

KEY NOTE SPEAKER BIO



Jesse Bernal, LMFT is an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who holds a master's degree in Counseling Psychology, a certification of specialization in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, and a certification of specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis. They have spent over 15 years working with the birth to five population, specifically focusing on infant and early childhood mental health, neural and social/emotional development, inclusion of children with diverse learning needs, staff and caregiver wellness, and

mitigating the long-term effects of early childhood trauma. In addition, Jess is an adjunct professor at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, CA for both the School of Cultural and Family Psychology and the School of Education, and has served as a research associate to authors in the field such as Dr. Daniel Seigel and Dr. Barbara Stroud. Jess provides consultation and training to multiple Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Childhood Education programs across the country and is a nationwide speaker and presenter. Jess strives to increase the general understanding of social/emotional development and behavior through a trauma-informed lens, while always staying true to the core values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and social justice.

SPEAKER BIOS

Diana Careaga, MPH, MA is the Director of the Family Supports Team at First 5 LA. Ms. Careaga has over twenty-five years' experience in program planning, administration and public health. She received her Masters of Public Health at University of California Los Angeles, with experience ranging from adolescent reproductive health programs to clinical research in women's health issues in Brazil. Since being at First 5 LA, she has worked with the Welcome Baby Pilot program since it began implementation. Currently, she oversees the First 5 LA's family strengthening strategies, with a focus on home visiting policy, advocacy and sustainability strategies geared toward supporting a unified and coordinated system of home visiting countywide.

Monica Charles, MPH is the Senior Data Analyst with LA Best Babies Network (LABBN). She earned her Master of Public Health from the George Washington University. Before joining LABBN, she worked at the Peace Corps Headquarters Office of Health Services on electronic medical record implementation, training, evaluation, and reporting. In her graduate work she focused on improving health outcomes in underserved populations in the Washington, DC, metro area. Monica is passionate about utilizing IT innovations and data to find evidence-based solutions to public health issues.

Dulce Dominguez-Bahena is a Parent Educator with many roles: wife, soccer mom, sister, aunt, and former graduate of the PAT Home Visiting Program. Dulce's journey started with her premature child and her desire to obtain more information about the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) Home Visiting Program. She decided to enroll and give the

program a try. Dulce saw the benefits of the program: her child received program assessments that helped to refer her to physical and speech therapy to help her child achieve his milestones. He graduated from the program in 2019. In April of 2021, Dulce came across the apprentice program and said why not! She knew how the program worked and how children and parents could be supported. It was this personal push that had her go back to school to obtain a better career. Now almost 2 years later, she is a Parent Educator at CCRC! Dulce loves to share her story because she got to experience both sides of the program and now, she can help families have their own experience. Dulce couldn't be any happier in taking this step to become part of a great agency that helps the community in so many ways. Fun facts about Dulce are she enjoys taking family trips to new places, going on early morning walks, and as a part of a big family on both sides, she enjoys the company of her siblings, nephews, nieces, and all her in-laws.

Monica Flores, MA, is Home Visiting Program Supervisor with Child Care Resource Center (CCRC). She studied child development and received both her BA and MA from La Sierra University, where she later taught English. Monica has also worked as a Child Development Therapist, which included assessing for cognitive skills, communication, social-emotional and self-help skills, and gross and fine motor skills. In this role, she also planned and developed play activities designed to help children overcome challenges and gain confidence in their abilities. As a home visiting supervisor at CCRC, Monica worked with manager LaRiesha Floyd in overseeing CCRC's apprenticeship program, conducting curriculum training and planning out work days for the apprentices.

Sharlene Gozalians, DrPH, MPH, CHES is the Director of LA Best Babies Network. She earned her Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Health Education and Promotion at the University of Southern California. She continued on to earn her Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) at Loma Linda University. Her professional background includes working in the field of home visiting, trauma informed care, maternal and child health, healthy food access and the built environment issues in Los Angeles County, creating healthy and empowered communities, youth empowerment and advocacy, corner store conversions, program planning and evaluation and teaching. Her volunteer experience includes working in Tanzania, Brazil and Armenia addressing prevention, health education and maternal and child health issues. Sharlene's passion for public health addresses the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations.

