Community Development & Community Services.

**Diane Welland**

Manager of Communications  
Juice Products Association

**Dietrich Love, MBA, CMP**

Food and Nutrition Services Director  
Head Start of Greater Dallas

Dietrich Nickleberry Love is certified in Training and Development; holds an MBA from Texas Woman's University and has an undergraduate degree in Home Economics from Henderson State University. She is also Cooper Institute trained in Diabetes and Exercise, Program Development in Health Promotion, and Weight Management. She has 20+ years in child nutrition, food management systems and the (USDA) Child and Adult Food Program. She began a grass roots child wellness initiative called "Get a HeadStart on Healthier Lives". This initiative has given the agency recognition in the community for creating innovative wellness programs throughout the city for 3,000+ preschool children. The recognition has afforded her the opportunity to share her expertise while serving as a steering committee member and work group member of "Charting the Course for a Healthy Future" an early childhood obesity efforts workgroup for Dallas County; Early Childhood Health Initiative committee member, an early childhood Health Alliance group that wants to bring the gap between health care professional and parents; and, Policy Committee member with Health and Wellness Alliance a committee that focuses on changing policies within the state that affects children's health.

**Donna Duwell, CPP**

Human Resource Director  
Association for Child Development

Donna holds a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management and Development and has over 20 years' experience in the HR field. Before joining ACD two years ago, she served as part of the HR department for elementary school districts.

**Dustin Melton**

Child Nutrition Specialist  
Oregon Department of Education

**Eddie Longoria**

Regional Divisional Director  
USDA FNS Special Programs Southwest

Eddie Longoria was selected as Regional Division Director of Special Nutrition Programs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Southwest Region, in July 2012. In this role, Longoria is responsible for the administration of all Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. These programs include the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Longoria previously served as the Regional Director for WIC, as well as the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. In this position he managed the operation of the supplemental food programs in five southwestern states and 16 Indian Tribal Organizations. Prior to joining the Food and Nutrition Service in 2009, Longoria worked at Department of Homeland Security. Longoria is proud to have served his country in the United States Marine Corps. He is a native of California, and received his B.S. degree in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Master's degree in Management from the University of Phoenix.

**Elizabeth Albert**

USDA FNS Western Regional Office

**Ellen Farrell**

Training Administrator  
Florida Department of Health

Ellen started working with the Child Nutrition Programs in 1986. She worked for the Florida Department of Education for 11 years with the Summer Food Program and has been working for the Florida Department of Health for the last 18 years with the Child Care Food Program as the Training and Special Projects Administrator. Her primary responsibilities include coordinating training activities for the bureau as well as acting as project manager for Florida's web-based claims payment system. Ellen also served as the Southeast Regional Representative for the CACFP National Professional Association for three years and held the position of President in 2012. In 2013 she was asked to represent the NPA on USDA's Paperwork Reduction Workgroup which was formed to research and determine ways in which we can remove unnecessary paperwork burdens both for states and institutions. She believes strongly that states can significantly reduce paperwork in the program for their institutions as well as for themselves while maintaining program integrity.

**Elvira Gamboa**

Illinois Field Operations Assistant  
Association for Child Development

Elvira Gamboa has conducted numerous home reviews for the hispanic community focusing on nutritional training and policy requirements. She has been instrumental in the office for her strong ability to translate and communicate with the hispanic community.

**Erica Sanford**

Program Specialist, CACFP & SFSP  
Arizona Department of Education

Prior to joining the ADE, Erica worked for the Arizona Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) as a Nutrition Education Specialist. She obtained a Master of Public Health from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion, Certificate in Community Nutrition, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). In addition to her role at the ADE, she is a member of various committees throughout Maricopa County. Erica has presented on the topic of culture and the eating environment to Arizona CACFP sponsors and institutions and has presented to partner State agencies on topics such as Infant Feeding in the CACFP and What is CACFP?

**Gail Birch**

Chief Executive Officer  
Providers Choice

The care, development and health of children has been Gail's focus for over thirty years, 25 of them as CEO of Providers Choice, a company with annual revenues of over \$24,000,000, which she founded in 1985. Providers Choice (PCI) represents 5,000 Family Child Care Providers and Centers serving 52,000 children. PCI's mission is to insure the health and wellbeing of children in day care, to stretch and support caregivers and to promote childcare as a profession. Gail has been a catalyst in growing Providers Choice to become the largest CACFP sponsor in the United States. She is leading the charge against childhood obesity with innovative training in Nutrition most recently implementing Health and Wellness in the Day Care setting and bringing in local chefs to create a nutrition program that can be a model nationwide. Gail served on the National CACFP Sponsors Association board from 1990 to 1999 and as President from 1995 to 1998. After taking a break from the board Gail was re-elected to the board in 2002 and served a second term as President from 2004 to 2007. She also served as Secretary from 2010-2013 and has served as Website Chair since 2005. Over the years Gail has served on many committees and task forces. She was invited to the White House by President Clinton to participate in the first White House Conference on Child Care, she served on the USDA 5-star Child Nutrition Task Force, and the USDA Paperwork Reduction Task Force. The Sales and Marketing Executive of Minneapolis awarded Gail the Women in Business Career Achievement Award in 1994.

**Gail Hoffman**

Regional Civil Rights Director, Southeast Region  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Ms. Hoffman is one of seven regional CR directors that report to the Compliance Branch of the National FNS Civil Rights Division (FNS-CRD). Ms. Hoffman is the regional technical authority on aspects of CR including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and other related Departmental regulations and directives. She conducts CR Compliance Reviews of State Agencies, provides CR training, reviews CR complaint investigations in coordination with the Complaints Branch of the FNS-CRD, and provides technical assistance in the development of CR policy and compliance tools. Prior to joining the FNS, Ms. Hoffman enforced CR laws for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, where she negotiated settlements to ensure compliance with CR statutes and regulations. During her career, Ms. Hoffman served as the Georgia Department of Human Service's first coordinator for services to limited English proficient individuals. She also founded and led a nationally recognized nonprofit organization titled "The Bridging the Gap Project, Inc." and directed a refugee resettlement program for the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta. To date, Ms. Hoffman has received 19 national, state, and private sector awards for her efforts to overcome language and cultural barriers between diverse groups and to build partnerships between organizations. She has appeared on national and local television and radio programs. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and has completed a Master of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology.

**Geri Henchy, MPH, RD**

Director of Nutrition Policy & Early Childhood Programs  
Food Research and Action Center

Geraldine Henchy is the Director of Nutrition Policy and Early Childhood Programs at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). FRAC is a research, policy, public education, and advocacy center working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and improve the nutrition and health of low-income individuals and families. Ms. Henchy has enjoyed advocating for the Child and Adult Care Food Program for over two decades. She has been honored to receive awards for her work on Child and Adult Care Food Program advocacy from the National CACFP Professionals Association, National Sponsors Forum, National Association of Family Child Care, and the California Roundtable. Most recently, the American Public Health Association's Food and Nutrition Section honored Ms. Henchy with the Sarah Samuels award recognizing outstanding contributions in public health nutrition. Ms. Henchy is a registered dietitian and has an MPH in nutrition from the University of California, Berkeley.

