

CIS INSTITUTE 2025 PRESENTERS

**JAYNE
SINGER**



Keynote, Morning, Afternoon



About Jayne

Jayne Singer (she, her), PhD, IECMH-E®, is a clinical psychologist with over 40 years of experience in hospital, school, and community-based settings. At Boston Children's Hospital (BCH), she provides evaluation and treatment for families and children aged birth throughout childhood with medical, developmental, emotional, behavioral, and familial challenges including trauma. She is Past President of the Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health. At BCH, she co-launched an early detection of autism program and the Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Program. She is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and an International Facilitator of the Brazelton Touchpoints Approach and the Newborn Behavioral Observations (NBO) system.

At BTC, Jayne spearheaded the Early Care and Education Initiative as an adaptation of the Touchpoints Approach to infuse preventive social-emotional health into early education. This developed into the Tribal Touchpoints Initiative as well as the Office of Head Start National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. She also created adaptations of the Touchpoints Approach for families living with children with developmental challenges and for families living in the context of substance use disorder recovery, as well as for mental health practitioners. She is the primary author of the Touchpoints in Early Care and Education Reference Guide and the Touchpoints in Reflective Practice guides for practitioners and mentors.

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ERIN
BARTON

Morning, Afternoon



About Erin

Erin E. Barton, PhD, BCBA-D, is an international educational consultant, Faculty and Director of Research and Development for the Pyramid Model Consortium, and founder of Barton Consulting, LLC. She has worked as both a special education teacher and a university professor. As a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Dr. Barton leads research on evidence-based practices for young children, high-quality inclusion, and effective professional development systems. She is the Editor of Topics in Early Childhood Special Education and a Past President of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Dr. Barton's professional focus is on creating environments where each and every child feels loved, valued, and a true sense of belonging—and where the adults who care for them feel supported, confident, and well. A prolific scholar, she has authored over 120 peer-reviewed publications, numerous book chapters, and several textbooks focused on early childhood special education. She has received numerous honors, including the 2021 Peabody Faculty Excellence Award for Service to Students and the 2020 Chancellor's Faculty Fellowship at Vanderbilt University. She was also recognized with the 2019 Merle B. Karnes Award for Service to DEC and the 2017 Distinguished Early Career Research Award from the Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children.

CIS INSTITUTE 2025 PRESENTERS

**SARA
BENHAM**

Morning, Afternoon



About Sara

Sara (she, her) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Vermont. She is a licensed speech-language pathologist and researcher specializing in children's speech sound production and word learning in toddlers and preschoolers. She runs the Language Learning Lab and conducts NIH-funded research related to late-talking toddlers.

**MOLLY
BUMPASS**

Morning



About Molly

Molly (she, her) is a Clinical assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Before coming to UVM, Molly worked in the field of autism in varying capacities and settings, including clinics, homes, and schools. She served on an Autism Clinical Team in South Burlington Schools for ten years providing consultation and training to professional and para-professional staff. Most recently she was a Program Director at SD Associates, a behavior consultation company, where she started an intensive early intervention program.

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**ALYSSA
CAMPBELL**

Morning, Afternoon



About Alyssa

Alyssa Blask Campbell (she, her), M.Ed., is the CEO and founder of Seed & Sew and a globally recognized expert in emotional development. She co-created and researched the Collaborative Emotion Processing (CEP) method, transforming how adults support children's emotions. Her bestselling book, *Tiny Humans, Big Emotions*, shares this research, and her second book, *Big Kids, Bigger Feelings*, is publishing with HarperCollins in 2025. Alyssa hosts the *Voices of Your Village* podcast and created a professional development program for early childhood educators with unlimited, free coaching support from experts in education. She speaks worldwide for organizations like UNESCO and has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *CNBC*, and *Vermont Public*.

**TRICIA
CASSI**

Afternoon



About Tricia

Tricia Cassi (she, her) is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and the State Breastfeeding Coordinator for Vermont WIC. She has experience teaching breastfeeding classes and supporting parents with lactation challenges in WIC clinic and an outpatient breastfeeding clinic. Her passion lies in presenting breastfeeding trainings for WIC staff and Breastfeeding Peer Counselors, and mentoring the Peer Counselors as they support WIC participants with lactation challenges.

CIS INSTITUTE 2025 PRESENTERS

**ELLEN
DROLLETT**

Morning, Afternoon



About Ellen

Ellen brings over 30 years of experience to the early childhood field. Ellen is passionate about advocating for children, families, and the early childhood workforce. Ellen has had many roles in the ECE profession, including owning a family child care program, being a Global Leader with the World Forum Foundation, and authoring several articles for Exchange Magazine. Her first book, *Overcoming Teacher Burnout in Early Childhood: Strategies for Change*, was published by Redleaf Press in 2018. Her second book will be published in October, 2025. Ellen's side gig is owning Positive Spin VT, LLC, where she does keynotes and professional development focusing on a variety of topics, including appreciative inquiry, growth-mindset, strategies for overcoming stress and burnout, and change management. Ellen now works for Seed and Sew; Seed and Sew's mission is to support teachers and families with the tools for regulation and connection, helping children thrive and build resilience.