Karla Pleitez Howell, BA, JD, is the Executive Director at F5LA. [Appointed by First 5 LA's Board of Commissioners](#) on Nov. 10, 2022, Karla Pleitez Howell serves as the organizations executive director. Karla has been a relentless advocate to ensure ALL children have the opportunity to thrive. Through community partnerships and innovative strategies, she has helped to increase resources and targeted programs to those most burdened and furthest from equitable opportunities. Karla has a relentless focus on justice and equity. Karla launched her advocacy for communities furthest from opportunity as an attorney. She also worked as the Directing Attorney for El Rescate Legal Services, a nonprofit focused on assisting families with immigration legal issues. Karla was the Supervising Attorney for

Public Counsel's Early Care & Education Law Unit in Los Angeles County. Here she led a coalition in the Southeast cities to increase green space and educational opportunities for young children. As an attorney providing legal services for families stuck in the cycle of poverty, Karla saw patterns of systemic injustices and transitioned to work on policy advocacy. She joined Advancement Project California (now Catalyst California) in 2014. She had the privilege to serve as Director of Education, Managing Director and Chief of Policy and Programs. As an advocate, Karla worked to bring coalitions together to increase child care facilities funding, improve quality in Transitional Kindergarten programs and increase access to child care for California's youngest learners. In partnership with audacious community partners, Karla has helped direct billions of dollars in investments for low-income communities. Karla earned her BA from UCLA and holds a J.D. from UC Hastings. On weekends, Karla enjoys the outdoors with her husband and family and loves to listen to the latest humorous philosophical ponderings from their two kids.

Alina Moran, MPA, is the President of Dignity Health – California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) and leads the overall direction, strategy, and operation of the hospital. Moran served as chief executive officer for NYC Health + Hospitals/ Metropolitan, a 338-bed acute care facility in East Harlem, NY, as well as chief patient growth officer for the NYC Health + Hospital's system. A veteran health care executive with more than 20 years of experience, Moran is a seasoned, dynamic leader with a diverse background in hospital administration. She has a remarkable record of achievement, having demonstrated success in initiating culture change with a focus on decreasing readmission rates, improving safety measures, and implementing strategic initiatives. Her work led Metropolitan to be recognized for meeting the highest national patient safety standards, while achieving distinction for high performance in COPD, heart failure, and stroke care. Moran holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Baruch College and a Bachelor of Science from Brown University. Additionally, Moran is an active community leader and was involved in the establishment of the Rhode Island Political Action Committee and Brown University Latino Alumni Council. Moran was also named to the inaugural list of "Notable Women in Health Care" by Crain's New York Business in 2018, and has been honored by a variety of prestigious national organizations.

Maria Moya is Program Manager for Safe Families for Children at Antelope Valley Partners for Health. Previously, she was a home visiting supervisor for seven years, and a home visitor for two years before that. All told, she has over 17 years of experience working with high-risk families in the Antelope Valley. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of La Verne, and is now working on her master's in social work from the University of Southern California. "My hope working with families is to provide them with the opportunities to grow by providing support and resources so that they can develop healthy relationships and grow as individuals," she says. In AVPH's apprenticeship program, Maria worked with the Apprentice Lead Mentors to provide training, support and guidance. Outside of work, she enjoys playing her guitar and drums, and reading and traveling.

Manuela Razo is a Family Support Specialist with the Healthy Families America program at Antelope Valley Partners for Health. She learned about this program as a client with AVPH, then participated in their apprenticeship program, and graduated to become a staff member. Manuela was born in Lancaster (where AVPH is based) and raised in Van Nuys. She has always had a passion for working with children, so she majored in early childhood education. “I have found so much joy working in this field,” she says. “I love working with families and being able to make a difference, even if it’s by just listening.” She is grateful to be serving the underserved population and providing the help they need.

Delisa Young, MA, is the Manager of Data and Evaluation at LA Best Babies Network. Delisa earned her master’s degree in Experimental Psychology from California State University, San Bernardino. Her professional background includes working as a Research Specialist at Five Acres, a child welfare agency that promotes permanency, safety, and well-being for children and families. She supported continuous quality improvement efforts by partnering with the IT department to make the electronic health record system useful for all staff to meet the agency’s mission goals, and by providing useful reports to senior leadership to make data-informed decisions. Delisa also has experience conducting health disparities research, which has helped frame her interpretation of data when examining underserved populations. Delisa is passionate about eliminating disparities in health and education and wants to contribute to this cause by using her research and data skills.