**Greta Avery**

USDA FNS Special Programs Southwest  
South Carolina Department of Social Services Division of Early Care and Education

Greta is the Southeast CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**Gretchen Elkins, MBA**

Food and Nutrition Specialist  
Texas Education Service Center, Region 20

Gretchen has over 19 years of experience in food service, the last nine of which have been specialized in child nutrition. She currently works as a CACFP educational specialist at Education Service Center Region 20 in San Antonio, Texas. In addition to providing program technical assistance, Gretchen also develops and delivers training for more than 115 CACFP entities in San Antonio and the surrounding area. She is very passionate about educating staff, children and parents on the importance of nutrition and healthy living.

**Ivonne Kinser**

Director of Digital Strategy  
Avocados from Mexico

In 2014 Ivonne joined Avocados From Mexico as the head of digital media & strategy. Innovation, disruptive creativity and a non-traditional approach to digital marketing are the hallmarks of Ivonne's work. Most recently, she led the ideation, development and launch of Avocados from Mexico's new digital platform which focuses on nutrition and fitness. The platform called AVOLIFESTYLE offers consumers an array of technology tools accessible through [avocadosfrommexico.com](http://avocadosfrommexico.com), that help consumers not only adopt but also maintain a healthy lifestyle based on physical activity and nutritious eating habits .

**Jackie Walters**

Chief Operating Officer  
Red Rabbit

Leading the team of Account Managers, Community Partnerships, marketing and sales, Jackie works as a conduit from school partners to our operations. Jackie has a variety of experience, from working at a Chicago education non profit, to a large sustainable consumer goods company. She holds an MBA from NYU Stern, and studied music at Tulane University.

**Jan Kallio, MS, RD, LDN**

Team Lead Program Specialist  
USDA FNS Northeast Regional Office

Jan Kallio, MS, RD, LDN is a Team Lead Program Specialist in the Community Nutrition Branch, Special Nutrition Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service in the Northeast Regional Office (NERO), in Boston, MA. Jan currently provides leadership to NERO's CACFP and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Prior to her work in the Community Nutrition Branch, she was the Nutritionist for the SNAP-Ed Program and provided oversight to SNAP outreach for the Region. She has been with FNS for 5 years. Before Jan joined Federal service, she had a long career working in nutrition assistance programs, particularly the WIC Program. She was the Nutrition Director, Nutrition Division, MA Department of Public Health for 20 years. She is a Registered Dietitian and has a BS in Community Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of California, Davis and a MS in Public Health Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

**Jean Bianchi**

Nutrition Director  
Clarendon Early Education Services

Jean Bianchi began her career with the CACFP as a Family Child care Provider almost thirty years ago and in September 1988 joined Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc. (formerly Clarendon Family Day Care, Inc.) Jean's future as a staunch advocate for the CACFP was determined as she realized her passion for educating providers and families on the importance and long term benefits to children of good nutrition. Jean quickly rose to a leadership position and has served as Director of Nutrition since 2006. Jean has been an active member of the Sponsors Association for seventeen years and is currently serving a second term as NCA Northeast Regional Representative.

**Jeanette Betancourt, Ed.D**

Sesame Street Workshop

**Jenna Cope, RD**

Nutrition, Health & Wellness  
Gerber Products / Nestle Nutrition

Jenna Cope works in Nutrition, Health & Wellness at Gerber Products Company / Nestlé Nutrition. In this role, she works in Corporate Affairs with nutrition-related programs and partnerships, oversees an early childhood community nutrition education program, and informs product development with research-supported nutrition insights for young children. Prior to working in Nutrition, Health and Wellness, Jenna worked in Regulatory and Public Policy at Nestlé Nutrition. Jenna received her Bachelors of Science from Messiah College with a Minor in Health & Exercise Science, completed her Dietetic Internship at the College of Saint Elizabeth and is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Health at Benedictine University. She is a Registered Dietitian and a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the American Public Health Association. She is the current Treasurer of the New Jersey Dietetic Association and Secretary-Elect for the Food & Nutrition Section of the American Public Health Association.

**Jennifer Basey, MA**

Membership Services  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

After teaching elementary school for five years, Jennifer Basey began working for Region 13, Education Service Center as an Instructional Coach. At the center, she was responsible for the Instructional Coaching Network, monthly presentations offered to district employees, and for offering various continuing education courses to employees at various districts. From that work, Jennifer has learned a few "tricks of the trade" to increase engagement and interest during presentations.

**Jennifer Swartz**

Professional Development Specialist/CACFP Supervisor  
Child Care Resources

Jennifer Swartz works as a Professional Development Specialist and CACFP Supervisor for Child Care Resources, in Missoula Montana. Jennifer has worked in early childhood education since 1997. Her experience varies from family home child care provider, Assistant Director of NAEYC accredited Montessori preschool, to Quality Coaching, parenting class coordination, professional development coordination, conference planning, work in both the Language Arts and Math classrooms of Adult Basic Education, and a thorough knowledge of the Pyramid Model (CSEFEL). Jennifer has worked with children with special needs ranging from both physical and cognitive delays to learning differences and behavior challenges. Jennifer earned a B.A. from the University of Montana and achieved a Level VI on the Child Care Practitioner's Registry through the Early Childhood Project at Montana State University-Bozeman. She also is a member of the Trainer Registry. Courses Authored: A Better Approach to Feeding: Ellyn Satter's Division of Responsibility; Going City Green, Around the Table, and the annual class Managing Your Child Care Business-CACFP Program Management.

**Jennifer Weber, MPH, RD**

Director, Healthy Way to Grow  
American Heart Association

Jennifer Weber has over 15 years experience in prevention and health promotion at the local and national level. She has led national advocacy and program efforts to improve child nutrition initiatives. She currently directs Healthy Way to Grow, an obesity prevention program in early childhood programs that launched in six communities across the United States in 2013. Jennifer has presented on this topic at the national conferences of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and National Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Jill N. Cox, MS, RD**

Program Development Specialist  
Penn State Better Kid Care

As Program Development Specialist with the Penn State University Better Kid Care program, Jill authors professional development materials on topics related to nutrition, health and wellness for early care and education practitioners. Her research experience has included chronic disease prevention in community-based settings related to nutrition education and physical activity promotion. She especially enjoys the many partnerships that have formed as she works with others to promote wellness in the earliest stages of life.

