

The **Vision** of Action for Children North Carolina is that our state will be the best place to be a child and raise a child.



The **Mission** of Action for Children North Carolina is to advocate for child well-being by educating and engaging all people across the state to ensure that our children are healthy, safe, well-educated and have every opportunity for success.

Vol. 1, Issue 1: Winter/Spring 2009

Changes our children need: AfC's 2009 Legislative Agenda

North Carolina's 2009 legislative session began on Jan. 28, and there is a great need for change to assist children and families. Action for Children North Carolina's 2009 Legislative Agenda offers important public policy changes in health, juvenile justice, public education and economic security that will help bolster North Carolina's children and families when they need the help most – during an economic downturn.

The following are the key points of Action for Children's 2009 Legislative Agenda.

Health

1) Fully Fund N.C. Health Choice: In record numbers, hard-working North Carolina families have been losing employer-provided health insurance coverage for their children. North Carolina's Health Choice program has done a good job enrolling children; however, the rapid increase in loss of private insurance coverage has meant Health

Choice struggles to keep up with the need. State elected officials should take all steps necessary to avoid a waiting list or freeze of Health Choice.

2) Implement N.C. Kids' Care: All parents should have the opportunity to buy health insurance for their children. When children are disabled, chronically ill or the parent's employer no longer provides dependent coverage, there is often no private insurance plan available. The Governor and state legislature have already approved the N.C. Kids' Care program to fill this missing piece of the insurance market. Now it is time to fund its implementation for children in families up to 300 percent of federal poverty level and give families above that income the option to buy into the program at full premium.

Juvenile Justice

3) Adequately Fund Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (JCPCs): North Carolina's JCPCs distribute grants to community service providers who work to prevent

juvenile delinquency. Community providers are doing this work with less money than the legislature allocated in 2002. Additional funding is needed to keep up with inflation, meet the service needs identified by JCPCs, and to allow the JCPCs to better monitor and support local programs.

4) Raise the Presumptive Age of Adult Criminal Prosecution to 18: Children under age 18 are not considered adults for nearly all legal purposes; however, outdated N.C. criminal law from 1919 still assumes all 16- and 17-year-olds are adults when in contact with the criminal system. North Carolina is the only state in the nation to automatically charge, try, sentence, probate and incarcerate minors in the adult criminal system with no exceptions. These children do not have access to services appropriate for youth, do not have the right to education, and their parents do not have to be notified of or participate in their charges, trial, probation or sentencing.

(Continued on page 4)

Chambers to receive Lifetime Legacy Award

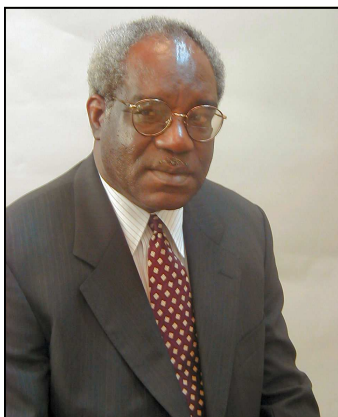


Photo from www.duke.edu

Julius Chambers helped lead the effort to desegregate schools.

Action for Children North Carolina will honor renowned civil rights attorney and education champion Julius Chambers with the fourth-annual North Carolina Children's Lifetime Legacy Award on June 2.

Past honorees have been Kyle and Pattie Petty, Tom Lambeth and Dr. Sam Katz.

Chambers helped shape America's civil rights laws while in private practice and as the head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. A former Action for Chil-

dren board member, he was a large part of school desegregation and continued advocating for educational causes as chancellor

Save the Date
N.C. Children's
Lifetime
Legacy Award
June 2, 2009
**Call Rosemary
Wyche at (919)
834-6623 x237
for information**

dedication to education and civil rights," said Barbara Bradley, president and CEO of Action for Children. "His work has helped

of his alma mater, North Carolina Central University.

"We are thrilled to honor Julius Chambers for his years of

make it possible for children of all races to have equal opportunities to acquire a sound education. His impact on North Carolina is unmatched."