FAMILY STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT ENTITY



First 5 LA is a leading early childhood advocate organization created by California voters to invest Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues. In partnership with others, First 5 LA strengthens families, communities and systems of services and supports so that all children in Los Angeles County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.



LA Best Babies Network (LABBN) is dedicated to achieving healthy pregnancies and births in LA County by providing the infrastructure, programs, advocacy and support to increase the capacity of community partners to succeed in these efforts. Through the Network's trainings, technical assistance and advocacy work, perinatal providers and advocates across the County unite to increase access to quality perinatal care and inter-conception care, create a safety net of resources for at-risk families, create community driven forums to disseminate best practices and find solutions and advance policies that promote healthy deliveries. LABBN is a community benefit program of [California Hospital Medical Center](#); a member of the [Dignity Health](#) system of hospitals.



Work2Live Well's mission is to empower individuals and organizations through mindfulness, strengths-based positive psychology, alternative modalities, and cognitive behavioral transformation to enhance the quality of life to the level of flourishing in all key areas. In addition to being one of the oversight entities for the First 5 funded Welcome Baby and Home Visiting programs in L.A. County, we provide coaching, training and development to the staff implementing those programs. Through leadership coaching, team workshops, conflict resolution/mediation, leadership development retreats and multi-media education, our aim is to enhance and maintain team cohesion, while supporting individual staff members delivering direct services, so that they can achieve overall well-being and success. This results in increased productivity, reduced burn-out and compassion fatigue and, through the parallel process, improved outcomes for both staff and clients. In addition to our work with Welcome Baby and Home Visiting programs, Work2Live provides trainings to nonprofit and school-based programs, conducts workshops for parents and individuals in disadvantaged communities, provides mindfulness training and curriculum development to clients in the U.S. and Canada, and offers certification programs in both leadership and professional coaching. Work2Live also produces a highly rated mental health podcast, A Mindful Moment™, in both English and Spanish.



FAMILY STRENGTHENING OVERSIGHT ENTITY BIOS

First 5 LA

Diana Careaga, MPH, MA is the Director of the Family Supports Team at First 5 LA. Ms. Careaga has over twenty-five years' experience in program planning, administration and public health. She received her Masters of Public Health at University of California Los Angeles, with experience ranging from adolescent reproductive health programs to clinical research in women's health issues in Brazil. Since being at First 5 LA, she has worked with the Welcome Baby Pilot program since it began implementation. Currently, she oversees the First 5 LA's family strengthening strategies, with a focus on home visiting policy, advocacy and sustainability strategies geared toward supporting a unified and coordinated system of home visiting countywide.

Marlene Cole, MPH is a Program Officer on the Family Supports Team at First 5 LA with over 25 years of experience working in the fields of maternal and reproductive health and youth development. Marlene oversees grants within the Family Strengthening Network. She is the internal point person for the Parents as Teachers program, provides programmatic guidance to the Stronger Families Database workgroup and serves as a co-lead for the Los Angeles County Perinatal and Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium Referrals Workgroup. Before joining the Family Supports Team, Marlene worked as a Program Officer with the Best Start communities and with Healthy Births Initiative grantees. Prior to joining First 5 LA, Marlene was a Lead Area Manager for Essential Health Access, managing the Title X family planning program with community health centers and county health departments throughout California. Marlene has a BA in Sociology from UC Santa Cruz and an MPH from Emory University.

Ellaine Hartley-Polissky, MPH is a Program Officer at First 5 LA. She joined First 5 LA eleven years ago in May of 2012 starting with the Best Start Initiative then transitioned to Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation under the Family Supports Team in 2015. Her professional background includes over 18 years working in health promotion and intervention programs targeting pregnant women and children; and includes programs such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition program and First 5 LA's Healthy Births Initiative. She joined the First 5 LA team to fulfill a passion of promoting healthy communities and increasing access to resources for pregnant women and children. She earned her Bachelors in Health Science with an option in Health Education, and her Masters of Public Health with an emphasis in Community Health Education from California State University, Northridge.

