

November 8, 2022 Conference

Speaker Bios



Cami Anderson Cami Anderson is the Founder and CEO of [ThirdWay Solutions](#) — a collaborative of change agents helping government, non-profit, education, corporate and philanthropic clients tackle their most difficult internal and external challenges in pursuit of equity. Cami served as a six-time chief executive of high-profile organizations. She served as Superintendent of schools for nearly 10 years, first in New York City and then in Newark, where she received national attention for improving student outcomes and pushing innovation. She co-founded ROADS, a network of charter high schools and advocates dedicated to court-involved youth. She is the former Executive Director of Teach For America New York, Chief Program Officer of New Leaders for New Schools, and Policy and Issues Director for Cory Booker. Cami began her career as a theatre, Montessori, and public-school teacher. She received a national teacher of the year award, founded a district-wide committee on parent and community involvement, received grants to create conflict resolution, literacy, diversity, and theater programs, and facilitated professional development workshops for parents and teachers.

Cami is widely published - from the Wall Street Journal to Education Week, is an Aspen-Pahara Fellow, won the Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership, received a national Points of Light award for service and was recognized by Time Magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people. She's a contributor for Forbes where she writes a column, [In The Room](#), about women leaders. She is the sister to eleven, a volunteer soccer coach, a Title IX advocate, a theatre geek, an amateur triathlete, and a TedEx speaker.



Beth Breault, Ed.D., C.S.E. Founder, Sex Ed Solutions For over 25 years, Dr. Beth Williams-Breault (she/her) has been a classroom teacher, professor, consultant, program coordinator, and researcher in the field of K-12 student health and wellness. Beth's career in education began in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, and Worcester public schools before she taught and studied in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Beth teaches Child and Adolescent Health at Lesley University and is the founder of the Massachusetts Healthy Youth Consortium, which is comprised of educators, community members, and advocates from over 200 Massachusetts districts, schools, and national organizations committed to improving Comprehensive Sexuality Education policy for K-12 students throughout the Commonwealth. Beth has served on many committees and boards for educational organizations including the New Mexico Public Education Department's Coordinated School Health and Wellness Bureau, the Lesley University Diversity Council, and the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO). Beth earned her B.A. from Wheelock College, her M.A. from The University of New Mexico, and her Ed.D. in Curriculum, Teaching, Learning, and Leadership from Northeastern University.



State Senator Jamie Eldridge has served as State Senator for the Middlesex and Worcester district since January 2009, representing 14 communities in Metrowest. **He serves as the Senate chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate Vice Chair Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight.** As an activist legislator, Senator Eldridge is the Senate chair of the Clean Energy, Criminal Justice Reform, Medicare For All and MBTA Caucuses. Senator Eldridge has focused his energies on Beacon Hill on increasing investments in public education and transportation, combating climate change, making healthcare a right, stimulating the economy, advocating for affordable housing, reforming our criminal justice system, advancing campaign and ethics reform, protecting the environment, and supporting immigrants. He lives in Acton, his hometown. Previously, Senator Eldridge served as the State Representative for the 37th Middlesex District. He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Boston College Law School. Prior to his election as State Representative, Jamie worked as a public interest attorney with Merrimack Valley Legal Services in Lowell, a non-profit organization that provides free legal services to the poor and the elderly. As a public interest lawyer, he also worked to help low-income residents with issues of housing, Social Security, disability, and unemployment. In 2001, Jamie was elected as a member of the Acton Housing Authority and was appointed by the Acton Board of Selectmen as an Associate Member to the Acton Planning Board. Holding these positions gave him a deeper understanding of municipal budgets and the impact of state legislation on communities, and housing, environmental, and "Smart Growth" issues, as well as the need for every community to protect its most vulnerable residents.



