



Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Meeting

November 16, 2021

Speakers Biographies

Administration for Community Living



Alison Barkoff
Acting Administrator & Assistant Secretary for Aging

Alison Barkoff was sworn into office as the Principal Deputy Administrator on January 20, 2021, and currently is serving as Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging. In this capacity, she provides executive direction, leadership, guidance and coordination for ACL programs nationwide and advises the HHS Secretary on issues affecting individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Ms. Barkoff comes to ACL from the Center for Public Representation, where she served as Director of Advocacy. In that position, she led policy advocacy with federal agencies and Congress and legal advocacy nationally to advance community living and inclusion, including in the areas of healthcare, Medicaid home- and community-based services, employment, housing, and education. She led and participated in numerous coalitions with disability and aging organizations, including as co-chair of the Long-Term Services and Supports Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities. She has testified before Congress and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on disability rights and was appointed to serve on the federal Advisory Committee for Competitive Integrated Employment of People with Disabilities.

Ms. Barkoff previously served as Director of Advocacy at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, where she worked on a range of disability, healthcare, education and civil rights issues. In earlier government roles, she served as Special Counsel for Olmstead

Enforcement in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, leading efforts to enforce the rights of people with disabilities to live, work and fully participate in their communities. She also worked with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the Department of Health and Human Services on policies related to Medicaid home- and community-based services and with the Department of Labor on issues affecting the workforce providing in-home services. She is a sibling to an adult brother with developmental disabilities and been involved in disability advocacy her entire life. She received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University and her Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law.



Greg Link, MA
Director of the Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services

Greg Link is the Director of the Office of Supportive and Caregiver Services with the Administration for Community Living/U.S. Administration on Aging, which oversees programs funded under the Older Americans Act (OAA), including Title III-B in-home supportive services, Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program as well as ACL's Alzheimer's disease programs. Greg and his team also provide general oversight and technical assistance to the aging network on a range of program areas, including Information and Referral, family caregiver support programs and policies, housing, employment, transportation, LGBT aging, and Holocaust Survivors.

Before coming to ACL/AoA, Greg worked at the National Association of State Units on Aging where he provided technical assistance and training to states on family care giving, consumer direction, and transportation. Greg has also worked at the community level as a case manager and social services manager at Senior Friendship Centers in Fort Myers, Florida. There, he oversaw the social services staff and the delivery of services funded by the Older Americans Act, state funds and Medicaid waivers.

Greg holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Arts in Government from Johns Hopkins University.



Jaia Peterson Lent
Deputy Executive Director at Generations United

Jaia Peterson Lent is the Deputy Executive Director at Generations United where she has worked since 2000. Generations United's mission is to improve the lives of children, youth and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs. Lent oversees the work of the National Center on Grandfamilies, a leading voice for families headed by grandparents or other relatives. She is a trusted voice on Capitol Hill on issues related to grandfamilies and intergenerational cohesion, having testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and in several briefings. She serves as co-chair of the federal Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. She is a sought-after speaker, nationally recognized columnist and blogger and respected media resource who has been quoted multiple media outlets including the Washington Post, U.S. News and World Report, and the Associated Press. In 2017 Lent was named one of the Top 50 Influencers in Aging by *Next Avenue*.

National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families



Donna Butts
Executive Director of Generations United

Donna Butts is the Executive Director of Generations United, a position she has held since 1997. Generations United's mission is to improve the lives of children, youth and older adults through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs for the enduring benefit of all. Previously she served in leadership positions at several youth serving organizations including the YWCA, National 4-H Council, and Covenant House. An internationally known speaker, author and advocate, Butts frequently addresses intergenerational connections, grandparents raising grandchildren and policies effective across the lifespan. She has served on five United Nations expert panels on intergenerational and family issues. She served as an at large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging and attended the 2015 conference. Butts is a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She was recognized three years in a row by *The Nonprofit Times* as one of the Top 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit executives in the US. In 2015 she was named one of the Top 50 Influencers in Aging by *Next Avenue*. Butts serves on several boards including the Journal of Intergenerational Relations. Under her leadership, Generations United received the 2015 Eisner Prize for

Excellence in Intergenerational. In 2017 she was honored by the International Federation for Family Development.



Ana Beltran
Director of the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families at Generations United

Ana Beltran is director of the National Technical Assistance Center on Grandfamilies and Kinship Families at Generations United. For over twenty years, Beltran has worked with Generations United on the array of issues impacting grandfamilies, providing in-person technical assistance and training to state agencies, legislatures, nonprofit organizations, and legal providers in over 35 states and virtual technical assistance in almost all 50. 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.” She obtained her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Indiana University, her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and is admitted to the bar in Maryland (inactive), Washington, D.C., and Washington State. 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 helping support grandfamilies. Beltran credits this passion to her amazing grandma who helped raise her.



Virginia Bell
Senior Research Analyst
Civility Management Solutions

Virginia Bell is currently a Senior Research Analyst with Civility Management Solutions. She has eight years of project management experience as a consultant with a healthcare information technology vendor, where she directed many hospitals through the process of meeting quality requirements for CMS and Joint Commission. Before that Virginia, worked as a Health Information Manager/Director for several hospitals in the Baltimore area, leading numerous projects at the corporate level.