

# ACT EARLY SUMMIT

## PRESENTER AND FACILITATOR PROFILES

October 29&30, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

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### **Katy Beggs, MA**

Katy Beggs is a Project Manager with AUCD, providing technical assistance and coordination for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau's (MCHB) Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs, focusing on issues related to autism in the recently awarded Cooperative Agreement between MCHB and AUCD for the Autism Technical Assistance and Resource Center. The Resource Center Agreement is part of MCHB's Combating Autism Act Initiative. Prior to joining AUCD, Katy was a Clinical Child Psychology Intern at the Mailman Center for Child Development at the University of Miami (LEND/UCEDD/IDDRC) where she worked extensively with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. Prior to her work at Mailman she was a LEND trainee and an Advanced Clinical Psychology Practicum Student at the Riley Child Development Center at Indiana University (LEND). At both programs, she was part of interdisciplinary teams and provided evaluation, treatment, and advocacy for children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Katy holds a BS in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MA in clinical psychology from the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) School of Psychological Sciences.

### **Jennifer Bogin, MSed, BCBA**

Jennifer A. Bogin is a board certified behavior analyst who received her Master's degree in behavioral education from Simmons College in Boston, MA. Jennifer began her career as a teacher of preschool children with emotional and behavioral disorders in a therapeutic nursery school in New York. After completing her Bachelor's degree in behavioral studies, Jennifer worked as an autism and behavior consultant providing services for public schools, early intervention agencies, and families in western Massachusetts. She incorporates both behavior analytic and relationship-based methodologies in her work with children with autism spectrum disorders. Prior to joining the AUCD staff Jennifer was a site manager for the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders at the M.I.N.D. Institute at University of California, Davis. In that role she provided autism specific statewide training and technical assistance to several different states across the country. At AUCD Jennifer is a Project Manager working on both the Cooperative Agreement between MCHB and AUCD for the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center (ITAC) on Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities as well as the CDC Learn the Signs, Act Early campaign.

### **Paul Carbone, MD, FAAP**

Dr. Paul Carbone is a pediatrician who is currently an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Utah. His clinical focus is on children with special health care needs, specifically those with developmental disabilities. He sees many of these patients as a primary care physician at the University of Utah and through interdisciplinary Title V clinics located throughout the state. He follows children with physical disabilities at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Salt Lake City. He is the autism coordinator for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) at the University of Utah. His clinical research involves projects that improve the medical home of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He is a former National Health Service Corp Scholar, providing care for the underserved in a community health center in Tucson, Arizona for five years. Dr. Carbone received his Medical Degree from The Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago, Illinois. He completed his residency in pediatrics at the University of California, San Diego. His Bachelors of Science is from San Jose State University in Molecular Biology.

### **Danielle Edson, MSW**

Danielle Edson is the Project Specialist for the CDC Cooperative Agreement at AUCD with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at CDC. She works with the AUCD network centers, and NCBDDD staff in the area of public health and disability through cooperative agreement research and education activities as well as the Act Early Summits and Disability and Health Technical Assistance efforts. Before joining AUCD as a recent graduate in October Danielle had completed two field practicums in her Master's program working with individuals with developmental disabilities. She holds her BS in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University and an MSW with a focus on policy practice from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

### **Katie Green, MPH, CHES**

Katie Green is a Health Communication Specialist with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention. She currently provides health communication expertise and leadership for the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Campaign. Katie joined the campaign in October of 2007 after serving as a health education specialist to NCBDDD's Birth Defects Prevention Research Team, where she spent over 5 years supporting national health education and communication activities to promote the consumption of folic acid and other healthy behaviors among women of childbearing age to reduce birth defects and ensure the healthiest start for children. Katie completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Biobehavioral Health from Pennsylvania State University in 2002 and a Master of Public Health degree with emphasis in Health Promotion and Behavior from Georgia State University in 2007. She has maintained professional certification as a health education specialist since 2003.

### **Adriane K. Griffen, MPH, CHES**

Adriane K. Griffen has recently joined the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) to serve as the CDC Cooperative Agreement Project Director. Ms. Griffen's activities focus on building the nation's capacity on public health activities for birth defects, developmental disabilities, and health promotion for people living with disabilities across the age span. Ms. Griffen is responsible for maintaining contact with partner organizations, information dissemination, facilitating RTOIs (Research Topics of Interest), enhancing professional expertise in the fields of birth defects and developmental disabilities, and enhancing the capacity of State Disability and Health Grantees. Previously, she served as the Director of Health Promotion and Partnerships for the Spina Bifida Association (SBA) where she was responsible for program and campaign management, program design, evaluation, partnership development and grant efforts. Ms. Griffen serves as Membership Chair on the Executive Committee of the External Partner Group of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at CDC. She is the Immediate Past Chair of the National Council on Folic Acid, a partnership of over 60 national organizations and associations dedicated to folic acid promotion. She holds a Master of Public Health from The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, with a specialty in social marketing, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.