**Jim Harmon**

Regional Division Director  
USDA FNS Special Nutrition Program Mid-Atlantic Office

Jim Harmon is the regional director of the Special Nutrition Programs division for the USDA, Food and Nutrition Service's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. He has held that position since 2005. In this position, Jim has oversight responsibilities over thirteen Child Nutrition and Food Distribution Programs in the nine States, with Federal financial participation of almost \$3 billion. Jim joined FNS in 1975, spent the first 18 years of his career in school programs and the next nine as a section chief for the Food Distribution Programs. Jim worked in Financial Management for a year and a half where he was section chief for Grants Management operations. He was then promoted to regional director in his current position.

**Jodi Kuhn**

Director  
KinderCare Education

Jodi Kuhn is currently the Director of the Subsidy Food Program for KinderCare, where she oversees the Child and Adult Care Food Program participation of more than 815 KinderCare Learning Centers across 36 states. Collectively, these centers serve more than 2 million nutritious meals and snacks each month through the CACFP. Managing the largest private nationwide participant in the program, she has the perspective of working with many state agencies and sharing best practices across the country. Ms. Kuhn serves as the Secretary for the National CACFP Forum Board of Directors, and participates on multiple national work groups including the USDA's paperwork reduction workgroup, the technical assistance and guidance group, and the ICN's CACFP National Advisory Committee. She has a degree in Psychology and Child Development, a Master's Degree in Instructional Design, and has over 15 years of experience in process improvement, training development, and program management.

**JoEllen Collin**

USDA FNS Southwest Regional Office

**John Kirwan**

Team Lead, Western Regional Office  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

**Josh Smith**

Our Daily Bread of TN

**Judy Doherty**

President  
Food and Health Communications

Judy's passion for cooking began with helping her grandmother make raisin oatmeal for breakfast. From there she earned her first food service job at 15, was accepted to the world famous Culinary Institute of America at 18 (where she graduated second in her class), and went on to the Fachschule Richemont in Switzerland where she focused on pastry arts and baking. She was an executive pastry chef for Hyatt Resorts for over 8 years. But after learning that the quality of a croissant directly varies with how much butter it has, Judy sought to challenge herself by coming up with recipes that were as healthful as they were tasty. Her passion is working with fruits and vegetables that are locally grown. During over 30 years of inventing new ways to look at food, Judy has been awarded such honors as The Culinary Institute of America's Pro Chef II certification, two American Culinary Federation Bronze Medals, ACF Hot Dessert Competition Gold Medal, and ACF Chef of the Year. Judy is currently an adjunct instructor for Johnson and Wales University in Denver where she is working on her bachelor's degree for culinary art management. Her enthusiasm for eating nutritiously and deliciously leads her to constantly innovate and use the latest in nutritional science to guide her creativity, from putting new twists on fajitas to adapting Italian brownies to include ingredients like toasted nuts and cooked honey. Judy's publishing company, Food and Health Communications, is dedicated to her vision that everyone can make food that tastes as good as it is for you.

**Kamini Jassal, RD**

Assistant Director  
Fairfax County OFC/Community Education and Provider Service

Kamini has worked for 21 years for Fairfax County Office for Children in Fairfax, Virginia. In her current position as an Assistant Director, she is responsible for coordinating with universities in selecting the candidates for the internship and mentoring the interns. She is a registered dietitian and brings a passion for nutrition education. Kamini provides education trainings to family child care providers in an effort to help incorporate good nutrition and fitness into their daily programs for children. Kamini is a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has presented at local, regional, state and national levels on range of topics including childhood nutrition and the prevention of childhood obesity.

**Kara Panowitz**

No Kid Hungry Maryland Out of School Time Manager  
Share Our Strength

Kara Panowitz is the No Kid Hungry Maryland Out of School Time Manager for Share Our Strength. She focuses on increasing access to and participation in the USDA Summer Meals and the At-Risk Afterschool Meals programs. She received her Master's in Social Work at University of Maryland, focusing on food security and has worked on the issue of hunger as a teacher and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar.

**Karen Trbovich**

New York State Department of Health

Karen is the Northeast CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**Kate Abernathy, MS, RD, LD**

Director of Nutrition Education

Providers Choice

Kate Abernathy is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist with Providers Choice. In her role, she supports the mission of PCI by insuring the health and well-being of children in childcare through healthy eating and wellness. Kate is passionate about nutrition and has experience developing and presenting nutrition education for childcare providers, children, parents and healthcare providers. She is responsible for the development of PCI's yearly nutrition education and required CACFP training through the state of Minnesota which includes over 160 workshops that reach over 4,000 providers. Kate received her Bachelor of Arts degree in dietetics from the College of Saint Benedict and her Master of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University.

**Katherine E. Speirs**

Postdoctoral Research Associate

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Speirs is a post-doctoral research associate in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Illinois. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Maryland and has worked for University of Maryland Extension. Her work focuses on nutrition education and obesity prevention in early care and education settings and how federal policy (such as the CACFP) can be used to promote health and wellness among young children. Dr. Speirs has presented at national and international conferences in a number of formats including roundtables, workshops, poster and paper presentations. She has given both refereed and invited presentations. She has also taught at the university level for nine years at two different institutions.

**Kati Wagner, CMP**

Wildwood CACFP

President

Wildwood CACFP in Centennial, CO hired Kati as the President in 2009. As of July 2013, Wildwood began sponsoring centers as well. Kati's business background allows her to see unique opportunities for providers. Her expertise in handling the budget, dealing with legislation, and management has allowed her to be successful in the CACFP.

**Kayte Partch, MS, RD, LMNT**

Program Specialist

Nebraska Department of Education

Kayte Partch is a program specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education where she develops trainings, provides nutrition education and monitors CACFP and SFSP sponsors. Prior to NDE, Kayte worked for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension where she provided a variety of food and nutrition-related education to a variety of audiences, including: food safety for young children and adults (as a certified ServSafe instructor), general diabetes and heart disease management techniques for adults, nutrition education for older adults and general sports nutrition. In her personal time, Kayte enjoys running, cooking and watching her beloved Huskers compete on Saturdays.

**Kiev Randall**

USDA FNS

Kiev Randall serves as the Tribal liaison for the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. Prior to her current position, she served as a nutritionist for the Child and Adult Care and Summer Food Service Programs within FNS. She began her federal service with the Dept. of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service as a Public Health Nutritionist, stationed on an Indian reservation in Central Oregon. Kiev has a Master's Degree in Nutritional Sciences from Howard University and a BS in psychobiology from UCLA.

