



Community and Family Engagement Council Members Bios/Email List

Jessica Chandler, Parent, Activist, Social Worker - DCFS

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Jessica Chandler has been at the forefront of providing representation and advocacy on behalf of the Department of Children and Family Services and the families they serve. Jessica Chandler spent most of her adolescence bouncing between group homes and Juvenile Hall until she emancipated at age 18. She sits on the Board of Education Coordinating Council (ECC) on behalf of probation youth; The Nehemiah Project LA, supporting transition-aged youth in the LA area; and previously served on the California State Council (SYC) as the Los Angeles County Ambassador for Child Welfare. In 2016, she was invited to the White House in Washington, D.C., as a subject matter expert for pregnant and parenting young adults in foster care, and The John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, on behalf of probation youth. In 2017, Jessica provided testimony to advocate for increased services and funding from the LA County Board of Supervisors on behalf of our pregnant and parenting teens, which resulted in the passage of legislation and the creation of the Pregnant and Parenting Teen Task force. In 2016, Jessica was selected to be a subject of the first ever motion picture documentary film about the Department of Children and Family Services, (*Foster, HBO Films*) as a testimony of what the Department can achieve when dedication and passion is coupled with the implementation of best practice and policy. Jessica utilized the supportive adults in her life to change the trajectory of her life and she believes that for every foster youth "we are all one caring person away from being a success story!"

Ereida Galda, Parent and WFREC ESP Grant Director

Email: ereidag@westsiderc.org

Ereida Galda has been employed by the Westside Family Resource and Empowerment Center (WFREC) for the last 17 years in many different capacities. She is currently the Early Start Plus Director. Ereida and her husband Robert Sr. are the proud parents of three wonderful young adults: Robert Jr, John and Izel. Johnny is the person who introduced her into the magical world of special needs and brought her along on this journey. Johnny is diagnosed with quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy with a multitude of chronic medical conditions. He is a very happy, smart and positive person who enjoys life to the max. Ereida is a Lend Graduate, she was on the FEC Board of Directors, she helped coach an AYSO Soccer team for children with special needs for 10 years. She was the Facilitator for "Siempre Amigas" a Spanish Support Group for 14 years. She is currently the IHSS Training Facilitator for the WFREC and Westside Regional Center. Her passion is providing parent to parent support and providing parents with the support they need when navigating systems of care. She would love to see all parents have the opportunity to enjoy their children, build memories and cheer the milestones, while reducing the stress and feeling supported.

Fran Goldfarb, MA, Parent, MCHES, CPSP

Email: fgoldfarb@chla.usc.edu

Fran Goldfarb is the Director of Community Education at USC UCEDD (Administration on Community Living) and the Family Support Director for the CA-LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (Maternal Child Health Program). Additionally, she is one of the two CDC Learn the Signs. Act Early Ambassadors to California. Ms. Goldfarb consults with numerous organizations including: Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Westside Regional Center, Reaching Latino and Chinese Families Community Parent Resource Center, Fiesta Educativa, Inc., and Project ABC Family Wellness Network at Children's Institute, Inc./ LACDMH. Ms Goldfarb's focus is training and program development for family support professionals and parents of children with special needs as well as training for professionals to support parent professional partnerships. Ms. Goldfarb has a master's degree from Azusa Pacific College in Social Science (Family Life Education Emphasis) and a bachelor's degree from Pacific Oaks College in Human Development. Ms. Goldfarb is credentialed as a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) and as well as Certified Parent Support Provider (CPSP). She has over 45 years' experience in curriculum and program development. Most importantly, she is the parent of an adult son who with a developmental and psychiatric disabilities.



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Linda Landry, Parent and Activist

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Linda Landry is a native Los Angelino. Linda's 13-year-old daughter, Eveline, had a constellation of challenges: severe physical, medical and intellectual disabilities. Eveline was enrolled at her neighborhood school in the Los Angeles Unified School District, a client of Lanterman Regional Center and received her medical services at USC Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Eveline passed away in her sleep December 26, 1999; she watches over her family and guides them. During the development of SB 1085, California's Early Start, Part C of IDEA, Linda was a member of the Interagency Coordinating Council providing the parent voice and prospective, with other parent leaders, in the writing of the Senate Bill. Linda is a community activist and volunteers for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Los Angeles, Family Resource Centers Network California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles USC University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (USC UCEDD) Community Advisory Committee. Linda is committed to families being acknowledged as equal partners and supported by "the system" in having their concerns and needs addressed.

