
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME Christy S. Blakely Christy@familyVoicesco.org	POSITION TITLE Executive Director of Family Voices CO
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EDUCATION/TRAINING - *Certified Nursing Assistant, State of Colorado, license*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
Purdue University	B.S.	1979	Elementary Education
Purdue University	M.S.	1980	Special Education

A. Personal Statement.

Executive Director, Family Voices CO, a chapter of the national advocacy organization, which provides services for families of Children with Special Health Care Needs. Family Voices CO is a state-wide organization which helps families: navigate healthcare systems, find providers, provides information about available community services, interacts with their child's education team, assists the family to advocate for their child, and works to create a medical home. We assist families to navigate their private insurance and apply for public assistance as appropriate.

Christy and her husband, Todd have two adult daughters. Our first, was born prematurely and has Cerebral Palsy, is non-verbal and uses a communication device, she lives with her significant other who also has CP. Christy has navigated both personally and professionally in the world of both insurance and Medicaid for over 30 years.

Currently I am involved with several organizations, which serve families. I convene the Children's with Disabilities Advisory for HCPF. As the parent of an adult with disabilities, I am very familiar with services having a unique perspective as both a parent and professional.

Positions and Honors

Additional professional activities	January 2020-to date	Family Voices of Colorado, Executive Director
	June 2013-January 2020	Retired
	Aug. 2000 – May 2013	Family Voices of Colorado, Executive Director Denver, CO 450 Lincoln Street Suite 100, Denver, CO 80203 303-733-3000 xt 101

Executive Director, Family Voices Colorado

- Family Voices CO has been a Chapter of the National Family Voices organization since 2001. This organization advocates for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) throughout Colorado. Over the past

nine years, I have been involved in developing a statewide presence for Family Voices in Colorado. This work blends the parent perspective with professional partnership on behalf of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. The components of this job include: administrative duties, non profit management skills, identifying systemic barriers and navigation of systems serving vulnerable populations and making recommendations on policy initiatives. I have actively participated in the legislative process, from drafting bills to working collaboratively with state legislators to find consensus on tough issues facing Colorado's most vulnerable populations. Family Voices CO is often the only voice speaking for children on Medicaid Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Waivers. Family Voices directly assists families to navigate the private and public health systems. FVCO also provides education and training to families, professionals, case managers, and other professionals on health services, documenting health needs, eligibility, language and other service system barriers families encounter as well as information on their benefits. Family Voices CO is a viable organization today, because of the strong relationships built with agencies and other providers. FVCO provides a parent's perspective on committees and policies such as: Medical Home, Family Centered Care, Home and Community Based Service Waivers, EPSDT, Long Term Care, Home Health Care, Developmental Disabilities and Social Security Income is important and often a missing component. Family Voices has two toll free phone line, a hotline for providers to call for resources, a website and serves the entire State of Colorado.

July 1998 - Aug. 2000 Health Care Policy and Financing Denver, CO

Parent Advocate, The Safety Net Project

1993 This position was the first parent advocate position in the country to place a parent, of a child with a disability, within Medicaid. Funded under Robert Woods Johnson, Health Care Strategies. This grant ended July 31, 2000.. The components of this job included: identifying systemic concerns and making recommendations in policy changes, assisting families to navigate the Medicaid and managed care systems, educate/train families, professionals, case managers, on EPSDT and its benefits. Provide a parent's perspective on committees and policies such as: SB 101, Medicaid Waivers, EPSDT, Home Health Care, and Chronic Care Nursing Programs within the HMO's.

