



Helping Children Heal: Fostering Love, Hope, and Justice

RYSE Youth Center

Richmond, California

September 18, 2015

Speaker Biographies

Kimberly Aceves, RYSE Youth Center

Kimberly Aceves has spent the past twenty-five years working, organizing and advocating for the rights of youth, LGBTQ people, people of color, and working class communities throughout the Bay Area. She is the Co-Founding Executive Director of the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond, California, which has gained local, regional and national attention for its innovative approach to trauma-informed youth development practices and programming oriented towards system change. Kimberly is a Rockwood Leadership Fellow, LeaderSpring Executive Fellow and most recently a Stanford University School of Innovation Nonprofit Executive Fellow.

Angela Blanchard, Political Solutions, LLC.

Angela Blanchard is an Associate Partner. Her expertise includes health care policy, health care provider scope of practice, retail industry issues, and the California state budget process. Ms. Blanchard has led statewide grassroots efforts and developed coalitions to successfully obtain funding through the state budget process on a wide array of issues, including securing \$20 million dollars to support the Every Woman Counts Program and adding multiple disease screening for California newborns. Ms. Blanchard came to Political Solutions in 2005 after gaining first-hand experience of the legislative process by working for the California State Legislature, including the former Chair of the Business and Professions Committee and the Legislative Women's Caucus. Angela also serves as a board member of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento and Northern California. Ms. Blanchard graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Davis with a bachelor's degree in women's studies, and holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Bidyut Bose, Ph.D., Niroga Institute

Dr. Bose is the Founder and Executive Director of Niroga Institute, which serves thousands of high-stress people annually, while developing cost-effective architectures for lasting social transformation. Having learned yoga and meditation since he was a child, and with a PhD in Computer Science from UC Berkeley, he spent many years in Silicon Valley in R&D and strategic planning. For the past 10 years, he has been conducting stress resilience

trainings for influencers in education, healthcare, youth development and violence prevention, as well as corporate leaders nationally and internationally.

Jamila Edwards Brooks, Guest of Children's Defense Fund-California

Throughout her entire career, Jamila has advocated for the creation and preservation of healthy and safe communities. Her policy experience includes advocating for the protection of government programs providing healthy food to food insecure communities, strengthening children's access to health care statewide, and promoting strategies that reduce gun violence. Jamila currently serves as the City Liaison for the San Francisco Unified School District where she ensures successful communication between the District and the city's elected officials. Prior to joining the District, she was the Northern California Director of the Children's Defense Fund. She is a former commissioner of the City of Oakland's Measure Y Violence Prevention and Public Safety Oversight Committee and currently sits on the Oversight Board for the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco. Jamila proudly resides in Oakland with her husband and two fantastic children, Reile and Kaia. She received her BA in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and her Master's in Public Policy from UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs. In between juggling a family and a career, Jamila finds time to support all three of Oakland's professional sports teams, read mystery novels (preferably those written by female authors), and on occasion, binge on Netflix.

Cecilia Chen, Center for Youth Wellness

Cecilia is the Interim Director of Policy. She oversees the strategy and development of the organization's Policy Department. She received her BA at Tufts University and her JD at Boston College Law School. She then went on to work in New York City as a staff attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). While at AALDEF, she was the lead attorney in the nationally publicized South Philadelphia High School anti-harassment case. Cecilia also was the 2011-13 Thurgood Marshall Fellow at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. Her career focus has been in justice, civil rights, educational equity and youth rights. She hails from Piedmont, California, and lives in San Francisco.

Mark Cloutier, Center for Youth Wellness

Mark has held a variety of executive leadership positions spanning public health, non-profit organizations, health care finance consulting, government and philanthropy. Among his many professional credits, Mark served as the Regional CEO of the Red Cross' Northern California Coastal Region, the premier humanitarian nonprofit providing disaster preparedness, response and recovery services, and as Program Director of Public Policy, Community Health and Civic Engagement for the San Francisco Foundation. Mark also served as CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation from 2005 to 2010, where he led its emergence as a thought leader on evidence-based strategies to control and end the HIV epidemic. Concurrently, he was also president of the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, an affiliate of SFAF, where he oversaw the development of the strategic plan and the execution of the business strategy addressing the HIV epidemics in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. He holds a Bachelor's degree in History from Lewis and Clark College and Master's degrees in Public Policy and Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley.