Karlo Herrera, M. Ed., is a Program Associate in the Family Supports department. He assists his colleagues with the initial review of Welcome Baby and Select Home Visitation invoices; and manages contracts others would die for. Karlo is a team player and helps his department in any way that he can to keep tasks moving along. He is a huge Dodgers fan, but above all he is the biggest fan of his two kids. Being an active and engaged father is his main drive to wake up every morning.

Karla Pleitéz Howell, BA, JD, is the Executive Director at F5LA. [Appointed by First 5 LA's Board of Commissioners](#) on Nov. 10, 2022, Karla Pleitéz Howell serves as the organizations executive director. Karla has been a relentless advocate to ensure ALL children have the opportunity to thrive. Through community partnerships and innovative strategies, she has helped to increase resources and targeted programs to those most burdened and furthest from equitable opportunities. Karla has a relentless focus on justice and equity. Karla launched her advocacy for communities furthest from opportunity as an attorney. She also worked as the Directing Attorney for El Rescate Legal Services, a nonprofit focused on assisting families with immigration legal issues. Karla was the Supervising Attorney for Public Counsel's Early Care & Education Law Unit in Los Angeles County. Here she led a coalition in the Southeast cities to increase green space and educational opportunities for young children. As an attorney providing legal services for families stuck in the cycle of poverty, Karla saw patterns of systemic injustices and transitioned to work on policy advocacy. She joined Advancement Project California (now Catalyst California) in 2014. She had the privilege to serve as Director of Education, Managing Director and Chief of Policy and Programs. As an advocate, Karla worked to bring coalitions together to increase child care facilities funding, improve quality in Transitional Kindergarten programs and increase access to child care for California's youngest learners. In partnership with audacious community partners, Karla has helped direct billions of dollars in investments for low-income communities. Karla earned her BA from UCLA and holds a J.D. from UC Hastings. On weekends, Karla enjoys the outdoors with her husband and family and loves to listen to the latest humorous philosophical ponderings from their two kids.

Laura Hoyos Kainsinger, MPH is a Program Officer at First 5 LA. She received her Bachelor of Science in Physiological Science and a Master of Public Health in Community Health Sciences from the University of California, Los Angeles. Before joining First 5 LA, she was a program manager for Prevention and Aftercare, a comprehensive, strength-based program providing resources and activities to vulnerable children and families in Los Angeles County. Prior to this work, Laura was the Director of Community Outreach for Growing Great, where she built and maintained positive collaborative relationships with community partners and was responsible for the development, implementation, and evaluation of school-based nutrition programs. Her professional experience also includes working in the fields of parenting education, health access, and academic event planning. Laura has over 20 years' experience working with community-based programs that provide services to culturally diverse and at-risk families.

Alison Kellman, MSc is a Program Officer on the Family Supports Team with over 30 years of experience in Public Health. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric and Communication from University of California, Davis and earned a Master of Science in Health Education and Promotion from South Bank University, London. Alison has partnered with many family-serving agencies to include spending ten years at a South Los Angeles agency supporting maternal and child health initiatives, including oversight of a Black Infant Health (BIH) Project. For the past eleven years, Alison has contributed her expertise at a neighboring health department establishing and cultivating collaborative partnerships with

family and community health programs; as well as medical and health community stakeholders, to create and implement emergency preparedness plans, while ensuring compliance.

Vanessa Mendez, MA is the Senior Program Officer at First 5 LA. She joined First 5 LA and the Family Supports team in June 2021. Her focus is on systems change and optimization efforts. Vanessa has over 15 years of experience overseeing, implementing and evaluating community and school-based programs that serve children, youth and families in California, Minnesota and Michigan. Prior to her role at First 5 LA, Vanessa served as the Director of Community Services at Children's Bureau overseeing prevention programming in Metro Los Angeles. Her content knowledge is focused on early childhood development, child abuse prevention, parent-child attachment, family support and community involvement. Vanessa enjoys working collaboratively with partners to contribute to the development of impactful opportunities for families, particularly those with young children. She has a master's degree in Ecological-Community Psychology from Michigan State University.