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NICOLE
HAUSE

Afternoon



About Nicole

Noelle Hause is the Senior Professional Development (PD) Manager, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, for ZERO TO THREE's Professional Innovations. In this role, she works with a team to support the delivery of ZERO TO THREE's PD products and services.

Specifically, Noelle leads and coordinates the delivery of DC:0-5™ Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-5™) and other infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) related national and international PD offerings.

Noelle, a licensed clinical provider, completed a postdoctoral Irving Harris Child Development and Infant Mental Health Fellowship in 2011. She is trained in multiple evidence-based interventions and holds an Infant Mental Health Mentor - Clinical endorsement (Endorsement® for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health - IMH-E ®).

In addition to her clinical work, Noelle brings experience in reflective supervision and consultation. Her experience in developing training for professionals and student learning through higher education (in-person and virtual), focuses on growing capacity for families, professionals, and systems to support infant and early mental health. She has provided consultation across the early childhood field including home visiting, nursing, perinatal mental health, judicial, child welfare and fostering, and more.

Noelle is passionate about identifying opportunities for improving the capacity of caregivers, early childhood professionals, organizations, communities, and systems to provide quality mental health supports and early childhood education for infants and young children. She is committed to translating research into practice and using practice to inform research.

CIS INSTITUTE 2025

PRESENTERS

**CHERI
KEITH**

Afternoon



About Cheri

Cheri (she, her) has worked within the designated mental health system in school, home, community, residential, and center-based settings for over 13 years and currently provides consultation services through a private practice. Cheri holds master's degrees in Education and Clinical Mental Health Counseling and has maintained her credential as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst since 2016. Throughout her career, Cheri has focused on specialty areas such as behavioral pediatrics and behavior based feeding disorders, developmental disabilities, trauma, and organizational behavior management. Previously, Cheri served as a mentor through Spectrum Youth and Family Services and as Chair for Vermont's Association for Behavior Analysis.

**KATY
LEFFEL**

Afternoon



About Katy

Katy Leffel (she, her) is a nurse and lactation consultant in the Family and Child Health Division of the VDH. She focuses on perinatal quality improvement, maternal mortality and perinatal substance use. She continues her work of over 13 years in home health, providing breastfeeding support and nurse home visiting with Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice on a per diem basis. She is also active on the boards of the Family Center of Washington County and the Vermont Donor Milk Center.

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PRESENTERS

**LORI
MEYER**

Morning



About Lori

Lori Erbrederis Meyer (she, her) is an Associate Professor who teaches Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education courses in the Special Education program at the University of Vermont. As a publicly engaged interdisciplinary researcher, Dr. Meyer's scholarship focuses on young children's physical development, disparities in developmental screening, and equitable early childhood policies and practices for inclusion. A key aspect of her collaborative work is developing policy and practice solutions that are co-created by and through the active involvement of diverse families and community members. Dr. Meyer aims to improve early childhood outcomes and remove structural and systemic barriers that create disparities for marginalized young children and their families.

**SCOTTIE
TAYLOR**

Morning, Afternoon



About Scottie

Hi folks! My name is Scottie Taylor, my pronouns are they/them, and I am excited to share and learn with you! I earned my Doctorate in Physical Therapy from UVM in 2011, after knowing most of my life I wanted to support and impact children and families in Vermont. I've been working in and around Chittenden County, advocating for inclusion, belonging, and child led learning in a variety of settings, including Early Intervention and Early Education Centers. I strive to look at learning and education from an entirely different lens, making space for all learners, and providing the best tools to our early educators so they can work their magic and support our future leaders.

CIS INSTITUTE 2025

PRESENTERS

**MARGARET
URBAN**

Morning



About Margaret

Margaret Urban (she/her) presently works for Vermont Department of Health, managing the implementation of the CIS Strong Families Vermont Nurse Home Visiting Program (MECSH). Previously she was a nurse case manager providing home visiting with high risk/high-cost populations with complex co-morbidities on Medicaid in Chittenden County. She has held positions as a Family and Child Health Coordinator and Public Health Nursing Supervisor at the Middlebury District Health Office and Labor & Delivery in Chicago. In her free time, Margaret loves to recreate outdoors in all seasons and spending time with her two teenagers.

**AMY
WEGNER**

Afternoon



About Amy

Amy Wenger is a Registered Nurse and International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant. Her passion for Maternal Child Health work began over twenty years ago as a doula and childbirth educator. As a nurse Amy deepened her work with birthing and lactating people working on Vermont's largest postpartum unit, in pediatric clinics, and in her current position as the Family and Children's clinical nurse manager at a large community home health agency. Amy is also the founder and co-executive director of the Vermont Donor Milk Center which provides outpatient pasteurized donor human milk to infants who require supplementation, along with crucial lactation supports and postpartum resources.

CIS INSTITUTE 2025 PRESENTERS

**HEATHER
WILSON**

Morning



About Heather

Heather Wilson (she/her) works for the Vermont Department of Health, managing the CIS Strong Families Vermont Family Support Home Visiting Program. She is certified in the Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting model and supervised a PAT program for 8 years. She has a master's degree in clinical psychology and a psychotherapy private practice. Her favorite color is yellow because she grew up in a big family and it was the only color left.