Chambers established the first integrated law practice in Charlotte in 1964 and immediately concentrated on civil rights cases. "I wanted to play some role in eliminating the barriers that prevented black citizens from participating as equals in American society," he told *Black Enterprise*.

(Continued on page 3)

Letter from the President and CEO



Dear Friend of Children:

Help implement our bailout plan for North Carolina's Children!

In these times of economic uncertainty, our government has taken unprecedented steps to protect the American people's financial holdings. But lost amidst all the political disputes over a bailout plan is the fact that our country's greatest assets, *our children*, are being forgotten.

- Did you know that 45 percent of children in North Carolina are living in low-income households?
- Did you know that 22 percent of children in North Carolina are living in poverty?
- Did you know that more than a quarter million children in North Carolina (enough to stretch from Greensboro to Wilmington, if holding hands) have no health insurance?
- Did you know that more than 30,000 North Carolina families are currently on a waiting list for childcare subsidies so they can work and know their children are in safe care?

Action for Children North Carolina has a **Bailout Plan for North Carolina's Children**.

To provide our children with the assistance they require, we must:

- Implement strategies to break intergenerational poverty and create wealth through savings. Mandatory financial education in the public schools is a crucial first step to breaking the cycle of poverty.
- Assure health insurance for every child up to age 21 to reduce health care costs.
- Eliminate the childcare subsidy waiting list so parents can work.
- Reform the juvenile justice system. Today, any 16- or 17-year-old in North Carolina can be sent to adult prison for *any* offense. North Carolina is one of only three states in the U.S. with such an antiquated law. Let's raise the age to 18 so that youthful offenders receive the services so critically needed through the juvenile justice system.

The **Bailout Plan for North Carolina's Children** will not be a success without your support.

How do you want to get involved? Make a commitment to:

1) Talk to anyone

- Make calls to people living near you about the issues and tell [the media](#) your perspective.
- Volunteer to speak with community groups and [state legislators](#) and [federal legislators](#) who represent you.
- Host a phonebank to call [state legislators](#) and [federal legislators](#) from your house.
- Join your [local group](#) to find out more ways to get involved.

2) Talk to friends, family and neighbors

- Help people you know obtain the facts on the issues from [Action for Children North Carolina](#).
- Share the latest [N.C. Child Advocate alerts](#) from Action for Children during the legislative session, email friends and post blogs with everyone you know.
- Inform your friends, family and neighbors about the Bailout [policy stances](#).
- Create your own [personal fundraising page](#).

3) I want to help on my own

- [Donate now](#) and help pay for our Bailout outreach and education efforts.
- Visit our [website](#) regularly and subscribe to our [Action Alerts](#) to stay informed.

In partnership for all children,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Bradley".

Barb Bradley, Action for Children North Carolina President & CEO

Eastern N.C. Community Collaboration work in progress

In a previous issue of this newsletter, Action for Children North Carolina introduced the Communities for a Better Tomorrow (CfBT) initiative, which will enhance the abilities of four selected counties in the eastern part of North Carolina to keep troubled youth out of or prevent their further involvement in the juvenile justice system. The counties now involved in the program are Halifax, Northampton, Bertie and Hertford. The focus on these counties allows Action for Children to concentrate its efforts in two Judicial Districts — 6A and 6B. The main goals of the initiative in its first year are to create and maintain a statewide web-based interactive database of available services in the four counties and beyond and to complete results-based plans in both districts.

The database will greatly increase access to information, services and supports by locating agencies or individuals who provide mental health, residential and other placement options for troubled youth. The Communities for a Better Tomorrow website will be a fully searchable database with services spanning throughout North Carolina. Users will be able to search for services by county, service, age, gender, judicial district and other search criteria. The database will be available to the public in early spring 2009.

On January 30th the CfBT Initiative committee, made up of stakeholders from the juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, local departments of social services, mental health providers, faith-based organizations, judges, parents, school superintendents, law enforcement, county government, community-based programs, service providers,

on behalf of one student who had been denied admission. In 1971, after years of local and state-level litigation, Chambers argued this landmark case in front of the Supreme Court. The favorable ruling opened the way for busing to be used to desegregate schools.