Connie Preciado-Gonzalez, MA, AMFT, is a Senior Program Officer at First 5 LA joining the Family Supports team September of 2022. Her focus area is sustainability. Connie has over 20 years of experience working with pregnant people and families with children 0-5. She received her Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy with a specialization in working with Latino Families from Pacific Oaks College. She has a bachelor's degree in Social Ecology with a specialization in Clinical and Developmental Psychology from UCI. Prior to joining First 5 LA, Connie was a Director of Home-Based Services at a partner community-based organization overseeing 0-5 home visiting programs. She has experience providing clinical services with an emphasis on infant mental health as well as in the early childhood education realm as a primary provider for infants and toddlers.

Claudia Molina, MPH is a Program Officer at First 5 LA. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Pitzer College. She worked as a program coordinator for several years for a case management program serving high-risk families in South Los Angeles. She earned her Master's of Public Health at Boston University with a concentration on maternal and child health. Ms. Molina has over ten years of experience in program planning, implementation, and grantmaking. Since being at First 5 LA, she has worked on family-strengthening and sustainability strategies, including the Baby Friendly Initiative, the Targeted Case Management (TCM), and County-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (CMAA) pilots.

John A. Wagner, MPA, MPP, is the Executive Vice President of First 5 LA's Center for Child and Family Impact (CCFI). In this role, John is responsible for leading the CCFI's systems change efforts to change policy and practice and build public will to prioritize and improve outcomes for young children in Los Angeles County. John first joined the early childhood advocacy and public grantmaking organization as Chief Operating Officer in December 2012, building on his nearly two decades of experience in running a number of state departments in the health and human services arena. In August 2016, John was promoted

to the position of Executive Vice President. Prior to joining First 5 LA, John served as Director of the California Department of Community Services and Development from 2011-2012, and Director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) from 2007-2011. At CDSS, he oversaw a budget of over \$20 billion and programs affecting California's most vulnerable residents including foster children and youth; children and families receiving aid through the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs); and children and adults in state-licensed community care facilities. John earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, a master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from Marquette University.

LA Best Babies Network

Amie Aguiar, BA, is the Communications Specialist II. She has progressive experience in communications, community outreach, and public relations, with a demonstrated record of developing innovative communication strategies that strengthen brand awareness. The majority of her work has been in the education and healthcare fields. She has always been passionate about finding ways to leave a lasting, positive impact through her work — especially in her local community. She is happy to be working toward advancing the mission of LABBN and is committed to showcasing all of the wonderful work the Network is doing. Amie earned her BA in Communication Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Helen Chan, BS is a Data Analyst. Prior to joining LABBN, Helen was a research assistant in a microbiology lab studying the effects of a drug against several bacteria at the University of Rochester in upstate New York. In undergrad, she had the opportunity to volunteer in Honduras with Global Brigades to build a clean water system and a latrine for local villagers in the rural part of the country. She is passionate about serving the underserved population through evidence-based findings.

Monica Charles, MPH, is the Senior Data Analyst. She earned her Master of Public Health from the George Washington University. Before joining LABBN, she worked at the Peace Corps Headquarters Office of Health Services on electronic medical record implementation, training, evaluation, and reporting. In her graduate work she focused on improving health outcomes in underserved populations in the Washington, DC, metro area. Monica is passionate about utilizing IT innovations and data to find evidence-based solutions to public health issues.

Patrick Flippin-Weston, BA, is the Public Health Research Associate and Training Coordinator. With a degree in Psychology, he has worked in the social services field in northern and southern California. Prior to joining LABBN, he was an Outreach Caseworker at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, where he assisted with connecting individuals and families with federal nutrition programs. He also worked at the University of

California, Los Angeles, as a Training Coordinator for the emerging California Hub and Spoke Program. There, he assisted with statewide trainings on the tools, medication, and resources needed to combat the opioid crisis. Patrick is a true believer that knowledge is power and passionately aims to connect individuals and communities with the resources they need to thrive.

Anna Ghukasyan, MP, is the Policy Research Associate. Anna earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Southern California, with an emphasis in Health Services and Policy. In her graduate work, Anna focused on improving access to healthcare services for underserved populations in Los Angeles County through policy and advocacy efforts. Anna is passionate about decreasing rates of adverse childhood experiences among children in Los Angeles County.

