



Northeast Regional Developmental Screening, Referral and Response Conference

Holiday Inn Downtown | East Hartford CT

Keynote Speakers



Paul H. Dworkin, M.D.

Paul Dworkin is Executive Vice President for Community Child Health at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Founding Director of the *Help Me Grow* National Center, and professor of pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. For 15 years, he previously served as physician-in-chief at Connecticut Children's and chair of the Department of Pediatrics of the UCONN School of Medicine.

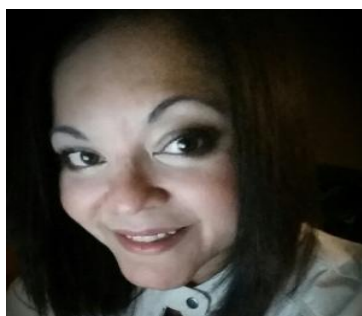
Dr. Dworkin's interests are at the interface among child development, child health services, and child health policy. In 1988, he was Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics, University of Oxford and also Visiting Scholar of Green College in Oxford. In 2003, Dr. Dworkin received the prestigious C. Anderson Aldrich

Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics in recognition of achievement in the field of child development. His vision led to the creation of *Help Me Grow*, a Connecticut statewide initiative to promote the early detection of children at risk for developmental and behavioral problems and their linkage to programs and services that is currently being replicated in over 20 states with support from The Commonwealth Fund and the WK Kellogg Foundation. He was the editor of the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics* from 1997-2002. Dr. Dworkin received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He recently completed study for a certificate in policy analysis from the University of North Dakota.



Ellen Amore, MS

Ellen is currently the Manager of KIDSNET, Rhode Island's Integrated Child Health Information System that contains preventive health care information for Rhode Island children. Other programs at the Rhode Island Department of Health that she has managed include Newborn Hearing Screening, Newborn Bloodspot Screening, Newborn Developmental Risk Assessment and home visiting. Her education includes a BA in Human Biology, with a concentration in child development, from Stanford University, and an MS in Maternal and Child Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.



Jeannette Mejias

Jeannette Mejias is a Bilingual Family Resource Specialist (FRS) of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, providing support at one of NJ's Special Child Health Services Case Management Units. She is also a Parent-to-Parent coordinator focused on Latinos and underserved Immigrant families, and a Medical Home Parent Partner, providing direct support to parents and professionals on best practices to establish meaningful partnerships and creating support groups for diverse immigrant families. Currently, she coordinates the project in partnership with Children's Specialized Hospital in NJ that provides "Quick Peek Community Screenings" where she provides direct

support, resources and follow-up for families with children ages 1-5 who "fail" the developmental screenings.

In her capacity as an FRS, she provides parents and professionals with best practices to ensure ongoing collaboration, communication, and engagement. She also helps identify and create awareness about state and community based resources to ensure that families of children with ASD and other special needs are accessing and connecting to these vital supports. Jeannette is a proud parent of two incredible boys diagnosed with ASD who are thriving and experiencing great success due to her direct involvement and advocacy efforts. Jeannette is the recipient of the 2015 Region II AMCHP Young Professional Award. She has also been selected to serve as a Family Liaison to the Friends of the NCBDDD, a coalition of government and private sector "champion" organizations who work together to enhance the mission and activities of the Friends.