



children
atRisk

88th Legislative Debrief

July 20, 2023 | 11:00 AM ET | 10:00AM CT | 8:00AM PT

Agenda

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Dr. Bob Sanborn – President & CEO, CHILDREN AT RISK

Dr. Sanborn is a noted leader, advocate, and activist for education and children and the President and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK. He earned his undergraduate degree at Florida State University and his doctorate at Columbia University in New York City. Before entering the non-profit sector, he had a distinguished career in higher education at institutions such as Rice University and Hampshire College. Under his leadership, CHILDREN AT RISK has expanded its influence considerably. Notable achievements include opening

centers in Dallas and Fort Worth; launching the Public Policy & Law Center, the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute, the Center for Parenting and Family Well-Being and the Center to End Trafficking and Exploitation of Children. Sanborn is the Executive Editor of two peer reviewed, open-access academic journals, the Journal of Applied Research on Children and the Journal of Family Strengths. He is also the host of the popular radio program and podcast Growing Up in America on the Pacifica Radio Network.



Mandi Kimball – Vice President and Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, CHILDREN AT RISK

Mandi Sheridan Kimball has been advocating for Texas' children since 2004. In January 2006, she became CHILDREN AT RISK's Public Policy Analyst and quickly made her way to Director. She received her Master's in Social Work from the University of Houston and received her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from St. Edwards in Austin, Texas. Social justice is a priority on Mandi's advocacy agenda. Her experience and knowledge of the Texas Legislature has assisted her efforts in achieving quality care and services to

Texas' most vulnerable youth in the areas of early education, human trafficking, juvenile justice/mental health, public education, and food insecurity. Mandi oversees the Public Policy and Law Center's advocacy efforts, all policy briefs and bills drafted and filed by the Center, and provides expert testimony to support positive policy changes. Mandi is highly active within communities in Texas and serves in leadership capacities on multiple local and state coalitions. In 2011, Mandi received the University of Houston Graduate College Of Social Work Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Furthermore, Mandi works to build coalitions with community stakeholders, business stakeholders, non-profits, and service providers, to ensure a united front of child advocates.



Kim Kofron – Director of Early Childhood Education, CHILDREN AT RISK

Kim Kofron is the Director of Early Childhood for Children at Risk. Previously, she served as the Executive Director for the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children from 2014-2021. She hails from the great state of Illinois receiving her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from the University of Illinois but found her way to Texas where she received her Master's in Education in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Texas. Ms. Kofron has worked in many capacities in early childhood, working in both for-profit and non-profit child care settings as a 3-year-old teacher to Director to Manager of Education for a multi-site statewide child care company in Texas. Kofron has served on Governor Perry's Commission on Licensing Standards and currently serves on Governor Abbott's Texas Early Learning Council.



Paige Duggins-Clay, J.D., Chief Legal Analyst, IDRA

Paige coordinates IDRA's legal research and strategy, expert testimony, and amicus curiae advocacy to elevate the voices of students and coalition partners. Her work builds on IDRA's almost 50-year legacy of support to families, educators and their attorneys seeking education justice through the courts. Ms. Duggins-Clay also leads IDRA's policy advocacy related to school discipline and policing in Texas. Prior to joining IDRA, Ms. Duggins-Clay worked as an associate at Husch Blackwell LLP, where she handled litigation, investigations, training, and compliance on behalf of education institutions, with a focus on equity and organizational response to misconduct. In 2019, she was named a "Top 20 Up and Coming Lawyer" by the Austin Black Business Journal.



Sharon Watkins Jones, Chief Equity Officer, CHILDREN AT RISK

Sharon's career has included positions of leadership in public affairs and higher education administration. She is a former Director of Political Strategies at ACLU of Texas and Director of Career and Technical Education at Lone Star College System. She is also owner of WatkinsJones political consulting. Sharon was born and raised in Waco, Texas and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin. Sharon volunteers extensively. She is an advocate for GirlTrek, a black women's wellness organization. She is a life member of NAACP, a member of The Links, Inc., Texas Spring Cypress Chapter and has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Inc. for 35 years.



Jamie Olson, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Feeding Texas

As Director of Policy & Advocacy, Jamie focuses on federal and state policies around food, nutrition and economic development. Previously Jamie worked as Policy Analyst and as Supply Chain Manager for Feeding Texas and as Senior Program Associate at the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. Along with a diverse background in both the non-profit and public sectors, Jamie holds a Master of Global Policy Studies with a specialization in Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Texas at Austin and

a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Temple University.



Claire Bocchini, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine

Claire Bocchini is the Associate Director for Advocacy Education at the Center for Child Health Policy and Advocacy and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Section of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Bocchini's research focuses on incorporating screening for social determinants of health (SDH) into routine pediatric care. Additionally, Dr. Bocchini leads the advocacy

training program for residents through the Center. She coordinates the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM)/ Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) pediatric resident advocacy curriculum and mentors several of the residents in scholarly activities focused on child health advocacy. She has co-authored multiple online educational modules on advocacy for the Texas Pediatrics Society. Dr. Bocchini has also mentored residents in authoring policy briefs on obesity prevention and wellness promotion and draft bills. She is one of the founding members of Doctors for Change, a 501c3 organization that works with communities and schools to implement programs that result in improved access to health care and improved wellness.



Becky Calahan, Director, Philanthropy Advocates,

Becky leads Philanthropy Advocates members through the Texas policy & advocacy process, uplifting members' interests and amplifying shared priorities to ensure the successes and lessons learned in philanthropic giving are scaled through state policy. Becky has experience in both the nonprofit and policy fields. She started her career as a graduate assistant at the Greater Texas Foundation, then worked in the Texas Legislature for a member of the Texas House

Committee on Public Education and the Texas House Committee on Appropriations, Article III Subcommittee.

Becky grew up in a military family, attending several states' public schools as her family frequently moved around the country. Her childhood educational experiences, coupled with her time as a volunteer English teacher in Paris during a university study abroad, led Becky to her

passion for education issues. She believes that high quality education - from cradle to career- is foundational to a prosperous and peaceful society.



Patrick Brophey, Chief Operating Officer, North Texas Commission

Brophey oversees the day-to-day management of the NTC office and team. He continues to serve as a leader and registered lobbyist on the Commission's lobby team and as a NTC board liaison. For the last 3 years, Brophey has been an integral member of the NTC team and continues to show his expectational leadership and management efforts. Patrick graduated Texas Christian University in 2018 where he studied Communication and

Political Science. Patrick has experience in government and politics on the local, state, and federal levels from working in legislative offices and on local and congressional Campaigns in Dallas-Fort Worth.



Kelsey Erickson Streufert, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Texas Restaurant Association

Kelsey is a licensed attorney and Texas Capitol veteran serving as the Chief Public Affairs Officer for the Texas Restaurant Association (TRA). The TRA represents the state's \$70 billion foodservice industry with more than 50,000 locations and 1.3 million jobs across Texas.

Kelsey joined the TRA at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, making quick work of her experience to drive recovery efforts at the local, state, and federal levels. Under her leadership, the TRA helped to safely reopen restaurant dining rooms, secured the cocktails to-go regulatory waiver, and partnered with Texas' federal delegation to pass the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act—creating a critical lifeline for businesses across the country.



Jason Sabo, Founder, Frontera Strategy

Jason Sabo is the founder of Frontera Strategy. Jason has led and assisted efforts to pass legislation and secure appropriations at state capitols across the country for more than two decades. Jason knows the issues and politics important to nonprofits and philanthropy, and he knows how to win. He holds a master's degree in History from Indiana University.

Thank you to our partners!



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