**Krista Garofalo**

Chief Programs Officer  
Treasure Coast Food Bank

Krista Garofalo is the Chief Programs Officer at the Treasure Coast Food Bank in Fort Pierce, Florida. She has 13 years of experience in marketing communications, public relations, project management and advocacy in the non-profit field. Prior to her position at the Food Bank, she was Vice President of Development and Communications at United Way of St. Lucie County and Director of Marketing & Special Events at Bergen County's United Way in New Jersey. Krista holds a Masters in Public Administration with certificates in Non-Profit Organizations and Women's Studies from the University of Georgia and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies from The College of New Jersey. She was recently appointed to the National Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition by U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for a 3-year term. Krista is currently Treasurer and a Past President of the Florida Public Relations Association, Treasure Coast Chapter. She is also a member of the American Society for Public Administration, Leadership St. Lucie, Class 27, and the Hunger Awareness Task Force and the Child Nutrition Committee of the Florida Association of Food Banks.

**Kristen Bussenger**

Director  
Revolution Foods

Kristen Wiley serves as a Director for Revolution Foods, whose mission is to build lifelong healthy eaters by making kid-inspired, chef-crafted food accessible to all. Revolution Foods currently serves over 150,000 meals a week throughout the country. Kristen's primary role focuses on growing the number of school partners, as well as working with key community stakeholders to support efforts around child nutrition. Prior to joining Revolution Foods, Kristen worked as a Director of Development for the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business, raising funds for the ASCEND Campaign to support the University's students and programs. Kristen recently received her Certificate in Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health, and is passionate about providing resources for kids to healthy eating and active living.

**Kristina Bedikian**

Nutrition Consultant  
Acelero Learning Clark County

Kristina Bedikian is a Nutrition Consultant for Acelero Head Start in Clark County for 11 Centers and 1600 Children. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition and Food Science from Madonna University. She works with the children that have nutrition concerns, children that are underweight as well as overweight/obese and children that have food allergies. She creates the special diet menus for the children with food allergies and consults with the family's that have children that are overweight/obese. She also teams with Rhonda Kobylecky, Food Service Director for Acelero Head Start, to develop 4 week cycle menus, three times a year, using the IOM recommendations that were announced three years ago. When it comes to nutrition and children, Kristina is strongly passionate about them both. Kristina has a passion for helping children and families battle obesity and nutrition education. Currently this year she has over 200 special diets which she manages--from the simplest to the most severe.

**Kymerli Schaal**

Field Monitor Associate  
Association For Child Development

As a field monitor associate, Kymerli has conducted numerous nutritional training classes throughout the state of Illinois and has been a presenter in numerous CACFP conferences.

**Lanna Kirk**

Regional Director, Special Nutrition Programs  
USDA FNS

Lanna Kirk was appointed Regional Director of the Special Nutrition Programs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, Southeast Region in November, 2005. FNS provides children and needy families access to food and a more healthful lifestyle through the agency's 15 nutrition assistance programs. She is responsible for the oversight, planning and coordination of the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, Child and Adult Care, USDA Food and Supplemental Food Programs (WIC). Lanna has spent over 30 years with nutrition assistance programs at the Federal, State and Local levels. She received her B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Nutrition from the University of New Hampshire.

**Laura Carroll, RD**

Nutritionist  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Laura Carroll is a Nutritionist with the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service's Child Nutrition Programs. As the Community Meals Branch's nutrition expert, Laura develops, revises, and evaluates nutrition policy for the CACFP and SFSP, and is the lead in the development of the CACFP Meal Patterns Final Rule. She entered the Federal government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Food and Drug Administration in 2013 and joined USDA in 2014. Prior to the Fellowship, Laura served as a Project Coordinator at ChildObesity180 and the City of Somerville's Health Department. She received her Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College of Maryland in Sociology and a Masters of Science in Nutrition and a Masters of Public Health from Tufts University.

**Lauren Iazzetti-Moss, CDM, CFFP**

Nutrition Director  
Thompson Child & Family Focus

In her role as nutrition director, Lauren oversees hundreds of meals being served a day. Recently, Lauren created a nutrition program that was recognized at the CACFP's last conference for excellence in preventing childhood obesity. Lauren has facilitated many nutrition and gardening related workshops over the past 5 years, and enjoys showing people new ways to incorporate healthy eating into their lifestyle. Lauren is a North Carolina extension Master Gardener and loves to incorporate gardening into her lessons and workshops. Lauren began her career at the age of 14 in an Italian bakery in Yonkers, NY. There she polished her baking and cooking skills while also attending a Culinary Arts program in high school. Lauren went on to attend the French Culinary Institute in New York City where she received her diploma in Culinary Arts. She is currently pursuing her second degree in Nutrition and will go on to become a Registered Dietitian.

**Laurie Staples**

Food and Nutrition Specialist  
Texas Education Service Center, Region 20

Laurie has over 20 years of experience working with the State of Texas and the last 5 years she has specialized in Child and Adult Care Food Program. While working at the Texas Department of Agriculture, she provided technical assistance to over 250 contractors and conducted administrative reviews statewide. She is currently working as an educational specialist with Education Service Center Region 20 in San Antonio, Texas where she continues to assist CACFP contractors by providing technical assistance and developing training.

**Linda Simmons, MSHP, RD, LD**

Nutrition Specialist  
Texas Department of Agriculture

Linda has more than 25 years of experience in the CACFP. Last year alone she presented over 20 sessions at the local, state, and national level. Her education and credentials in nutrition, health and wellness for preschool children establish her as a subject matter expert. Past presentations include: USDA CC Wellness Grant – Farm to Child Care, Breastfeeding Supportive Child Care Practices, and IOM recommendations for CACFP meal pattern. Linda holds an MS in health professions, a BS in therapeutic and administrative nutrition, and is a registered and licensed dietician.

**Lisa Mack**

Association Executive  
National CACFP Sponsors Association

Lisa Mack is an association executive responsible for working with the board of directors to develop and implement the long-term operating plan to ensure the growth and success of the National CACFP Sponsors Association. Central to that plan is managing member relationships, resource and product development, training and conference programming, and partnership development. Before joining NCA, Mack had served as the Director of Corporate Communications for a food service software corporation where she was responsible for client communications and newsletters, user group conferences, and partnerships with industry organizations such as Second Harvest, Research Chefs Association, Women's Foodservice Forum and the Society for the Advancement of Food Service Research.

**Lori Muzquiz, MA**

Child Nutrition Specialist  
Texas Education Service Center

Lori is a Child Nutrition Specialist for the Texas Education Service Center in Abilene where she teaches CACFP workshops created by the Texas Department of Agriculture and offers technical assistance to CACFP Centers and Day Care Home Sponsors. Previously, she was a nutritionist and clinic supervisor at WIC for 18 months and the Nutrition Coordinator for a CACFP Sponsor of four sites for three years. Lori has a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition/Dietetics and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction.

**Lutina Cochran, MS**

Education and Training Specialist  
Institute of Child Nutrition

For the past 5 years, Lutina Cochran has been an Education and Training Specialist at the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN). At ICN, Lutina is responsible for developing and evaluating child and adult care food program (CACFP) educations and training resources. She has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and over 10 years' experience in child care and the CACFP.