Janis Lambert Connallon, Children's Defense Fund-California

Janis Connallon serves as the health policy associate for Children's Defense Fund-California(CDF-CA). She represents CDF-CA to the Children's Health Coverage Coalition, a group of child health advocacy organizations funded by the California Endowment to expand coverage and improve health access to all of California's children. Prior to her work with CDF, Janis served as the advocacy manager for the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. Her special interest is improving health care for children with special health care needs, and she spent almost ten years as the national policy coordinator in Washington, DC for Family Voices National Office. Family Voices is a national grassroots advocacy organization representing more than 50,000 families of children with special health care

needs. Janis began her public health work as the field coordinator for Every Child By Two: The Rosalynn Carter/Betty Bumpers Campaign for Early Immunization. She graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, and John F Kennedy High School in Richmond, California. She serves on the Family Partnership Network Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She lives with her husband, Rob, her two girls, Grace (12) and Claire (6), their cat Millie and two fish: Pearl and Prince, in Kensington, California.

DeAngelo Cortija, Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

DeAngelo Cortijo, is a representative for Assemblymember Tony Thurmond and a former intern at the National Center for Youth Law. Deangelo earned a Paralegal diploma in December of 2014. DeAngelo is originally from San Francisco's Mission District. At age two, he entered the dependency system. By age 21, DeAngelo had served seven years in the juvenile justice system, including three years in California's Department of Juvenile Justice. DeAngelo obtained his GED and held leadership and advocacy positions while in the juvenile justice system. Since his release, DeAngelo has used his experiences not only turn to his life around, but also to become an advocate for vulnerable youth. He is a former Board Member for San Francisco's City-Wide Transitional-aged Advisory Board where he advised on budget expenditures, local policy, and programs. DeAngelo is currently a student at Chabot College and hopes to transfer to U.C. Berkeley in the fall of 2018. Ultimately, he wants to attend law school and become a champion for vulnerable youth and advocate for reforms that treat children in trouble with the law fairly and appropriately for their age and level of culpability.

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, RYSE Youth Center

Kanwarpal Dhaliwal is one of the Co-Founders of RYSE and currently serves as the Director of Community Health and Integrative Practice. Prior to RYSE, Kanwarpal worked as an independent consultant and has over 15 years of experience in facilitating and developing cross-sector collaborations, organizational development and strategic planning, and community-based and community-driven planning, organizing, and advocacy. Her work spans the fields of supportive housing, intergroup relations, violence prevention, youth leadership, LGBTQ advocacy, and immigrant rights. Kanwarpal holds a Masters in Public Health and has served as adjunct faculty at San Francisco State University,

Joyce Dorado, Ph.D., UCSF HEARTS

Dr. Dorado is an Associate Clinical Professor in the UCSF-SFGH Dept. of Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Services (CAS).The UCSF Healthy Environments and Response to Trauma in Schools (HEARTS) project is a comprehensive, multilevel school-based prevention and intervention program for children who have experienced trauma. UCSF HEARTS has been implemented in several San Francisco Unified School District and Oakland Unified School District schools. These schools serve some of the most under-resourced communities in these cities.

Judy Dunlap, Niroga Institute

Judy has had a long time interest in Eastern philosophies, and in the East's body/mind/spirit or holistic approach to healthful living and evolving consciousness. A student of the philosophy of Vedanta, she also serves on the Board of Directors of the Vedanta Society of Berkeley, CA. Ten years ago she was introduced to yoga through Bidyut's classes, and has experienced the holistic therapeutic value of yoga first-hand. Judy enjoys the challenge of start-ups, and is a co-founder of Niroga. Previously, she was operations director for a small software company, and a merchandise manager for a national retail clothing chain. She received her BA in Anthropology from U.C. Santa Barbara and her MBA from Golden Gate University.