Sharlene Gozalians, DrPH, MPH, CHES, is the Director for LA Best Babies Network. Sharlene earned her Master of Public Health in Health Education and Promotion at the University of Southern California; she continued her education to earn her Doctorate in Public Health at Loma Linda University. Her professional background includes working with healthy food access and the built environment issues in Los Angeles County, creating healthy communities, youth empowerment and advocacy, corner store conversions, program planning and evaluation and teaching. Her volunteer experience includes working in Tanzania, Brazil and Armenia addressing prevention, health education and maternal and child health issues. Sharlene's passion for public health addresses the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations.

Kathryn Hodges, BA, is a Public Health Research Associate. Kathryn serves as a part of the Training and Technical Assistance team supporting the Family Strengthening Oversight Entity leadership as they serve and train home visitors. She got her degree in History and dove into advocacy work as the Executive Assistant at a Postpartum Depression Foundation in Chicago. She managed a grant for the Family and Child Health Department in Pittsburgh, coordinating and supporting local strategic efforts to reduce racial inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes. She became a Certified Postpartum Doula and loves finding ways to make new parents feel supported and cared for as they navigate their new role! She is passionate about helping people and believes that parenting was never intended to be a solo sport. She is thrilled to be part of LABBN as they equip and support those who serve families.

Jennifer Jimenez, BS, is a Public Health Research Associate. Jennifer has centered much of her career on supporting the needs of families. Prior to joining LABBN, Jennifer worked as a Service Coordinator at Westside Regional Center, where she was responsible for the case management of over 100 bilingual families with children with disabilities. As a member of the LA Best Babies Network team, she is grateful to be part of such an impactful organization and to be able to support its mission to ensure families have the support necessary to thrive and create healthy and prosperous futures for their children. Jennifer received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Child and Adolescent Development and

plans to pursue a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree.

Jonathan Jimenez, BA, is the Database Trainer and Support Specialist II. Prior to joining LABBN, he was a data analyst for a cloud-based POS company. With a background in volunteer work for immigrant groups and others in need, Jonathan says he is happy to be working for an organization whose mission comports with his passion for helping underserved communities. He earned his degree in Business Management from California State University, Northridge, and hopes to pursue an MBA in the healthcare field in the near future.

Helen Kontorosis, BS is a Communications Specialist. Helen comes from a journalism background, with seven years of experience working in the television news industry, most recently in Sacramento. She has worked behind-the-scenes as a producer, covering crime, political, health, environmental, entertainment, and community-focused stories. She is excited to help further LABBN's mission and use her storytelling skills to showcase the work LABBN is doing. Helen earned her BS in Telecommunication from the University of Florida.

Osvaldo Lopez, BS, is the Database Trainer and Support Specialist I. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration/Management from California State University, Northridge. Previously, at Arroyo Vista Family Health Center, he conducted analyses of regional health care needs and participated in community outreach, social media, and strategic planning — all with the goal of educating underserved community members and connecting them to health care services. Osvaldo has a passion for education and public health, so he is glad to be part of a network that provides this support to mothers and families across Los Angeles County.

Larisa Malek, BS, is the Manager of Operations and Grants. Larisa studied accounting at California State University, Los Angeles, and is responsible for LABBN's financial budget. She works closely with the Director of Administration managing day-to-day operations. Larisa is an innovative and driven accounting professional who is eager to take on new challenges.

Lynnette Marquez, BA, is the Policy Administrative Assistant. Prior to joining LABBN, Lynnette worked as a Health Program Analyst at the L.A. County Department of Public Health and as a Health Educator at a nonprofit focused on lung health. She has experience overseeing the implementation of health education programs and coordinating partnerships with community organizations. She wants to continue to help advance public health outcomes, particularly for underserved and vulnerable communities in L.A. County. Lynnette earned her BA in Public Policy from the University of California, Riverside. She also plans to pursue a Master of Public Health degree.

Laurel Murray, BA, is the Policy Administrative Coordinator. Prior to joining LABBN, she worked as a coordinator in several acute units at California Hospital Medical Center. As a firm believer that the mission of LABBN is incredibly important for the future of Los

Angeles County and for the state of California, she feels fortunate to be part of a team with so much dedication to help the community. She is passionate about improving the quality of care and quality of life for the underserved population of Los Angeles County. She is a southern California native who received her BA in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton.