Benita R. Miller is currently the Executive Director of Powerful Families Powerful Communities NJ - Department of Children and Families overseeing a five-year demonstration project created to re-imagine New Jersey's child welfare system through a human-centered design process that leverages the voice of community members as co-designers. She previously served as the President and CEO of Children's Aid and Family Services in New Jersey. Prior to her work in New Jersey, Miller served as the Executive Director of Brooklyn Kindergarten Society where she expanded the agency's early childhood education footprint from five to seven centers as well as building the first sensory gym co-located in New York

City Housing Authority development. Additionally, Miller was the founding Executive Director of the NYC Children's Cabinet in the Office of the Mayor as well as served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Family Permanency Services in the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). During her tenure with the Children's Cabinet, Miller developed the City's policy framework titled "Growing Up NYC" and digital platforms – Growing Up NYC and Generation NYC. She also created the NYC Baby Showers Series, coordinated the development of the city's Unity Project focused on providing coordinated and enhanced services to LGBTQ youth and has been instrumental in improving policies for children and families impacted by incarceration. Additionally, she helped develop the City's "Parent Engagement Project" which was a Performance Pilot Partnership federal grant focused on connecting young parents to educational opportunities as well as their children to high-quality childcare. Last, she secured a Robin Hood grant to improve policies and programs for children ages 0-3 years old by creating the Early Childhood Roundtable. While at ACS, she led initiatives and operations related to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and permanency of all children receiving foster care services as well as caseload reductions and trauma assessment tools in family foster care. Miller developed the Housing Academy Collaborative to better prepare youth transitioning from foster care to supportive housing and NYCHA developments. She also strengthened services being provided to expectant and parenting youth and secured support from the Center for the Study of Social Policy to develop policies and programming for young fathers who are in foster care. She created the Office of Older Youth Services and Residential Care Monitoring and oversaw the third phase of residential care reduction for ACS and also facilitated the co-location of ACS staff at Riker's Island to ensure that youth who are in foster care were being appropriately served while awaiting the disposition of criminal matters. Miller also developed the Case Monitoring and Compliance Unit to enhance safety and risk assessments of children and youth being reunified with their families. Before joining ACS, Miller served as Director of Scholarships at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where among other responsibilities she implemented programs for undergraduate and law student scholars. She is the founder and former executive director of the Brooklyn Young Mother's Collective and is the recipient of the Union Square Award and Petra Fellowship on behalf of her advocacy work with young parents. She was also recognized by the American Civil Liberties Union as one of the top nine advocates to influence Title IX implementation. She previously represented children and young people in child protective, delinquency and PINS proceedings in Brooklyn Family Court as a staff lawyer with the Legal Aid Society. Miller graduated from Detroit's Southeastern High School and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Print Journalism from Wayne State University where she was a Rosa Parks Scholar at The Detroit News. She graduated in 1996 from Syracuse University College of Law and is a member of the Board of Advisors. She serves as a board member for many nonprofit organizations including for Strategies for Youth and Alex House Project. She is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill of America, Inc.



Elizabeth Nash Elizabeth Nash is a Principal Policy Associate with the Institute's Public Policy office in Washington, DC. She has over 20 years of experience on state policy development and analysis on a wide range of reproductive health policy issues, including abortion, contraception, pregnancy, refusal clauses and reproductive health issues for young people. Her work contributes to Guttmacher factsheets, updates and analyses, and she represents the Institute in print, radio and TV.



Christie Pitney, CNM (she/her) has always been driven by a passion for helping others & this is what led her to become a nurse practitioner and certified-nurse midwife. Christie received her Bachelor's in Anthropology and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and her Master of Science, both from The Ohio State University. Christie started her own telehealth practice to be able to serve patients who are seeking to end early pregnancies, as well as those seeking gender affirming care. She strongly believes these services are normal aspects of health care & patients should have easy, private, and safe access to them from their reproductive health and primary care providers. You can find her on instagram and tiktok @forwardmidwifery working to increase access to reliable reproductive health information. Christie works with Plan C Pills, has a private telehealth practice, is an Aid Access provider, co-founded the Abortion Freedom Fund, and volunteers for the Miscarriage & Abortion Hotline.