Godwin Higa, Cherokee Point Elementary School

Godwin Higa is the Principal at Cherokee Point Elementary School in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego. His school was recently recognized by the Huffington Post /Jane Stevens as one of the few trauma-informed schools in the nation. Under his leadership, there have been zero suspensions for the last two/ now three years. Mr. Higa is passionate about his students' success and demands that all students are treated with the utmost respect so they can succeed and thrive in academics now and later in life. His goal is to create a trauma-informed school district as well as spread the approach to the wider community, the state, and the nation. He has been an administrator with the San Diego Unified School District for the last 17 years and is committed to making discipline policy changes within the district. His background as an education reformer was informed by ten years as a teacher for San Diego Unified School District and as a teacher at Donovan Correctional Facility prior to that. Currently, Human Relations Commissioner for the City of San Diego appointed by the Mayor, and Citizen Review Board for Police Practices board member appointed by the Mayor.

Kisha Jackson, Children's Defense Fund-California

Kisha Jackson is a Community and Outreach Associate based out of Children's Defense Fund - California's Oakland office. Kisha is responsible for developing and strengthening strategic relationships with key individuals, organizations, and target constituencies in Oakland and surrounding communities to further the goals and activities of CDF-CA's policy and programmatic work. For the past fifteen years, Kisha has worked for nonprofits in the Bay Area and Sacramento in a variety of functions, including serving as the Executive Manager of the California State Conference of the NAACP, where she managed civil rights issues with their 52 branches and 37 youth and college divisions. Kisha also has extensive community outreach experience. She managed projects for the California Association of Food Banks, the statewide trade association for California's food banks, as well as managed agency relations for more than 300 member agencies for the Alameda County Community Food Bank in Oakland. She currently serves as a City of Oakland Commissioner for the Oakland Fund for Youth and Children. Kisha attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA and is a California native. In addition to serving underserved populations, Kisha is passionate about the Oakland Raiders and has been a season ticket holder for most of her life.

Rob Jackson, Beats Rhymes and Life

A Hip Hop artist, educator and youth advocate, Rob Jackson is a representative of Oakland's multicultural community. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University. With extensive background in the field of Education and expertise in curriculum development, Rob co-founded Beats Rhymes and Life with Tomas Alvarez in 2004. With over ten years of experience working with marginalized youth, as well as a Hip Hop background, Rob has helped BRL bridge the worlds of mental health and urban culture to effectively serve youth throughout the Bay Area and the Bronx, New York. As BRL's Chief of Staff, Rob is responsible for staff development and ensuring program fidelity. Rob also serves as the acting Dean of the BRL Academy

Joe Kim, RYSE Youth Center

Joe Kim was born and raised in the Bay Area. He graduated from San Leandro High School and received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. During his undergraduate studies, Joe developed a passion for social justice, student organizing, and Hip Hop music. Before joining the RYSE team, Joe teamed up with Australian National Poetry Slam Champion, Omar Musa, for a Hip Hop/ cultural exchange tour through Indonesia and Australia. In 2011, Joe moved to Australia to record and promote his first full-length album, the 'MoneyKat' LP. While in Australia, Joe also worked at Youth Support and Advocacy Services as an AOD social worker at a residential withdrawal/ detox unit for young people. His appreciation and respect for Hip Hop music and its historical significance in the resistance/ resilience of youth culture continues to inform his work today. Joe is now back home in California

where he continues to make music and pursue his passion in working with young people as the Case Manager at RYSE.

Cristy Johnston Limón, Destiny Arts Center

Cristy Johnston Limón is the Executive Director of Destiny Arts Center, an Oakland based creative youth development organization teaching youth nonviolence through the arts. As Destiny's Executive Director, Cristy purchased and renovated an idle warehouse in North Oakland transforming it into an artistically rich, welcoming cultural destination serving thousands of youth and their families annually. Formerly the founder and Executive Director of Excelsior Action Group (EAG), a community development organization to revitalize and create vibrant public spaces with local leadership, Cristy grew the organization strategically to meet the needs of several communities in San Francisco's south central neighborhoods. As a former Senate fellow and legislative aide for California State Senator Martha Escutia, Mrs. Johnston Limón has a strong background in public policy, the state budget and the legislative process. While working in Sacramento, Mrs. Johnston Limón worked on policies aimed to reform the state budget so as to protect funding for children and families, language and access rights, human services and housing. A native of San Francisco of Guatemalan descent, Cristy is a first generation college graduate of the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in Political Science. Cristy is pursuing an Executive MBA at the Haas School of Business, exploring the role of business in philanthropy, culture, and equity. She draws from her own experiences as a public school student immersed in dance, theater, music and sports to advocate on behalf of arts education and for Destiny's mission and vision.