**Maged Hanafi**

Lead Program Specialist  
Special Nutrition Programs, Midwest Regional Office  
USDA Food and Nutrition Service

**Marcia Wileczek**

Director of Childcare Relations  
Novick Brothers

Marcia has worked in child care for over 19 years. The first 2 years she was a teacher in the classrooms, followed by 17 years as the center director of a 140 child capacity school. Marcia also served for 10 years as the Food Program Manager for her entire district that consisted of 12 schools. During this time frame, Marcia created new seasonal menus, targeted healthier, cost-effective menu items, and recipes for her entire district.

**Marcia Wilson**

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Marcia is the Mountain Plains CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**Maritza Lopez**

Owner and Director  
Oak Ridge Children's Academy

Maritza Lopez has been the owner and director of Oak Ridge Children's Academy for 28 years. Oak Ridge Children's Academy works with families as a team to promote the importance of healthy lifestyles. Maritza was a participant in the Central Florida National Early Care and Education Collaborative in 2013-14.

**Marjuyua Rowser, PhD, RD**

Research Scientist  
Institute of Child Nutrition

Dr. Marjuyua Rowser is currently a research scientist at the University of Southern Mississippi with the Institute of Child Nutrition, Applied Research Division. Dr. Rowser completed her Ph.D. in Nutrition and Food Systems and M.S. degree in Human Nutrition, both at the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Rowser's career encompasses over 19 years of teaching, research, and practice in the field of dietetics. Most recently, she was the primary research for the development of the Competencies, Knowledge, and Skills for Child Care Providers in CACFP Operations and has been instrumental in the creation of Team Up for School Nutrition Success, a national effort by the USDA to provide technical assistance to school nutrition directors on a peer-to-peer bases. In addition to research, Dr. Rowser experiences include being an assistant professor at the Alcorn State University, serving as a clinical dietitian and research dietitian with various organizations including the Jackson Heart Study, Delta Nutrition Intervention Research Initiative for the University of Southern Mississippi, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Dr. Rowser has research and education experience related child nutrition and child nutrition programs.

**Mary Schroeder, MPH, RDN, LD**

Extension Educator  
University of Minnesota Extension

Mary has a passion for creating healthy food environments for children and youth. She has developed both face to face and online trainings designed to increase the knowledge and skills of child care providers to serve healthier foods. In addition to child care, Mary also trains school foodservice staff to improve the school food environment. She has been an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension for 16 years.

**Maureen Lyons**

Early Childhood Education Specialist  
Learning ZoneXpress

As a recent graduate of Minnesota State University, Maureen Lyons has personally struggled with picky eating. It is her personal challenges with food that inspired Ms. Lyons to do this research, to write about it and to teach others about working with picky eaters to make small accommodations to allow freedom of choice and comfort to explore new foods in a safe environment, free of teasing or punishment for not being part of the clean plate club. Ms. Lyons works for Learning ZoneXpress, publisher of nutrition and wellness education resources.

**Melinda Nguyen, MS, RD, LD**

Nutrition Coordinator  
QCAP Head Start

Melinda has a Masters in Food & Nutrition and is a licensed dietitian/nutritionist in the state of Massachusetts working for Head Start. Melinda's passion lies in interacting with children during meal times to engage them in conversation about tasting new foods. She works to address the barriers families and Head Start face when trying to provide nutritious and delicious meals and incorporate physical activity. Melinda also enjoys working with parents in helping them realize that they and their families are capable of eating well and staying healthy despite the financial hardships, lack of time and plethora of information surrounding food and nutrition. Melinda has successfully incorporated I am Moving, I am Learning into the daily activities of the 13 preschool classrooms by advocating for teachers to get trained, demonstrating for classrooms and training parents so they can engage their children at home. She has worked with managerial staff in acquiring a \$110K grant to conquer childhood obesity by collaborating with the community at large and infiltrating the organization with tools and knowledge to help staff help families and children pursue physical activity in any environment and enjoy nutritious meals with their peers and families.

**Melissa Moore**

Program Director of Food Access  
Family League of Baltimore

Melissa has been working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program for four years. In her role she oversees 250 CACFP and 150 SFSP sites and combined these sites serve over one million meals each year. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a Bachelors in Sociology.

**Melodie Griffin**

National ECELC Project Trainer  
Nemours

Melodie Griffin, MHA is a trainer on the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives (ECELC) Project. She conducts trainings for child care centers on the best practices for healthy eating, physical activity, breastfeeding support, and reduced screen time. Ms. Griffin also provides on-site and remote technical assistance to participating child care centers to support them in improving program policies and practices.

**Michelle Dinnen Owens**

National Advisor

Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Michelle provides technical assistance, professional development training and resource brokering for schools and sites across the country working to create healthier environments for students and staff by implementing wellness policies, more physical activity opportunities and healthy eating options and into their schools and sites. She started her career in out-of-school time in Palm Beach County, FL with Kids in New Directions and the Palm Beach County School District. Her work included overseeing 45 afterschool programs as the Program Specialist for the Champs Academic Enrichment program, supplying professional development, quality assurance, technical support and facilitating proper implementation of the program. The program was designed to reach the most underserved populations with a combination of educational, recreational, and social programming. Prior to her work in the field of afterschool, she was an Exceptional Education Teacher in Orange County Schools, FL and a Reading and Family Support Trainer for John's Hopkins University and the Success For All program in Baltimore, MD. Michelle received a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Central Florida and her certification in Elementary Exceptional Education. She is currently working with CDC's Work@Health Program to assist schools and sites in their implementation of employee wellness and serves on Dare County's School Wellness Council, the Obesity Task Force for Dare County and participates on multiple national working groups in the areas of school wellness policy, physical activity and staff wellness.

**Michelle Stickley**

Field Monitor Associate

Association For Child Development

Michelle Stickley has been a Field Monitor for ACD for the last 19 years. She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Early Childhood Services.

**Monica H. Miles, CPA, CFE**

President

MH Miles Company, CPA, PC

Ms. Miles has more than twenty years of experience in the fields of auditing, consulting, and contract/grant compliance. Ms. Miles is the Principal in charge of CACFP Administrative Reviews managed by the Delaware Board of Education. Ms. Miles specializes in assisting State Agencies with internal audit engagements, policy and procedure development, FAR 31 cost principles, accounting system reviews, CPA workpaper reviews related to cognizant audits, FAR 31 overhead audits, and compliance with Federal regulations. Ms. Miles has performed/managed countless audits, agreed-upon procedures, compliance reviews, and special investigations related to the CACFP & SFSP. Ms. Miles has testified as an expert witness in State Administrative Hearings for CACFP & SFSP, and has provided CACFP Programmatic and Financial Management training to State Agency personnel, as well as CACFP sub-recipients. Ms. Miles received academic degrees from Cornell University and Adelphi University and is a certified public accountant and certified fraud examiner. Ms. Miles is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs, the Greater Washington Society of CPAs, and the American Institute of CPAs. Ms. Miles is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and is a Board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington- Prince Georges County.