October 1995 - July 1998 Denver, CO

Coordinator, Project Participate Outreach, JFK Child Development Center, University of Colorado Health Sciences

Center

1994

April 1994 - October 1995 Lakewood, CO

Interim Director, Center for Adapted Technology, Easter Seal, Colorado

March 1994 - October 1995

Lakewood, CO

Coordinator of Assistive Technology Services, National Easter Seal, Society

February 1992 - April 1994

Lakewood, CO

Technology Specialist, Center for Adapted Technology, Easter Seal, Colorado

August 1991 - March 1992

Littleton, CO

Littleton Public School, Long Term Substitute, Speech-Language Specialist and Resource Teacher

Special Services Advisory Committee, Littleton Public Schools, (1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997)

Personal Experiences

Christy and husband, Todd are the proud parents of two daughters, Allison (37), a producer at CNN, Atlanta and Lauren (38). Lauren is an adult with significant physical disabilities. Lauren married a young man with significant physical disabilities and moved into a townhome. While Christy had higher education degrees in special education when her daughter was born, she learned far more as a parent. Over the years, Christy has teamed with insurance companies, doctors, schools, advocates, professionals, therapists, hospital staff, and state agencies to improve policies and practices on behalf of children with disabilities. She has learned and shared her learning in parent leadership, assistive technology, service systems, insurance, policy, law and most importantly resources and funding with many people around the State of Colorado and the country.

Christy has work nationally with the National Initiative for Child Health Quality (NICHQ) as a faculty on both a Medical Home Learning Collaborative and an Epilepsy Collaborative. She has also worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics on the concept of Medical Home. Whether through her work in health policy or supporting an individual family to navigate today's complex health system, Christy's passion is to build parent leaders for the future.

Awards & Accomplishments

CIVHC (Center for Improving Value in Health Care), Board member 2015-2023

HRSA /MCHB Block grant reviewer 2016

Governor Appointed to Medical Services Board, 2013-2020 (Chair)

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, board member

National Epilepsy Foundation- Project Access Co-chair 2011-2014

NICHQ, National Initiatives for Children's Healthcare Quality, Family Leader, Outstanding Achievement Award, March 2009,

ECCS Coiin, Family Engagement Faculty 2016-2021

Developmental Disability Definition Workgroup, 2008

Parent Faculty, NICHQ, NICU Learning Collaborative, 2008-2009

Colorado Division of Insurance Consumer Council, appointee. 2008-2013

National Center for Project Access Advisory Committee, Epilepsy 2008-2009

Chair, Long-term Care Options Board of Directors (2008-2011)
Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) Training Certificate 2008
Commissioner, Blue Ribbon 208 Health Reform Commission in Colorado (2006-08)
Chair, Evaluation subcommittee, 208 Health Reform Commission
Co-Chair, Vulnerable Populations Task force, 208 Health Reform Commission
Project Coordinator, Family Centered Care Project, this project will develop indicators to assess the level of Family Centeredness, Contract with Family Voices National and American Academy of Pediatrics (currently 2007)
Faculty, National Child Health Quality, Epilepsy Learning Collaborative (2005-6)
Board of Directors, Family Voices national organization in New Mexico (2007-2010)
Leadership Program, Community Resource Center, 2007
Recipient of a Developmental Pathways achievement award for policy work in Colorado, March 2006
Recipient of the Francis T Ishida Award for excellence in customer service to beneficiaries of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (2005)
Faculty, National Child Health Quality, Medical Home Learning Collaborative (2004-5) Presenter, AAP Conference for Pediatric Advocates in Early Education and Child Care (2005)
Presenter, *Parent and Professional Partnerships*, CATCH, Medical Home AAP conference (2004 & 2008)
Fellow, Big Horn Health Policy Institute (2004-5)
Family Centered Care Committee MCHB, AAP & Family Voices (2006)
Medicaid (CMS) to create a Family to Family Health Information Center (2003-6)
Presenter, Part C, Funding Hierarchy Training, Statewide 2004-2007
Presenter, *Family Friendly Data Collection*, Maternal Child Health (2003)
Presenter, *Key Partners*, Family Voices National Conference (2003)
Trainer, Medicaid's new ULTC100.2 eligibility Tool (2003-4 statewide)