Marc Philpart, PolicyLink

Marc Philpart serves as the director of Boys and Men of Color initiatives at PolicyLink. In this role, he co-directs the Institute for Black Male Achievement—a national membership network working to improve outcomes for black men and boys—and is the principal coordinator for the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color—a statewide network of change agents working towards policy and systems change on behalf of boys and men of color. Marc oversees the development of new, strategic PolicyLink partnerships and projects that contribute to the overall health and success of boys and men of color and has specific expertise in supporting and developing networks that advance policy and promising practices to further race and gender equity in the areas of health, education, employment, and juvenile justice. Prior to joining PolicyLink, Marc worked in the president's office at PATH, a non-profit global health organization. He holds masters degrees in public affairs and public health from the University of Washington in Seattle and earned his BA in History from Xavier University of Louisiana. In his spare time he enjoys international travel, reading, and the paradoxical life of being a fitness junkie and foodie.

Jenn Rader, James Morehouse Health Center, El Cerrito High School

Jenn Rader is the founder and director of the James Morehouse Project, the student health and wellness center at El Cerrito High School in the WCCUSD. Jenn founded the James Morehouse Project in 1998 as a full-time teacher at ECHS. Her classroom teacher lens has supported the JMP to play a strong role across the learning environment at the high school. In addition to providing direct services (clinical mental health, primary care and reproductive health services,) to young people, the JMP works closely with school administrators and faculty to implement school-wide initiatives to create and sustain a trauma sensitive school community. Since 2013, Jenn has worked with school communities across the state to support trauma informed systems change. The California School Health Alliance named Jenn its statewide "Practitioner of the Year" for 2014.

Ben Rubin, Ph.D., Children Now

Dr. Rubin is the senior associate for neurodevelopment and health for Children Now. He helps to research, analyze, develop strategy, and advocate on a variety of health policy issues affecting children and families, including health coverage and health homes, and cross-sector policies addressing trauma and toxic stress. Prior to joining Children Now, Dr. Rubin served as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the California State Legislature. In Sacramento,

he worked in the Senate Health Committee and in the personal office of the Committee chair, Senator Ed Hernandez, on analyzing and staffing an eclectic mix of health-related bills. The fellowship served as a bridge between Dr. Rubin's former work as a neuroscience researcher and current public policy work. While specializing in understanding how the brain learns and processes tastes and smells, Dr. Rubin developed an interest in childhood obesity and early childhood development that led to his desire to work on policy issues affecting kids. Dr. Rubin earned a B.A. in biology and psychology from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in neurobiology from Duke University, and conducted postdoctoral research at the California Institute of Technology and Brandeis University.

Alicia St. Andrews, ACEs Connection Network

Alicia St. Andrews is a Community Manager for the ACEs Connection Network, with a focus on supporting efforts to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, and build resilience in families, organizations, and communities across the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to joining the ACEs Connection team, Alicia coordinated the SF Adolescent Health Working Group where she published the Trauma & Resilience module of the Adolescent Provider Toolkit, provided clinic counseling for youth and young adults at the UCSF New Generation Health Center, and high school sexual health education with the Daly City Youth Health Center. She is a graduate of the San Jose State University Masters of Public Health in Community Health Education Program.

Tony Thurmond, California State Assembly, 15th District

Tony Thurmond was elected to represent California's 15th Assembly District in November 2014. The district includes the East Bay communities that stretch along the I-80 corridor from Hercules to Oakland, including Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, El Cerrito, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo, El Sobrante and Kensington. First elected to the Richmond City Council in 2005, Thurmond served as Council Liaison to Richmond's Youth Commission, the Workforce Investment Board and the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Immediately prior to his election to the Assembly, Thurmond's project, CEO Youth, was improving school attendance and reducing dropout rates—issues that he will continue to prioritize in the Assembly. A Fellow in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Children and Family Fellowship program, Assemblymember Thurmond is a graduate and former student body president of Temple University. Assemblymember Thurmond did his graduate work at Bryn Mawr College (Bryn Mawr, PA) where he received dual Masters Degrees in Law and Social Policy and Social Work. He lives in Richmond, California.