**Nancy Brumbaugh**

Director of Food Service

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida

Nancy Brumbaugh is currently the Director of Food Service for Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Her duties include overseeing the Culinary Training program where her team of Chef Instructors has helped over 100 men and women become self-sufficient through education and job placement in the culinary trade. Nancy also leads the Catering for Good Department, which offers the community beautiful meeting rooms for rent and delicious food prepared by award winning chefs. Nancy's experience in large food service production has paved the way for Second Harvest to partner with the Red Cross to help provide meals to people in need during major disasters that devastate Central Florida. In June of 2014 Second Harvest Community Kitchen rolled out their Production Kitchen program "Meals for Good" which currently supplies over 5,000 meals a day to children in four counties. Prior to working at Second Harvest Nancy was the FNS Central Kitchen Manager for Ocoee High School where her team prepared over 5000 meals distributed in fifteen schools. She has received numerous awards including the National Dairy Council Award for Breakfast Innovation, Presidents Award, and Nutrition Award & Smart Start Awards.

**Natalie Clark**

Chief Executive Officer  
Minute Menu

**Pat Siergiey**

Program Coordinator  
Capstone Community Action Center

Pat has been with Capstone Community Action in Barre, Vermont for more than 17 years after a number of years as a home child care provider. Capstone is the largest sponsor of CACFP in Vermont and consists of many programs under one roof which include the Community Economic Development, Community Kitchen Academy, food shelf, fuel assistance, Head Start, housing, tax program, weatherization and many more which makes it a one stop shopping for services. Check out our website [Capstonevt.org](http://Capstonevt.org). Pat has a degree in legal studies and non-profit administration and in 2010 became a University of Vermont Extension Service's Certified Master Gardener. She shares her expertise with providers to promote gardening with the children. If they grow vegetables, the children will eat them and Pat believes if children take care of a garden they will learn to enjoy eating the food for the rest of their lives. Pat rallied in support of labeling genetically engineered foods (also called genetically modified organisms, or GMOs) in Vermont. On May 8, 2014 Governor Shumlin signed Vermont's GMO labeling bill into law making Vermont the first state that will require labels on genetically engineered foods! The law will require labels on genetically engineered foods sold at retail outlets in Vermont. The law will go in to effect on July 1, 2016. Pat is devoted to making sure children receive nutritious meals and snacks through CACFP. It has been proven that children who maintain a well-balanced diet, with plenty of fruits and vegetables, and nutritionally complete meals help the child learn and grow and are the foundations that will help them achieve their fullest potential in the future.

**Phillip Hester**

Our Daily Bread of TN

**Rachel Powell**

Let's Move Child Care Operations Manager  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Rachel Powell serves as the Operations Manager for Let's Move Child Care, a sub-initiative of the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move initiative. She is on the Early Child Care and Education team in the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rachel has a PhD in Health Promotion & Behavior from The University of Georgia and a Master's in Public Health in Maternal & Child Health/Health Education & Communication from Tulane University.

**Rhonda Kobylecky, CMP**

Director of Food Services  
Acelero Learning Clark County Head Start

Rhonda Kobylecky has been with Head Start for 15 years. As Director of Food Services, Rhonda runs the Clark County Head Start food program and also oversees the other delegates in New Jersey, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia, and travels regularly to assist in operations, and in food services and CACFP compliance. Rhonda is the Western Region Representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

**Rhys Powell**

Founder  
Red Rabbit

Rhys Powell says memories of growing up in the Bahamas inspired him to quit his equity-trading job and launch his healthy-school-lunch venture, Red Rabbit, in 2005. There, every fruit and vegetable was picked ripe to be eaten immediately. Since 2005 Rhys has grown the company from just a few neighborhood schools to more than 150 throughout New York City. Rhys is a 2013 Crains 40 under 40, a recipient of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Awards and MIT graduate with a degree in Computer Science.

**Rita Kidwell**

Executive Director  
Joyce Network

Rita is the Midwest Region Representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association. As Executive Director of Joyce Network Inc., Rita Kidwell has been a sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program for over 26 year. She has trained many daycare providers the value of feeding children well balanced meals and how to comply with all CACFP regulations. Recently, she expanded Joyce Network Inc. to sponsor unaffiliated centers and ministries on the Child and Adult Care Food Program. Rita is a member of the Indiana Association of Family Daycare Sponsors; she was a co-conference chair for the TSA conference in 2007 and a past NCA Board member.

**Dr. Robert Post**

Chobani

**Robin D. Bailey, Jr.**

Southeast Regional Administrator  
USDA FNS

Mr. Robin D. Bailey Jr., has over 29 years of faithful service to America in various senior levels in the Department of the Air Force and Department of Agriculture. He is a member of the Senior Executive Service with the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). FNS provides children and low- income families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its 15 nutrition assistance programs and nutrition education efforts. As the Regional Administrator for the Southeast, he provides executive direction and leadership while orchestrating the execution of all 15 Federal nutrition programs which provide annual benefits in excess of \$25 billion through cooperating state agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The FNS programs touch 1 and 4 Americans over the course of a year. Mr. Bailey most recently served as Deputy Administrator for Management and Information Technology, Food and Nutrition Service in Alexandria, Virginia. In this role, he provided executive oversight of Information Technology, Human Resources, Contract Management, Logistics and Facility services. Prior to FNS, he served as Director of Human Resources Management, U.S. Forest Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico where he led over 600 personnel who provided Human Resources Management policy and operational services for approximately 50,000 permanent, temporary, and seasonal employees. Mr. Bailey is an Air Force veteran and he also served as an Air Force Civilian in a wide range of leadership positions, to include the Civilian Deputy & Staff Director to the 96th Air Base Wing Commander, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. In this capacity, he co-led more than 5,000 men and women in providing essential base operating support and services for more than 20,000 personnel, six wings, and 50 associate units at the Department of Defense's largest installation. Mr. Bailey holds a Master of Arts in Communication from the University of Oklahoma. He was selected as a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2009 and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture as an Executive Resources Board Member in 2013.

