

# Santa Clara County Children's Summit

March 18, 2022



**Every child safe, healthy,  
successful in learning,  
successful in life.**



**Whole CHILD**  
**Whole FAMILY**  
**Whole COMMUNITY**

# Welcome to the 2022 Santa Clara County Children's Summit

The 15th Annual Santa Clara County Children's Summit invites you to forge new partnerships, learn something new and have a little fun.

## Summit Program

*"Let us put our minds together and see what kind of future we can create for our children."  
-Sitting Bull*

### Welcome

- Kanyon Sayers-Roods, CEO and founder of Kanyon Consulting LLC, Bridging the gap between indigenous and contemporary value systems

### Overview of the Children's Agenda

- Judge Len Edwards (ret.), Co-Chair, Children's Agenda Network
- Dr. Fernando Mendoza, Co-Chair, Children's Agenda Network
- Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Co-Chair, Children's Agenda Network

### Reflection and Connection

#### Panel Discussion: A Candid Conversation with Liberatory Young Leaders

- Hiba Arafeh
- Nathalie Henriquez
- Sofia Jacquez
- Victor Lopez
- Carlos Pacheco Miranda
- Angelina Sanchez
- Nicole Torres
- Maris Vans

### The Beat Within

#### Panel Discussion: Resilient Students, Resilient Schools, Resilient Communities

- Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Facilitator, County Superintendent of Schools, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- vicki abadesco! Founder and Director, Infinite Possibilities
- Angela Birts, EdD, Founder and CEO of Birts Equity and Inclusion Solutions LLC
- Juan Cruz, Superintendent, Franklin McKinley School District

### Reflection and Connection

#### Bold Steps for Children Award: Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force

**Closing Insights:** Dr. Rocio Luna, Deputy County Executive, in conversation with Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Judge Len Edwards and Dr. Fernando Mendoza

**Many thanks to the Family Engagement Institute, Foothill College who provided technical support for this virtual Children's Summit.**

# 2022 Bold Steps for Children Award

## Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force

Since 2015, the **Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force** (JJGRTF) has created a collaborative space for government and community stakeholders to collectively prioritize the needs of system-involved girls and gender expansive youth and to tackle the County's most pressing challenges at the intersections of gender, race, and justice. In 2019, the JJGRTF set its sights on the ambitious goal of ending girls' incarceration in Santa Clara. Under the leadership of the group's co-chairs, Santa Clara County applied to and was selected to join the Vera Institute of Justice's first cohort of sites across the country with this mission. At the same time, the co-chairs looked to promising models from across the state and worked to bring the Young Women's Freedom Center, a best practice gender-responsive program, to San Jose.

Over the past few years, the JJGRTF has partnered with Vera and worked hard take an honest look at how the juvenile legal system functions and to create the change needed to better serve the County's young people. The courts and probation have implemented practice changes aimed at eliminating the practice of confining girls and gender-expansive youth for their own safety or to connect them to resources. Government and community stakeholders are working together to avoid custody by fully exploring programming to support girls and gender-expansive youth in their community. The County has committed to investing in new economic and housing supports for young people and their families to prevent

girls and gender-expansive youth from sitting in Juvenile Hall because they have nowhere else to go. Throughout it all, government partners regularly share data so that they are held accountable for their commitments and progress, and the work has been done with a clear commitment to centering the needs and leadership of directly impacted young people and the adults that support them.

Between 2018 and 2020, Santa Clara County saw a nearly 60% decline in girls' annual admissions to Juvenile Hall. In 2020, the County had its first few days with zero girls in custody. *Last year, zero became the norm: since July 2021, the monthly average daily population of girls in Juvenile Hall has held steady at 1, and there hasn't been a girl held at the Ranch.*

Now, through the continued leadership of OWP, the JJGRTF is focused on institutionalizing important practice changes, overseeing implementation of new solutions, and developing a new leadership structure that prioritizes shared leadership between government, community-based organizations, and directly impacted young people.

The JJGRTF is comprised of government agencies, community-based organizations, community members and directly impacted young people from Santa Clara County.

### JJGRTF Chairs

The Honorable Michael Clark, Presiding Judge, Santa Clara County Juvenile Court  
Julie Ramirez, Interim Executive Director, Office of Women's Policy  
Nick Birchard, Deputy Chief, Juvenile Institutions Division, Santa Clara County Probation Department

### Former JJGRTF Chairs and Founding Members

The Honorable Katherine Lucero, Former Presiding Judge, Santa Clara County Juvenile Court  
Protima Pandey, Former Executive Director, Office of Women's Policy  
Esther Peralez-Dieckmann and Carla Collins, Office of Women's Policy  
Julie Posadas-Guzman, Santa Clara County Probation Department  
Rose Luerra, City of San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force - Female Intervention Team (FIT)