### **George Jesien, PhD**

Dr. Jesien has had over 30 years of experience in the disabilities field in various capacities including school psychologist, project manager, course faculty, and director of state and federally funded programs for children with special needs and their families. He has worked in educational agencies, Head Start, university settings and a foundation. Currently he is executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) which represents national networks of Universities Centers conducting research, training and service for and with people with disabilities and their families. Previous positions include serving as the executive director of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation, director of the Early Intervention Program at the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and executive director of the Portage Project. Dr. Jesien was awarded a Joseph P Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellowship to work with the US Senate

Subcommittee On Disability Policy working on disability related legislation. He has served as the president of the National and State Divisions for Early Childhood of the International Council for Exceptional Children and received outstanding service awards at the state and national levels.

**Alison B. Johnson, MPA**

Ms. Alison Johnson is the Deputy Director of CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Prior to joining NCBDDD in March of 2006, Alison served as Director for the Division of State and Local Readiness in CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response. She was formally the Deputy Director of the Immunization Services Division at the National Immunization Program. She received her Masters in Public Administration from Eastern Kentucky University and has a BS in Finance from West Virginia University. She joined CDC in 1992 as a Presidential Management Intern. As a Presidential Management Intern she worked at CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as a budget analyst. In 1995 she joined the National Immunization Program to assist in the implementation of the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and staffed the National Vaccine Advisory Committee. In January of 1999 Alison left NIP to be the Deputy Division Director for the Division of Laboratory Sciences at the National Center for Environmental Health.

**Katie Kilker-Green, MPH, CHES**

Katie Kilker-Green is a Health Communication Specialist with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention. She currently provides health communication expertise and leadership for the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Campaign. Katie joined the campaign in October of 2007 after serving as a health education specialist to NCBDDD's Birth Defects Prevention Research Team, where she spent over 5 years supporting national health education and communication activities to promote the consumption of folic acid and other healthy behaviors among women of childbearing age to reduce birth defects and ensure the healthiest start for children. Katie completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Biobehavioral Health from Pennsylvania State University in 2002 and a Master of Public Health degree with emphasis in Health Promotion and Behavior from Georgia State University in 2007. She has maintained professional certification as a health education specialist since 2003.

**Jennifer May, MPH, MSW**

Prior to joining NASHP in 2006, Jennifer was employed by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services' Center for Child and Family Health, where she worked as a healthcare policy and systems delivery specialist. She also previously worked with the Louisiana Public Health Institute and served in the Peace Corps in Ghana. Jennifer is a graduate of Barnard College and holds master's degrees in public health and social work from Tulane University.

**Kim Musheno**

Kim Musheno is the Director of Legislative Affairs at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. She also provides leadership representing AUCD on the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Board of Directors, a coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations. Kim co-chairs the CCD Task Forces working on developmental disabilities, Autism, fiscal policy, and child abuse prevention, and serves on the Long Term Services and Supports Task Force. During her more than ten years working in the field of disability policy, Kim has monitored or worked on nearly every major piece of legislation that affects people with developmental disabilities and their families, including the DD Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Rehabilitation Act, ADA, the Work Incentives Improvement Act, Combating Autism Act, and legislation to reform Medicaid such as the Family Opportunity Act, Money Follows the Person Act, and Community Choice Act. Kim has previously worked for The Arc of the United States and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

### **Ylla Nikola-Lisa Bishop, MPA**

Ylla Nikola-Lisa Bishop has worked for AUCD in various capacities over the last five years. She recently returned to AUCD to serve as the Finance and Contract Manager. Prior to taking a leave of absence to live in Sydney, Australia, she served as the Coordinator of the Children's Disability Determination Initiative for the Association. Ylla came to AUCD from a local community-based HIV/AIDS clinic where she expanded her knowledge and experience in program development and fiscal/grants management. In her free time, Ylla volunteers as a tutor and is active in building a strong community for children and families. Ylla holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management from the American University and has many years of experience in the public sector serving people with disabilities.