**Robin Paul, CMP**

Chief Executive Officer  
Mid-Michigan Child Care Centers

Robin Paul is the CEO of Mid Michigan Child Care Centers, Inc which has 2,300 enrolled / 1,800 claiming and 23,000 children served. Mid Michigan Child Care Centers also has 35 unaffiliated Centers enrolled and 2,200 children served. Being the CEO of that large of an agency is very time consuming but Robin volunteers her time to the National Child and Adult Care Food Program Sponsors Association (NCA) and has made a tremendous impact. She has served on the Board of Directors for 10 years and was previously Vice President, Scholarship chair and CACFP Committee Week chair. Robin currently serves the Membership & Nominations Committee chair. In this role Robin is actively seeking out new members, regardless of size, to join the Sponsors Association and spread the word about the benefits of being apart of the CACFP. Robin is dedicated to serving children and assisting providers. She enjoys working with her great staff in Michigan and the tight knit CACFP community. Her greatest joy in childcare is "working with people in the homes and centers and being able to educate the providers to get the right meals for the kids." Robin has enjoyed a decorated career and received various awards for her service. In 1991 she received the service to children award, in 1997 she received the Excellent Vision and Leadership in Developing and Implementing Programs for Children, then in 2005 received the Outstanding Dedication and Commitment for Quality Childcare.

**Robin Wilson**

New Jersey Department of Agriculture, NJ

Robin is the Northeast CACFP National Professionals Association Regional Representative.

**Sallyann Bergh, MPA**

Senior Associate

The Pew Charitable Trusts, Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project

Sallyann has primary responsibilities in managing the early childhood nutrition portfolio. Most recently, Sallyann oversaw the project's Health Impact Assessment on the CACFP proposed rule. Prior to this position, Sallyann managed Pew's Prescription Project, and worked at the Association of American Medical Colleges where she led the Project Medical Education program and the ResearchMeansHope.org initiative. She received her MPA from the University of Delaware and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies from Duke University.

**Samantha Moss**

Owner and Director

Partytime Playhouse

Samantha Moss has been in the child care field for 19 years; serving as the sole owner of Partytime Playhouse for the past 6 years. Partytime Playhouse is a local, family owned and operated child care facility that strives to allow children to feel at home away from home. Samantha was a participant in the Central Florida National Early Care and Education Collaborative in 2014-15.

**Sandra Ruballo, CMP, CCNP**

Executive Director

Highland Food Resources

Sandra is the Southeast Region Representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

**Sara Cole**

Vice President of Youth Development

YMCA of Greater Rochester

Sara works with a team of creative youth and community development innovators to provide a spectrum of high-quality programming to serve thousands of youth in the Greater Rochester area, from cradle to career, each day. In addition to being the architect of a nationally-replicated afterschool model, Sara develops and deploys collaborative strategies which have led to increased Association capacity and new programming pathways with local school districts and community agencies. Her grant-writing results have led to more than 2.2 million dollars in new program improvements and revenue this year. Additionally, Sara serves as the Regional Food Program Facilitator for the YMCA of the USA and guides large Ys throughout the East Coast as they expand food access and enhance food quality. Previously, Sara served as the Director of Out-of-School Time for the Community Services YMCA in Cincinnati where she led 21st Century Community Learning Center partnerships for Cincinnati Public Schools through CincyAfterSchool programs. She also advised on YMCA Community Learning Center development, served as Regional Director of the Building Futures Mentoring Program, acted as Director for Walnut Hills Childcare Center, and offered guidance in operating Educational Service tutoring programs. Before joining the YMCA, Sara served as the Assistant Director of Education for the Department of Youth Services, and provided program management for 63 residential schools and 20 Community Re-entry Centers throughout the state of Massachusetts. Managing over \$14 million in educational services, Sara interacted with LEAs as well as faith and community based organizations throughout the state. A former college professor, Sara brings a personal commitment to promoting youth development, educating youth, and eradicating the achievement gap to open access to educational and workforce pathways to all.

**Scott M. Callan, CPSM**

CalStrat Consulting

Scott M. Callan, CPSM is the President and Co-Founder of CalStrat Consulting LLC based out of Atlanta, GA. As a former public sector Chief Procurement Officer and Budget/Grants Director, he helps his clients ensure best practice procurement activities through consultation, training and facilitation efforts. CalStrat is a boutique consulting firm that specializes in 3P contract representation and negotiation services, training and facilitation services, and, of course, all facets of professional supply management services. CalStrat is proud to have a wide array of clientele, ranging from a Big Four consulting firm, to many private and public organizations from Fortune 100 corporations, public universities, and governmental entities of all sizes.

**Senta Hester**

Founder & Executive Director  
Our Daily Bread of Tennessee

Senta established Our Daily Bread of Tennessee twenty years ago --a sponsor of daycare homes and daycare centers throughout the East Tennessee area, ODBTN services over 8,000 children per day. Senta first began her Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) career as a daycare home provider so she is well aware of what providers face on a day-to-day basis. When Senta became aware that federal reimbursement was available for the food which she was feeding to the children in her care she enrolled as a recipient of the program and soon after started her own agency. The CACFP and Our Daily Bread of TN both have since become her passion. The founder of the Tennessee Sponsor's Association, Senta currently serves on the Board of Directors. She serves as the Vice President on the Board of Directors for the National CACFP Sponsors Association (NCA) where she has been an active member for ten years. Senta served on the Board of Directors of Director's for Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) as an active member for four years. Senta is also a member of the Childhood Obesity Coalition where she has been active for 5 years.

**Shannon Amos**

Director, Afterschool Nutrition & Education  
Children's Hunger Alliance

During her 11 year tenure at Children's Hunger Alliance Shannon Amos has overseen afterschool nutrition and fitness programming for school-age children and for the last 6 years has directed the CACFP- Afterschool Meal Program sponsorship. Children's Hunger Alliance grew from sponsoring 69 unaffiliated afterschool programs in the greater Columbus, Ohio area in 2009-10 to over 220 programs in 7 major-metropolitan areas in Ohio in 2014-15 providing more than 750,000 meals and snacks each school year. She has had the opportunity to present in numerous venues regarding afterschool nutrition and the CACFP, including at the National League of Cities CHAMP's grant meeting. Shannon holds a B.A. in Child and Family Community Services and an M.F.C.S. in Human Development and Family Studies with a nutrition focus from Bowling Green State University.

**Sharon Ray**

Nutritservices

Sharon is the Southwest Region Representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

**Sheri Alberti**

New York State Department of Health

Sheri is a board member of the National CACFP Professionals Association.

**Stephanie Joyce, MS, RD, SNS**

National Nutrition Advisor  
Alliance for a Healthier Generation

Stephanie Joyce is a National Nutrition Advisor with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, specializing in assisting schools and out-of-school time sites successfully implement healthier meals and snacks nationwide. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and Human Nutrition from the University of Maine and a Master of Science degree in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Tennessee. Prior to joining the Alliance Stephanie worked for a public school district in rural Maine first in Coordinated School Health and eventually moving into school nutrition, most recently serving as a school nutrition director for the Yarmouth School District.