### JJGRTF Member Agencies and Organizations

Alianza for Youth Justice  
allcove  
Art of Yoga Project  
Bill Wilson Center  
City of San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force  
Community Solutions  
County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services  
County of Santa Clara District Attorney's Office  
County of Santa Clara Office of Women's Policy  
County of Santa Clara Probation Department  
County of Santa Clara Public Defender's Office

County of Santa Clara Superior Court Juvenile Justice Division  
Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY)  
Juvenile Justice Commission of Santa Clara County  
National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)  
New Hope for Youth  
South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking  
Teen Success  
Vera Institute of Justice  
Young Women's Freedom Center  
Youth Alliance





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# Speakers & Presenters

## vicki abadesco!

vicki abadesco! is an internationally-recognized leader in the field of social-emotional learning, anti-bullying, and creating a more empathy-based world. She brings over 30 years of experience teaching life skills and conflict resolution tools to young people and adults. As an educator, speaker and facilitator, vicki! is known for creating fun, safe, and transformative environments. She is the author of *Free to Be: Untold Stories of Going Beyond Bullying*, co-author of *Cool Tools for Schools* and *The Empty Balloon*; as well as two activity card decks: *Mentor Magic* and *Leadership: Truth or Dare*. Vicki! is a fellow for the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT. She co-founded Soul Shoppe in 2000.



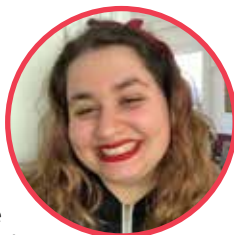
## The Beat Within

The Beat Within's mission is to provide incarcerated youth with consistent opportunity to share their ideas and life experiences in a safe space that encourages literacy, self-expression, some critical thinking skills, and healthy, supportive relationships with adults and their community. Outside of the juvenile justice system, The Beat Within partners with community organizations and individuals to bring resources to youth both inside and outside of detention. We are committed to being an effective bridge between youth who are locked up and the community that aims to support their progress towards a healthy, non-violent, and productive life. [www.thebeatwithin.org](http://www.thebeatwithin.org)



## Hiba Arafeh

Hiba is an advocate for homeless youth and a caretaker for adults with disabilities. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community with diagnosed mental health disorders, she is passionate about improving the circumstances of oppressed, unhoused youth. She is currently a young leader at the Youth Liberation Movement. Her favorite hobbies are writing, reading, and makeup.



## Mary Ann Dewan, PhD

Dr. Dewan is an experienced educator with over 34 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, researcher and professor. She is recognized for her expertise and experience in early learning, data-driven decision-making, special education, education reform, and change leadership. She serves on a number of boards and commissions and is the chair of the board of directors for Kids in Common.



## Angela Birts, EdD

Angela is the Founder and CEO of Birts Equity and Inclusion Solutions LLC, a diversity consulting firm focused on training and consultation for organizations seeking to expand their commitment to diversity and equity and inclusion. Dr. Birts is a part-time lecturer and Core Course Coordinator at the University of California Santa Cruz, Division of Undergraduate Education. She also teaches part-time at San José State University Lurie College of Education, Department of Teacher Education. In 2006, she won College Summit's Let Talent Shine Award, "For Leadership and Commitment to Community Building, College Access, and Social Justice." In 2016, she received the Education Doctorate Leadership Program Award and the Phyllis H. Lindstrom Award from San Jose State University: "For significant achievement in the Ed.D. Leadership Program and for providing a model for Educational Leadership."



## Judge Leonard Edwards (ret.)

Judge Leonard Edwards is a retired judge now serving as a consultant and educator. Judge Edwards was a Superior Court judge for 26 years, retiring in 2006. He served as Judge-In-Residence with the California Judicial Council for 6 years. Judge Edwards is a judicial educator having given over 500 invited presentations in 47 states and 13 foreign countries. He is a past president of the NCJFCJ. In Santa Clara County, he founded the Child Advocate Program, the Domestic Violence Council, Kids in Common, and the Dependency Drug Treatment Court. His publications can be read at [www.judgeleonardedwards.com](http://www.judgeleonardedwards.com).



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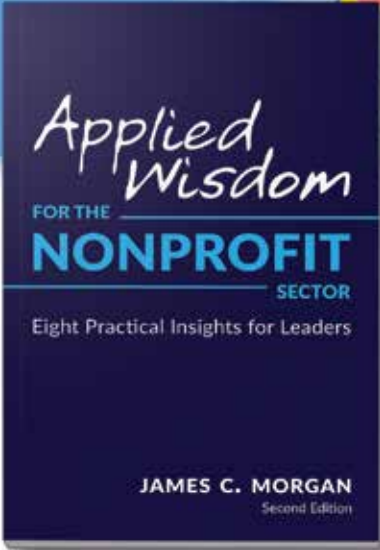
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## Nathalie Henriquez

Nathalie is a single mom and a first-generation college student. She is attending college because she is seeking a better future for her family. She is also an advocate for teen moms who experience homelessness. She is devoted to learning more about issues in her community and taking a stand to speak up for those who can't. Her favorite hobbies are baking, reading, hiking, and drawing.