Steve Nish, MA, is the Manager of Communications and Outreach. With 20 years of experience in the communications field, he has led national and global communications campaigns in education, corporate ethics, and community building. Prior to working with LABBN, he was Senior Editor of the Los Angeles-based Josephson Institute, where he focused on sustainability and ethics in business, and on character development in schools and youth service programs. He did his undergraduate work at University of California, Santa Barbara, and has a master's from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Arcenia Ochoa Vega, MHA, is the Administrative Coordinator. Arcenia is a first-generation Latina college graduate who recently obtained a Masters in Health Administration from the University of La Verne, with a concentration in Public Health. She graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Prior to joining LABBN, she worked as an Administrative Assistant at California Rehabilitation Institute. During her time there, she provided support to management and the Patient Experience team. She also volunteered at four non-profit hospitals during her time as an undergraduate student. She is passionate about giving back to her community and reducing health disparities.

Terrie-May Ruiz, BS, is the Public Health Research Associate and Training Coordinator. She graduated from California Baptist University with a Bachelor Degree in Science and a concentration in Health Education. Prior to working at LABBN, she interned at Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, as a Diabetes Health Educator, helping patients maintain a healthy lifestyle by helping them develop a diabetic-friendly meal plan and by making sure they know how and when to take their medication. She also volunteered at Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center in the postpartum, pediatrics and emergency trauma departments, where she enhanced her practical knowledge and experience in health care. She always wanted to have a career that enabled her to help people in need, and she is grateful to have that opportunity at LABBN.

Faith Soltero, BS, is the Office Coordinator. Faith Soltero received her BS in Public Health at California State University, Sacramento. While she was a student there, she served as the Associated Students Inc.'s Vice President of Finance. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Healthcare Management from California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to joining LABBN, she volunteered in the Maternity department at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. She also interned at Kaiser Permanente, where she helped oversee business operations and project management. Most recently, she worked at the Department of Healthcare Services assisting staff analysts in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program. Faith is passionate about serving her community and is particularly interested in reducing healthcare disparities. She is happy to be working at LA Best Babies Network as

the Office Coordinator and supporting its mission.

Delisa Young, MA, is the Manager of Data and Evaluation. Delisa earned her master's degree in Experimental Psychology from California State University, San Bernardino. Her professional background includes working as a Research Specialist at Five Acres, a child welfare agency that promotes permanency, safety, and well-being for children and families. She supported continuous quality improvement efforts by partnering with the IT department to make the electronic health record system useful for all staff to meet the agency's mission goals, and by providing useful reports to senior leadership to make data-informed decisions. Delisa also has experience conducting health disparities research, which has helped frame her interpretation of data when examining underserved populations. Delisa is passionate about eliminating disparities in health and education, and wants to contribute to this cause by using her research and data skills.

Work 2 Live Well

Teresa McKee, B.S.B.A., M.S., C.M.M.F., served for six years as the Welcome Baby Program Director for PAC/LAC, one of the Family Strengthening Oversight Entities, and has since continued as CEO of Work2Live, serving on the FSOE and providing staff training and leadership and team development. Teresa is a transformation coach and certified meditation facilitator. She brings over 30 years' experience in managing projects, organizations, programs and personnel to the program. Combining her experience with a B.S. in Business Administration and an M.S. in Psychology, specializing in Leadership Coaching, Teresa integrates behavioral science and complimentary alternative methods with results-oriented processes to help individuals and teams achieve their goals. In addition to her coaching and training work, she produces a weekly podcast on mindfulness and administers a coaching certification program. She is the Secretary/Treasurer for the My Stuff Bags Foundation and volunteers for Maternal Mental Health NOW. Her new book, *Dynamic Response Ability*, is set to be published in 2020.

Melissa Sims is the social media and Web Manager for Work2Live Well. She is also one of our workshop contributors and a guest writer for our blog. She brings over 8 years of experience in social media management, and has written numerous guest pieces for various industries, including travel, real estate and yoga. Melissa is also a Certified Yoga Teacher, and sometimes brings yoga into our workshops. Melissa's focus is on mindful meditation, breath work, and asana. Melissa is currently exploring the many facets of yoga, including yoga therapy, the chakras, the application of sound energy, and the practice of pre-natal and post-natal yoga.