**Stephanie Romney, RD, CDN**

Child Care Specialist, Healthy Way to Grow  
American Heart Association

Stephanie recently worked as the Associate Director of Nutrition Services at Trillium Health where she oversaw the Nutrition Health Education Program including budgetary and administrative processes. Stephanie has her bachelor's degree in Nutrition Management from Rochester Institute of Technology-Rochester and is a registered dietitian. She currently works as a Child Care Specialist supporting early care and education centers in Rochester, New York.

**Susan Ison**

Helping Hands

Susan Ison has worked as Co-Director and then Executive Director of Helping Hands, Inc. since 1993. She has a BA in Music Performance and Psychology and a certificate in Music Therapy and a follow-up certificate in Recreation Therapy. She stumbled into the child nutrition arena by accident, being asked by a friend to take charge of Helping Hands for a few months while looking for a permanent director. 23 years later she is still there. She loves children and food and trying to make sure that the at-risk kids in Salt Lake have access to enough food to start life off healthy and happy. Susan is the Mountain Plains Region Representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

**Susan B. Ralston**

Senior Advisor

Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation

In her role, Susan is responsible for membership and partnership development, strategic planning, coalition building and project management for the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Ralston was the Special Assistant to the President at The White House. She was responsible for managing the activities that comprised the Office of the Senior Advisor, including the development of policy, strategic planning, political affairs, public liaison, and intergovernmental affairs efforts of the White House. She was also responsible for managing CEO and corporate relationships, coalition members, and domestic issue campaigns, including Education, Healthcare, Social Security, Immigration, Energy, Budget and Economy, Environment, National Security, Iraq, Global Diplomacy and the Gulf Coast, as well as the development and production of presidential and major surrogate events. As a Filipino-American, Ms. Ralston was actively involved in the strategic planning and Asian Pacific American outreach efforts of the White House, including the creation of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She was a member of the Presidential Delegation to attend the Inauguration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, of the Republic of the Philippines, in June 2004. During the 2004 re-election campaign, Ms. Ralston was the White House Liaison to Bush-Cheney '04, coordinating the activities between the two entities. She also served on the Advisory Committee for "W Stands for Women," the campaign's outreach effort to women. Prior to her public service, Ms. Ralston was the Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs at Greenberg Traurig and has also worked for the lobbying firm of Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds, LLP.

**Susan Still**

Consultant

Brighton Training Group

Susan Still has worked with Child Nutrition Programs for over 25 years. Before retiring, Susan supervised both the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While working with Pennsylvania, Susan also served on USDA's Integrity Task force and training team developing the training materials and training state and federal staff. She presently is working with Pennsylvania and with Brighton Training Group to develop e-Learning lessons for CACFP and the SFSP at the state and sponsor levels.

**Susan Weeks**

Program Analyst

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Susan Weeks has twenty-six years of experience working with the Child Nutrition Programs, both at a State agency and at the National Office. Susan works primarily with Program monitoring and is assigned to assist State agency Management Evaluation teams led by the Regional Offices. Her current focus is the Child and Adult Care Food Program.

**Suzanne Diggs**

Program Analyst

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Suzanne Diggs has been with FNS in Child Nutrition Programs for four years. She oversees the National Disqualified List (NDL) and has worked with USDA's contractor in developing and enhancing the NDL. Prior to that, Suzanne worked in Maryland's Department of Human Resources for 17 years, where she spoke to a variety of audiences and served as a policy trainer and expert in SNAP policy.

**Suzanne Zanella**

Sr. Project Director

## YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh

Suzanne has been with the CACFP program for 28 years. She administrates both the home and center contracts for western Pennsylvania. Suzanne has a degree in Human Services Management Leadership. Suzanne is the Mid-Atlantic Region representative for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.

### **Tamieka Muns**

Program Analyst, Child Nutrition, USDA FNS

### **Tracy Ellinger**

Field Monitor Associate  
Association For Child Development

Tracy Ellinger is a field monitor for the Association for Child Development. Prior to this she was Director of Summer Camp for the YMCA Northeast Branch in Rockford, Illinois.

### **Tris Barber, MA**

Technical Trainer, Healthy Way to Grow  
Nemours National Office of Policy & Prevention

Tris Barber, MA brings over twenty years of experience in early childhood education, including the development of quality standards and best practice in early care and education, teacher education and developmental movement of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Tris is a trainer and author and currently provides resources and materials to Child Care Specialists who support centers in developing and implementing on-site wellness goals.

### **Val Newcomb**

Digital Program Manager  
Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation

Val Newcomb is the Digital Program Manager for Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation. In her role, she is responsible for the foundation's public education campaign delivered via the Together Counts™ platform and through partner outreach programs such as National PTA and National Head Start Association. As part of the team in 2010 who developed HWCF's K-5 wellness curriculum, Val has overseen expansion of the award winning tools and resources which now serve English and Spanish speaking children in grades Pre-K – 5 and in afterschool programs. As an education marketing professional with 20+ years in publishing and digital content management, Val also oversees annual grant and promotion implementation and provides social media content and support for our 300+ members. Prior to joining the foundation, Ms. Newcomb specialized in brand strategy, web content development, and digital program management, as an independent marketing consultant. Drawing from her years of experience at Turner Networks at home and abroad, Discovery Communications, the Houghton Mifflin Company and Sylvan Learning, she has a knack for leading high performance teams and delivering complex, impactful programs.

### **Vernita L. Coleman**

Program Specialist  
Our Daily Bread of TN

Vernita supports the program by teaching workshops and creating curriculum for providers in the program. She works directly with centers, homes, and at-risk programs, in support of Our Daily Bread of TN's mission to educate, empower and inspire children, caregivers, and communities to make healthy food choices by providing nutrition education and resources. Vernita is retired as CEO of the Academy of Higher Learning in Clarksville TN and was an NAFCC Accreditation Observer, with 25 years of child care experience in every area of childcare with early childhood education from Austin Peay University.

### **Vicki Lipscomb**

President  
Child Nutrition Programs

Vicki Lipscomb is the Founder and President of Child Nutrition Program in Charlotte, North Carolina. She founded the Child Nutrition Program in 1982, which now sponsors 300 homes serving 2,500 children and 260 centers serving 12,000 children. Vicki has led the Child Nutrition Program to steady annual growth and due to her background in Public Administration she has a deep understanding of how to run an effective federal program. As the head of the Policy and Regulation committee Vicki stays up to date on the latest

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regulations and changes to the food program in order to inform and interpret the policies to help the sponsors function in this complicated regulatory environment. She works with the USDA as an advocate for the CACFP to ensure that providers can work more efficiently and effectively in their homes or centers. Vicki also advocates for child care providers and sponsoring organizations as a member of the Paper Work Reduction Work Group. In addition she annually volunteers to lead workshops at the NCA conference, especially in the area of sponsoring child care centers. Vicki currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the National CACFP Sponsors Association.