

## 2024 Distinguished Speakers

### **Simi Brar, MD**

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist  
Reproductive and Infant Mental Health  
UCSD Health Sciences Center and  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

### **Joy Brewster, SLP**

Speech Language Pathologist  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

### **Rahil Briggs, PsyD**

National Director of Zero to Three's HealthySteps  
Pediatric Primary Care Program  
Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and  
Behavioral Sciences  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

### **Ania Boyd, MPH**

Community Engagement Lead  
BrightLife Kids

### **Marilee Burgeson, MA, CCC-SLP**

Senior Clinical Advisor  
Positive Development

### **Francisco Castillo**

Developmental Services  
Palomar Health

### **Lori Scott Clarke, MA, MFT**

Co-Director, Social Policy Institute  
San Diego State University

### **Kelly Curtis Hughes, LMFT, RPT**

Early Childhood Mental Health Therapist  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

### **Miriah de Matos, MPH, MA**

Senior Project Specialist  
American Academy of Pediatrics,  
California Chapter 3

### **Natalie Elms, MA,**

Manager, KidSTART  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

### **Krysta Esquivel**

Youth and Family Services  
YMCA of San Diego County

### **Kim Flowers, LCSW, IF-ECMH RPF-M**

Senior Director, Family Support Services  
Neighborhood House Association  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

### **Ali Freedman, PsyD, MBA**

ECMH We Can't Wait Conference Co-Chair

### **Pradeep Gidwani, MD, MPH, FAAP**

Medical Director, Healthy Development Services  
(HDS) and First Steps, American Academy of  
Pediatrics, California Chapter 3

### **Lauren Gist, MD, MPH**

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego  
UC San Diego Department of Pediatrics

### **Sarah Glass, MSW**

Deputy Director, County of San Diego Child and  
Family Well-Being Department  
Office of Child and Family Strengthening

### **Aneesah Grayson, MPA**

Program Coordinator/Lead Facilitator  
Tarzana Treatment Centers  
Co-Chair, Public Health Advisory Council (OC/LA)

### **Alfredo Guardado**

Assistant Director, County of San Diego Child and  
Family Well-Being Department  
Office of Child and Family Strengthening

### **Kristina Halmai**

Youth and Family Services  
YMCA of San Diego County

### **Cinnamon Harper, LCSW**

Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

## 2024 Distinguished Speakers

**Amy Isiaho, BS, MS Candidate**

Continuous Quality Improvement Policy Analyst  
Child Welfare Department Services  
Academy for Professional Excellence  
San Diego State University

**Shannon Jeng-Lin Apel, MA, CCC-SLP**

Bilingual Mandarin-English Speech Language  
Pathologist  
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego

**Hannah Kenny, ASW**

Rady Children's Hospital San Diego KidSTART

**Richard Knecht, MS**

Managing Partner  
Integrated Human Services Group, Inc. and  
Integrated Services Advisor  
State of California

**Clorinda Merino, MEd**

Training Implementation Director  
Social Policy Institute  
San Diego State University

**Melanie Morones, LMFT, ATR, ECMHS**

Clinical Social Service Program Director  
YMCA of San Diego County

**Vi Thuy Nguyen, MD**

Fellow of Environmental Health  
American Academy of Pediatrics,  
California Chapter 3

**Brandi Paniagua, MAEd**

Program Director, Partners in Prevention  
Community Engagement and Well-Being  
YMCA of San Diego County

**Charmi Patel Rao, MD**

Co-Medical Director  
Vista Hill Foundation

**Ariane Porras, SEP**

Program Director  
Partner and Community Engagement  
Child Resource Service  
YMCA of San Diego County

**Jeff Rowe, MD**

ECMH We Can't Wait Conference Co-Chair  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

**Renee Sievert, RN, LMFT, PCC, Equus Coach**

ECMH Conference Coordinator  
Training and Leadership Consultant  
Member of the Motivational Interviewing  
Network of Trainers (MINT)

**Liz Sizemore, MA, AMFT, AT**

Family Therapy  
San Diego Center for Children

**Lily Valmidiano, MPH, CHES**

Senior Project Specialist  
American Academy of Pediatrics,  
California Chapter 3

**Denise Von Rotz, LMFT, RPT-S, IF-ECMH, RPF II**

Hope and Healing Child and Family Therapy, Inc.

**Aimee Zeitz, LMFT**

Executive Director  
Community Well-Being  
YMCA of San Diego County