Cathay Liu, Parent and Member of the Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD)

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Cathay Liu has a B.S. from the University of California Los Angeles and a master's degree in cross cultural mental health counseling from the University of Western Washington in 1991. Prior to joining parents and professionals in the field of developmental disabilities, Ms. Liu was in the field of mental health counseling. She worked as a crisis counselor in Sacramento County. A mother of two young adults with developmental disabilities, Ms. Liu has worked at the Family Resource Center in the East Los Angeles area (one of 55 statewide). As the Outreach and Training coordinator, she is a parent mentor to the Peer Support Staff, develops parent training materials, and conducts staff and parent training and development activities. Ms. Liu led the FRC's efforts to conduct meaningful outreach to one of the largest Chinese constituencies of the 21 regional centers statewide. Ms. Liu is a member of the Chinese Parents Association for the Disabled (CPAD). A firm believer in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Ms. Liu focuses her work on community awareness and family-centered care. It is her lifelong goal to see that the systems and policies grow and reflect the needs of the diverse communities they serve.

Karen Nutt, Parent, Director of Child Development Services - Braille Institute of America

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Karen Nutt's background and education are in early childhood development. She has spent her career working with children at risk of a developmental disability, or who were diagnosed with a developmental disability. She started her career working with children and families in-home and at a center-based preschool program. She went on to work with San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center as a service coordinator in early intervention services; and then moved on to direct a program for Citrus College, Foster/Kinship Care Education, providing training for prospective foster/adoptive parents. Karen was instrumental in assuring relative care providers were included in the training program. During this time, Karen founded The Parents' Place Family Resource and Empowerment Center in West Covina, serving the east San Gabriel Valley. The center provided training for parents of children with special needs. They provided education on Individual Education Plans with local school districts, Individual Family Service Plans with regional centers and school districts, and several other programs. The organization's goal is to provide parents with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively advocate for their child. Karen's knowledge and expertise center on parent advocacy, training and support. Parents are the primary teacher in their child's life; enhancing their knowledge of their child's special needs provides parents the necessary skills and expertise to advocate on behalf of their child with special education providers, regional centers, and the medical care system.

LeeAnn Keene Paddock, Parent, Foster Care Advocate

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LeeAnn Paddock is a longtime resident of La Verne, CA. She has been deeply involved in foster care and special needs children for over 40 years. She has served as a foster parent to many children in Los Angeles County and has legally adopted six children as well as raising three biological children. She has raised five young people to successful adulthood and has three minor children still under her experienced care and guidance. Many of her foster children came from disadvantaged

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backgrounds and were substance exposed at birth, providing LeeAnn insights into critical health and developmental issues facing her large family. In 1989 she was licensed by the State of California and was selected to accept clients from Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center to open a small family home which served six children ages birth to eighteen with developmental disabilities and special medical needs. LeeAnn operated her specialized foster home for twenty-five years. LeeAnn worked for over ten years for Citrus College in Glendora as the Kinship Coordinator in the Foster Kinship Education Program. She provided training to foster and relative caregivers on topics such as fetal alcohol syndrome, child development, discipline and bonding. Throughout her career LeeAnn has served two terms on the San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center Board of Directors and McKinley Children's Center Board of Directors. LeeAnn continues to enjoy collaborating with other professionals and community members who seek to improve the health and wellbeing of young children. As a well-known African proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." LeeAnn Keene-Paddock strives to be a key part of that "village."

Lisa Schoyer, MFA, Parent, Regional Center Liaisons Coordinator 0-5, LACDMH

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Lisa Schoyer is the mom of Quin Johnson, who had Costello syndrome and died in 2002 at 6-1/5 years old, of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma (eRMS) related to the syndrome. She is founder and President of the RASopathies Network - <https://rasopathiesnet.org>. Lisa is also a trustee of the International Costello Syndrome Support Group (ICSSG), as well as past President and past Secretary for the American Costello Syndrome Family Network (CSFN). Though trained as a professor of studio art, after Quin died, Lisa was hired by the County of Los Angeles first as Chief of Family Support at the Department of Public Health's program for children with special healthcare needs (2003-2009), and, since then, for the County's Department of Mental Health in the Family and Community Partnerships unit - where she works to develop and sustain Subject Matter Mavens on providing mental health interventions for individuals with co-occurring developmental disabilities.

Kathy Schreiner, Community Advocate, Best Start Panorama City

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Kathy Schreiner is a community advocate and volunteer in the San Fernando Valley. For the past 9 years, she has been actively involved as a volunteer with Best Start Panorama City & Neighbors, which covers the communities of North Hills East, Panorama City, and Van Nuys. Best Start is a First 5 LA funded program improving systems and policies that can help families with young children gain access to information and resources that will help their children thrive. She has been an advocate for Early Intervention within Best Start and through other initiatives. She participated in the CFEC Work Group during the initial planning phase of Help Me Grow. Kathy is a member of the L.A. County Child Care Planning Committee and has been an advocate for the support and development of the ECE Workforce. She earned a Certificate as an ECE Intervention Teacher from Santa Monica College. Her other education includes a B.A. from Brown University, M.A. in Social Policy from the University of Chicago, and MBA from UCLA.