### **Georgina Peacock, MD, MPH**

Georgina Peacock is a Medical Officer Senior Service Fellow with the Prevention Research Branch in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Peacock works primarily with health care professionals and early educators in outreach, partnership, and assessment for the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign to raise the awareness of parents, health care professionals, and early educators about developmental milestones and the early signs of autism and related developmental disabilities. She continues to serve as a liaison for the Act Early Summits to promote cross agency collaboration in early identification and early intervention through state team planning. She joined the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as the AUCD Medical Officer Fellow in February 2007. Dr. Peacock received her Doctor of Medicine and Master in Public Health from University of Kansas. Prior to coming to the CDC, Dr. Peacock spent three years working with parents, primary care providers, and child care workers to identify and care for children with autism and other special health care needs in Kansas and at the Centro Ann Sullivan in Lima, Peru. She is also a former Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (LEND) trainee who completed her Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Fellowship at Developmental Disabilities Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

### **Catherine Rice, PhD**

Dr. Catherine Rice is a behavioral scientist at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She also serves as a Diagnostic Associate at the Emory Autism Center and conducts training to professionals on the diagnosis and assessment of people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through Emory and Western Psychological Services. Dr. Rice is on the Board of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Autism Society of America. She received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Emory University and her doctorate in developmental psychology from Boston College. Dr. Rice has worked in teaching, research, diagnosis, and consultation related to autism and other developmental disabilities for over 14 years. Her current work at CDC involves tracking the rates of ASD in Atlanta and working with state partners to establish ongoing monitoring systems for ASD around the United States.

### **Jennifer Saunders, MSW**

Jennifer Saunders is a Research Analyst at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). She works on a variety of issues concerning maternal and child health (including autism) and women's health. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in zoology, and her master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining NCSL, Jennifer worked at the National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice at the University of Iowa, as a graduate teaching assistant, and as a research assistant, among other jobs and experiences. She is a world traveler, and has been to more than 30 countries.

### **Evelyn Shaw, MEd**

Evelyn Shaw is an educational planning and development consultant at the FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. Ms. Shaw received her Master's in Education, Special Education from UNC-Chapel Hill. She is a technical assistance specialist with the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Ms. Shaw has provided state technical assistance to early intervention and preschool state programs, has topical responsibilities and expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorders, including developing and maintaining the NECTAC ASD web page. Her work at NECTAC has included coordinating two national state team meetings on autism and developing publications describing the agreement among model programs on quality practices for serving young children with ASD and their families. In 2002, she was an invited presenter and participant for the National Institutes of Health sponsored meeting on "Challenges in Evaluating Psychosocial Intervention for Autistic Spectrum Disorders," an invited participant in "Overcoming Methodological Challenges" work group (National Institute of Mental Health) in 2004, and has been a member of the ASD Measurement Workgroup, Family Stress and Coping subgroup, sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health since 2003.

### **Joe Sniezek, MD, MPH**

Joe Sniezek is the Chief of the Prevention Research Branch at the Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, NCBDDD, CDC. He joined the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) as the Associate Director for Public Health Practice in October 2008. In May 2009, he took his current position. Previously, Dr. Sniezek has worked in several Centers at CDC, including the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control addressing injury surveillance and working with states to develop injury control and surveillance programs, especially related to traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. Dr. Sniezek served as the Chief of the Arthritis Program in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion from 1999 through 2007, where he managed a multi-disciplinary team, working to develop and implement public health approaches to improve the quality of life among persons affected by arthritis. From May 2007 through September 2008, Dr. Sniezek worked in the Office of Well-being Science and Program, working with a CDC workgroup to better define and measure well-being for public health purposes. In addition, he served two years as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer at the CDC. Dr. Sniezek received his BA from Culver Stockton College and his medical and public health degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he also trained in preventive medicine.

### **Grace Williams**

Grace Williams is a Senior Program Manager for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at the Association of Maternal and Child Health programs (AMCHP). She works on the Cooperative Agreement with MCHB and AMCHP for the State Public Health Coordinating Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Family involvement and with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. She has 17 year old twin daughters both with Autism. Prior to joining AMCHP she has been working with passion and knowledge of CYSHCN as a Health Care Coordinator for Parents' Place of Maryland, Title V, and Medicaid Program and as a Network member and Regional Coordinator with Family Voices. She serves on the Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Council, Medicaid Advisory Council, and University Center for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) – Advisory Council and Part C- State Interagency Coordinating Council and AAP Special Needs Committee. She has served on many boards, work groups and committees on the National, State and local levels, related to Children with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs for Cultural and Linguistic Competence, Family Involvement, Medical Home, Dental Care, Mental Health and Data.