## Sofia Jacquez

Sofia is an advocate for survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and human trafficking at the YWCA. She also advocates for opportunity youth as a former teen mom. She is passionate about public speaking, especially on behalf of those who cannot advocate for themselves. She is currently studying sociology and strives to set a positive example for her daughters as well as the community she grew up in.



## Victor Lopez

Victor is the first in his family to step up into leadership roles to learn about and teach others about their needs and/or experiencing addiction etc. He cares about people stepping up to be leaders and making a better tomorrow for us all. He is a member of the Youth Liberation Movement. His favorite hobbies are reading and dancing.



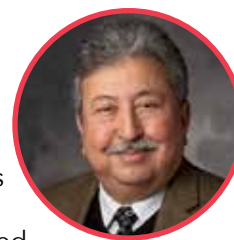
## Dr. Rocio Luna, DrPh

Dr. Luna started her career as a Health Program Specialist evaluating public health initiatives in the County of Santa Clara. She became Deputy Director of the Public Health Department in 2018. In 2020, she became Deputy County Executive and will lead the County Executive's Division of Equity and Social Justice. Dr. Luna was born in Mexico and was brought to the U.S. when she was a baby. She is fully bilingual (English/Spanish) and bicultural. She holds a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a master's degree in Public Health and Community Health Science from San José State University, and a bachelor's degree in Physiological Sciences from UCLA. Dr. Luna has dedicated her life to addressing complex societal issues that contribute to unequal opportunities and poor outcomes for many of the County's diverse communities.



## Fernando S. Mendoza, MD, MPH

Dr. Mendoza is a native of Gardner and Willow Glen in San Jose as well as an emeritus professor of pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine. His research has investigated the health and well-being of immigrant children. He has served on national committees regarding the health of immigrant children and their families. He has practiced pediatrics in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for more than 35 years.



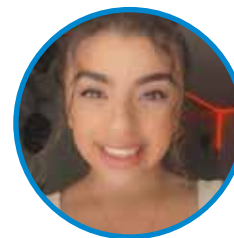
## Carlos Pacheco Miranda

Carlos is a first-generation college student; he is majoring in Communications and English. As a queer and neurodivergent Chicano, he is passionate about disrupting and dismantling systems that oppress marginalized people along the lines of race, gender, sexuality, documentation status, and ability. He is currently a Senior Leader at the Youth Liberation Movement. His favorite writers include Ibram X. Kendi, Gabby Rivera, and James Baldwin.



## Angelina Sanchez

Angelina is a mom to a 2-year-old boy and is attending Mission College. She cares about young moms, children and adults with disabilities, foster and placement care, and judicial placement for children and adults. She is also a woman of color and student with learning disabilities. She is a member of Teen Success Inc. and the Youth Liberation Movement. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her son and family. She also likes to educate herself to fulfill her dream—to help children as much as she can.



*"You will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once. But don't underestimate the importance you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."*

- Michelle Obama

Our mission is to close the opportunity gap for children birth to age 5 by offering high-quality early childhood education and support services.

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## Kanyon Sayers-Roods

Kanyon is Mutsun-Ohlone-Costanoan & Chumash; she also goes by her given Native name, "Coyote Woman". She is proud of her heritage and her native name (though it comes with its own back story) and is very active in the Native Community. She is CEO and founder of Kanyon Konsulting LLC, dedicated to bridging the gap between indigenous and contemporary value systems. She is an Artist, Poet, Published Author, Activist, Student and Teacher. The daughter of Ann-Marie Sayers, she was raised in Indian Canyon, trust land of her family, which currently is one of the few spaces in Central California available for the Indigenous community for ceremony. Kanyon's art has been featured at the De Young Museum, The Somarts Gallery, Gathering Tribes, Snag Magazine, and numerous Powwows and Indigenous Gatherings. She is a recent graduate of the Art Institute of California, Sunnyvale, obtaining her Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees in Web Design and Interactive Media. She is motivated to learn, teach, start conversations around decolonization and re-indigenization, permaculture and to continue doing what she loves, art.



## Nicole Torres

Nicole is a first-generation college student, woman of color. As the first person to go to college in her family, she hopes to set a good example for her younger brother. She hopes to create a good life for her family now and in the future. She hopes to inspire the younger generations that look like her and have a similar background to her own by showing them that if a low-income first-generation woman of color like her can go onward with creating a better future, so can they.



## Maris Vans

As a Latina woman, María has struggled with mental health, homelessness and many other factors from a young age. She is passionate about understanding how homelessness, mental health, and the foster and education systems impact youth. She enjoys helping youth by making herself a resource to them. María wants to pursue a justice major and potentially becoming a lawyer.



