

Joint Meeting of the RAISE Family Caregiving and Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Advisory Councils

July 29, 2026

Speaker Bios



Ana Beltran is an attorney and director of the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network, the only federally funded national technical assistance center on the families. For over twenty-five years, Beltran has worked on the array of issues impacting kinship/grandfamilies, providing technical assistance and training to government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the legal community. She is also a prolific writer who has authored many articles, reports, and resources to support the families. In a joint collaboration, Beltran co-authored the first set of comprehensive National Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards on which the federal government “relied heavily” and was part of a team that created the Kin-Specific Foster Home Approval

Standards. She is also currently serving as an appointed member of the federal Advisory Council on Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Prior to joining Generations United in 1999, Beltran worked in all three branches of the federal government and was a practicing attorney. She found her true passion when she began supporting kinship families. Beltran credits this passion to her amazing grandma who helped raise her.



Jonathan Cottor is CEO/founder of the National Center for Pediatric Palliative Care Homes. He previously co-founded Ryan House, a successful freestanding respite, palliative, and hospice care home in Phoenix, Arizona. Proud dad of a son diagnosed with a rare disease who lived for 17 years, Cottor focuses on championing support for medically fragile children and their families. While these families make up a small percentage of the population and often get missed in policy discussions and health care priorities, he believes that solutions developed to meet their needs can have a broader impact. Cottor’s experience as a caregiver to his son informed the support he gave during his father’s recent dementia and hospice journey.

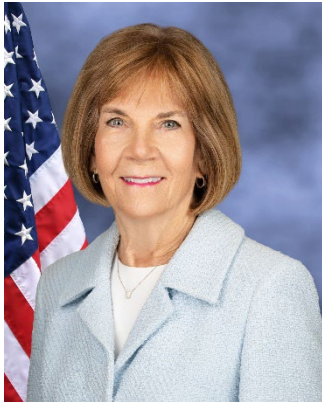


Elizabeth Field joined the Elizabeth Dole Foundation in February 2024 as its first Chief Operating Officer. Prior to that, she served as a Senior Executive Director in the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Defense Capabilities and Management Team, where she led a broad body of work related to military quality-of-life issues, as well as defense management, business operations, and reform. A recognized expert on the Department of Defense, she has testified several times before Congress, and her work has been featured by various news outlets, including National Public Radio, CNN, and The New York Times. Before joining GAO in September 2017, Ms. Field served as Chief of Staff and Senior

Advisor to the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. Ms. Field also previously served as Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Inspections at the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, which was charged by Congress with conducting audits, inspections, and investigations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Afghanistan reconstruction effort and to detect and deter waste, fraud, and abuse. Ms. Field's first tenure with GAO lasted from 2002-2010, during which she worked primarily as a Senior Analyst in the International Affairs and Trade Team and conducted fieldwork in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. From 2000-2001, she served as a Jacob K. Javits Fellow on the Public Health Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ms. Field holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Duke University and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Davidson College, where she graduated cum laude. The proud daughter of an Army veteran, she lives in Washington, D.C. with her two sons, Graham and Henry (a West Point cadet), and their rescue dog, Maisie.



Nikaela Frederick is an Aging Services Program Specialist at the Administration for Community Living's Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services, overseeing grants and contracts under Title III-E of the Older Americans Act. She brings over ten years of experience across the Georgia Aging Network at the local, regional, and state levels, including roles in wellness programming, information and referral, and policy advocacy. Prior to joining ACL in 2024, she served as Deputy Director of the Georgia Council on Aging. Nikaela holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Spanish from Emory University and a Master of Public Health in Gerontology and Health Promotion & Behavior from the University of Georgia.



Mary Lazare is the principal deputy administrator, serving as the senior official performing the duties of the ACL administrator and assistant secretary for aging. She was sworn in on March 3, 2025, returning to the ACL following service from 2017-2021.

Throughout a career focused on improving the health and well-being of people with disabilities and older adults, Mary has led social services and health care systems in building partnerships across industries and all levels of government, modernizing system infrastructure and leveraging new technology, and creating opportunities for innovation in order to better meet the needs of the

people they serve.

During her prior tenure at ACL, Mary led the agency's overall day-to-day operations and spearheaded several key initiatives, including an interagency task force focused on expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities; a public-private partnership to prevent social isolation; and cross-sector collaboration to align health care and aging and disability services to improve health outcomes and reduce costs. Before joining ACL, she served as Vice President for Home and Community-Based Services for Lutheran Senior Services, overseeing the operations of home health, hospice, and private duty services to improve patient outcomes and developed partnerships among aging services, health care systems and providers to better meet the individual needs of older adults. In earlier roles, she served as Vice President of Senior Care Facilities and Community Health Ministries at Ascension Health, Vice-President of Senior Services and Home Care Services at BJC Health Care, and Executive Director for the Jewish Center for the Aged. She also has served on the board of the Mid-East Area Agency on Aging Foundation of St Louis, the Continuum of Care Committee of the Catholic Health Association, the American Hospital Association Governing Council for Post-Acute Care Services, and a number of other civic and professional organizations.