Mynette Shifman, MSN, WHNP-BC, FNP-BC is an adolescent health nurse for the Framingham Public Schools, Framingham, MA. She coordinates the district's teen pregnancy and parenting program and reproductive health services and provides leadership to multiple district-wide health equity initiatives including addressing period poverty and access to health insurance. She has co-led educational efforts to increase mindfulness and self-care strategies for students and staff across the district. She actively serves on various community task forces and committees. Mynette also works as a maternity nurse at Newton Wellesley Hospital. Prior to working in Framingham, Mynette practiced in primary care, reproductive health, and college health as a nurse practitioner with a focus on adolescents. She attended the University of Pennsylvania for both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner. She attended Drexel University for her post-master's certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner through the National Certification Corporation.



Melissa Shube (she/her/hers) is a *Litigation Counsel*. Prior to joining the Lawyering Project in 2019, she was an associate at a law firm in the District of Columbia. Melissa clerked for Judge Analisa Torres in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and Judge Joseph E. Irenas in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Brown University. Before attending law school, she worked at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Melissa is licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and New York. mshube@lawyeringproject.org



Katherine Simmonds, PhD, MPH, RN, WHNP-BC, is Clinical Professor in the School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences and the Roux Institute at Northeastern University, where she joined the faculty in August 2022. Prior to joining the faculty at Northeastern, she served as the Coordinator of the Women's Health and the dual Adult-Gerontology/Women's Health Nurse Practitioner specialty at the MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston, MA. From 1996-2007, she worked at the Abortion Access Project (now Provide), where she founded and directed the Reproductive Options Education Consortium for Nursing (ROE). From 1997 until 2006, she served on the Advisory Committee of Clinicians for Choice (now Clinicians in Abortion Care), a specialty group within the National Abortion Federation that focuses on nurses, advanced practice nurses, midwives and physician assistants. Dr. Simmonds served as member of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Competency Work group of the Association for Reproductive Health Professionals, and the Board of Advisors of Nursing Students for Choice. She was a founding member and on the leadership team for Reproductive Health in Nursing, which merged with Nursing Students for Choice in 2017, to become Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health (NSRH). Dr. Simmonds' clinical experience includes providing nursing care at an independent, free-standing abortion clinic, and as a nurse practitioner at a Planned Parenthood affiliate, as well as several community health centers in Boston, where she provided ambulatory obstetric, gynecologic, and sexual and reproductive health care, including to adolescents. Dr. Simmonds received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, her

Master's in Science in Nursing from the MGH Institute of Health Professions, her Master's in Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, and her PhD at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing. During her doctoral studies, she was a Jonas Scholar, an inaugural member of the American Academy of Nursing/Jonas Health Policy Scholar program, and a Corealign Generative Fellow. Dr. Simmonds has published numerous articles and book chapters on sexual and reproductive health, unintended pregnancy, and abortion. She will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as a Fellow in the fall of 2022.



Justine Uhlenbrock Justine Uhlenbrock (she/her) is a registered nurse, sexuality educator, and public health professional. She is also a childbirth educator and birth doula. She is currently a DNP student of the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program at Emory University.



Robin Watkins joined Power to Decide in 2018, and is the Senior Director, Health Care. She is focused on building strategic partnerships with health care systems, payers, and health and social service providers across the country to expand the reach of Bedsider and One Key Question®. Her work will include creating and enhancing patient and provider resources, delivering trainings, building a system of support for providers, and creating opportunities to connect with and learn from each other. Robin comes to Power to Decide with a wealth of knowledge and experience in family planning, most recently working at Unity Health Care, the District of Columbia's Title X grantee and largest Federally Qualified Health Center, delivering direct patient care as well as spearheading sexual and reproductive health quality improvement projects. Robin earned her Master of Science in Nursing, Midwifery, and Women's Health Nurse Practitioner degree from Georgetown University School of Nursing, and BS in both nursing and public health from Johns Hopkins University.



Greg West, M.Ed.

Greg West is a retired Health Education teacher of 30+ years. He has designed and implemented middle and high school Comprehensive Health Education programs as well as courses in emergency medicine. He now presents topics of adolescent health and wellness to high school students as well as offering programs for parents and school personnel through WEPS Education

(www.wepsEducation.com).