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# At a Glance

## Status of Children's Health 2022 Annual Symposium



**Flojuane Cofer, PhD, MPH**  
Epidemiologist  
Senior Director of State Policy  
Public Health Advocates



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## The Children's Agenda Network

Children's Agenda Network members have agreed to the values of the Children's Agenda and to advance its goals by focusing on equity, results and collaboration.

### Children's Agenda Network Co-chairs

**Mary Ann Dewan, PhD**  
*Chair, Kids in Common*

**Judge Leonard Edwards (ret.)**  
*Treasurer, Kids in Common*

**Dr. Fernando Mendoza**  
*Secretary, Kids in Common*

**Rocio Abundis**  
- Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

**Bernice Aguilera Toney**  
- South County Youth Task Force, District Attorney's Office

**Elizabeth Alvarez**  
- Catholic Charities Santa Clara County

**Hilary Armstrong**  
- County of Santa Clara

**Nisreen Baroudi**  
- SCC Public Defender's Office

**Arce Blume**  
- County of Santa Clara

**Lee Anna Botkin, MD**

**Sarah Bravo**  
- Community Solutions

**Susan Brutschy**  
- ASR

**Laura Buzo**  
- City of San José

**Teresa Castellanos**  
- SCC Office of Immigrant Relations

**Annalisa Chung**  
- Dependency Advocacy Center

**Juan Cruz**  
- Franklin-McKinley School District

**Susan Ellenberg**  
- County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors

**Veronica Goei**  
- Grail Family Services

**Kim Guptill**  
- Showing Up for Racial Justice at Sacred Heart

**Ron Hansen**  
- Juvenile Justice Commission

**Barbara Hansen**  
- Community Activist, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Collaborative

**Joy Hernandez**  
- National Center for Youth Law - JusticeEd

**John Hogan**  
- Excite Credit Union

**Patty Irwin**  
- SCC Social Services Agency

**Kathleen King**  
- Healthier Kids Foundation Santa Clara County

**Gay Krause**  
- Krause Center for Innovation

**Nicholas Kuwada**  
- Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits

**Peter Landsberger**  
- Foothill-De Anza Community College District

**Julie Lata**  
- Applied Materials Foundation

**Mara Williams Low**  
- Leo M. Shortino Family Foundation

**Rocio Luna**  
- County of Santa Clara

**Meri Maben**  
- Community Contributor

**Grace Mah**  
- SCCOE Board of Education

**Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo**  
- FIRST 5 Santa Clara County

**Carlos Pacheco Miranda**  
- Youth Liberation Movement

**Charmayne Moran**  
- SCC Probation Department

**Ziem Neubert**  
- YMCA of Silicon Valley - Project Cornerstone

**Betsy Nikolchev**  
- Family Engagement Institute, Foothill College

**Mary Patterson**  
- School Board Trustee, Health Educator

**Debra Porchia-Usher**  
- Santa Clara County Social Services Agency

**Angelica Ramos-Allen**  
- Office of Santa Clara County Sup. Susan Ellenberg

**Anne Souza**  
- Junior League of San Jose

**Don Taylor**  
- Pacific Clinics

**Christine Thorsteinson**  
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation

**Matthew Tinsley**  
- Santa Clara County Office of Education

**Hon. Patrick Tondreau (ret.)**

**Jamie Wang**  
- Board Vice Chair, Kids in Common

**Kayla Williams**  
- Community Health Partnership

**Ena Yasuhara Li**  
- United Way Bay Area

**Marlene Zapata**  
- Kids in Common Board Member

### Member Organizations

City of San José Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force  
County of Santa Clara: Behavioral Health Services Dept.  
County of Santa Clara: Probation Dept.  
County of Santa Clara: Public Health Dept.  
Educare California at Silicon Valley  
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley  
Pivotal  
Project Safety Net  
San Jose Public Library Foundation  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
SOMOS Mayfair  
Stanford Children's Health  
Youth Alliance



**Kids in Common** fosters cross-sector, data-driven partnerships to align actions and promote policies, investments and practices that improve the lives and success of children and youth in our community.

**Our Vision:** Every child safe, healthy, successful in learning, successful in life.

[kidsincommon.org](http://kidsincommon.org)



## Heroes

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**Linda Williams**

**Jamie and Joe Wang**

## Champions

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Lucile Packard  
Children's Hospital  
**Stanford**



## Advocates

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County of Santa Clara  
**Social Services Agency**



**Lori Burns | Julie Cates | Ellyn Corey | Mary Ann Dewan, PhD**

**Judge Len Edwards | Dr. Fernando Mendoza**

## Leaders and Supporters

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**Mary Patterson**  
Morgan Hill Unified School District Trustee