Mary received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri, a master's degree in gerontology from Lindenwood University, and a Master of Business Administration and Management from Maryville University of Saint Louis.



Todd Lloyd Todd Lloyd is a senior policy associate with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's External Affairs division, where he serves in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Policy Unit. He helps lead national policy and systems reform strategies to strengthen outcomes for children, youth and families. His work focuses on advancing kinship care, family well-being, foster care reform, and successful transitions to adulthood for young people leaving foster care.

Lloyd works with state and national partners to translate research, innovation, and lived expertise into public policy and systems change. He has helped lead several national child welfare policy initiatives, has testified before Congress on child welfare policy, and develops policy resources and implementation strategies used by policymakers and advocates nationwide.

Before joining Casey, Lloyd served as child welfare policy director at Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and previously held leadership positions with the University of Pittsburgh's Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center and York County Children and Youth Services. He has dedicated nearly 30 years to strengthening public systems that improve outcomes for children and families.



Keith Lowhorne is the Founder and Board Chair of Grandparents As Parents (GAP), an Alabama nonprofit organization that supports grandparents, kinship caregivers, and other relatives raising children. Drawing from his own lived experience as a grandparent raising two grandchildren, along with his wife Edie, he has become a national advocate for grandfamilies through public policy, program development, and community engagement. Following a 43-year career in broadcast journalism, Keith has helped lead GAP's growth into a statewide resource, providing advocacy, education, peer support, and direct assistance to thousands of families. He serves on the Federal Advisory Council Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, is a lived experience consultant with the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), a member of the

Grand Voice Network for Generations United and has contributed to state and national initiatives focused on improving outcomes for grandfamilies and kinship caregivers.



Rani E. Snyder, MPA, is president of The John A. Hartford Foundation, a national philanthropy dedicated to improving care for older adults by creating health systems that are age-friendly, supporting family caregivers, and improving serious illness and end-of-life care. With over 25 years in health philanthropy, she has driven national movements that have transformed care delivery, influenced policy and enhanced medical education. As JAHF's acting president and vice president of program, Rani oversaw more than \$220 million in grantmaking and built strategic partnerships with foundations and federal agencies to scale impactful initiatives. She previously held leadership roles at the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, and she has served on numerous aging-focused boards and committees. She is currently a board member of the American Society on Aging and serves on a board committee for MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital in Maine. Rani holds an MPA from NYU and has dedicated her career to fostering collaboration and innovation to improve health outcomes for older adults and support for their family caregivers.



Jonathan S. Westin, MPA, is an Aging Services Program Specialist with the Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Community Living (ACL). Over the past two decades, Jon has developed a strong track record in the long-term services and supports policy arena as a reliable source for the non-profit sector, government officials, and thought leaders on aging services delivery and financing reform.

Before joining ACL, Jon delivered strategic guidance to networks of health and aging providers and has worked with appointed and elected officials on pragmatic ways to improve the nation's health and aging delivery systems.

Jon received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and his Master of Public Administration from American University in Washington, DC. For over a decade, he has been a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance which is comprised of the nation's leading professionals on programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Jon is also the past Chair of the Partnership for Medicaid, a prominent national coalition focused on improving the nation's largest health insurance program.



Jennifer Wolff is the Eugene and Mildred Lipitz Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where she directs the Roger and Flo Lipitz Center to Advance Policy in Aging and Disability and co-directs the NIA-funded Hopkins Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Services Center and a cross-school T32 training program Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations. Dr. Wolff's research focuses on the care of persons with complex health needs and disabilities and applied studies and initiatives directed at better supporting them and their family caregivers within systems of care. She is a voting member of the RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council.



Carol Zernial, M.A., Executive Director of the WellMed Charitable Foundation and brings more than 30 years of leadership in aging and caregiver support. She is a former family caregiver for her 94-year-old father, a mother with Alzheimer's disease, and an older sister with cancer—experiences that inform her advocacy for policies that expand workplace flexibility and strengthen supports for family caregivers. Ms. Zernial works nationally to elevate the voices of family caregivers and those receiving care, and to advance implementation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. She brings a distinctive combination of lived experience and policy expertise to her service. This is her second term on the council.