As director-council of the Legal Defense Fund, Chambers served as the voice of the civil rights movement in America. At every opportunity he made clear the continuing need for fighting discrimination. "We are trying to help people appreciate that there are still major problems in society today," Chambers said in *Ebony*,

"and that we have not yet removed the yoke that Blacks have had to operate under from slavery to the present."

With the Legal Defense Fund, Chambers would go on to argue cases that gained rights for blacks, women, the disabled, and other minorities. He also began an educational campaign to heighten awareness of the influence and effects of the U.S. Justice Department. A school curriculum was designed to sensitize students to the effects of discrimination.

tinuum of evidenced-based services and supports with a family-centered approach.

As the Initiative evolves we will continue to provide updates on its progress.

For more information and locations, contact Judy Julian, Communities for a Better Tomorrow Project Coordinator, at (919) 412-8647 or judy@ncchild.org.

Join AfC's Community Forums on Juvenile Justice

February 26: Raleigh (Registration at 11:30 a.m., discussion at Noon)

With Bart Lubow, Annie E. Casey Foundation

February 27: Winston-Salem (9:30-11 a.m.)

With Bart Lubow, Annie E. Casey Foundation

March 6: Fayetteville (11 a.m.-1 p.m.)

With Rep. Rick Glazier, Cumberland County

March 19: Asheville (9:30-11 a.m.), Charlotte (3-4:30 p.m.)

With Shay Bilchik, Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown Public Policy Institute

For more information, visit www.ncchild.org

Or contact Brandy Bynum at (919) 834-6623 x234

or at brandy@ncchild.org

Chambers to receive N.C. Children's Lifetime Legacy Award

(Continued from page 1)

One of his first issues of focus was desegregating the public schools in his city. The Supreme Court outlawed segregated schools in 1954, but a decade later, the all-white board of education in Charlotte decided to close several schools rather than integrate them. Black students were denied admission into white schools.

Chambers, citing the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, filed *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*

Chambers' involvement in higher education ranged from being a law professor at many prestigious schools to serving as chancellor of N.C. Central from 1993-2001.

Chambers has positively affected the lives of all children in North Carolina and the country. Be a part of this historic evening.

For ticket or sponsorship information, call Rosemary Wyche at (919) 834-6623 x237.

Excerpts from Answers.com were used in this article.

Action for Children's 2009 Legislative Agenda

(Continued from page 1)

A) All minors should be presumed to be under the juvenile court's jurisdiction unless a juvenile judge transfers them to the adult criminal court or they are charged with 1st degree murder.

B) Legislators should empower the appropriate commissions and agencies to take next steps with the feasibility study that the Governor's Crime Commission is to release before the end of this long session.

Public Education

5) Provide Financial Education to Students in K-12th grade: Understanding basic economic concepts has become an essential part of living and working in modern American society. Indeed, a stable and competitive North Carolina economy requires its workforce and consumers to be financially savvy. Currently only five hours of financial education are required in high school to cover basic financial concepts like budgeting, savings, checking accounts and interest rates. Financial education should start early and be relevant to the complex financial marketplace so that children learn and establish the behaviors to manage their money.

A) Establish a Financial Literacy Council: Involving public, private and non-profit organizations in the development of financial education curricula can improve the quantity and quality of financial education, leverage private-sector resources and introduce real-world applications to class work. A Council should establish student financial literacy goals and benchmarks, monitor implementation of financial education across the state and connect schools to private resources and curricula.

B) Incorporate Financial Literacy Concepts in Curricula from Kindergarten to 12th Grade: Repetition of basic concepts and skills is important for children and youth to learn and eventually apply knowledge. Financial skills should be incorporated in current curricula—students can read children's books about going to the bank or learn to add using a check register. Curricula exist to aid this type of integrated teaching, but it must be supported, prioritized and rewarded.

6) Ban Corporal Punishment in the Public Schools: North Carolina law allows local school boards to permit corporal punishment. Sixty of the 115 local districts have banned the practice. These districts serve more than 80 percent of the student population in the state. In recent decades, studies have shown that corporal punishment does not produce long-term positive results and runs the risk of injuring students both physically and emotionally.

All students deserve to be protected from injury, especially the tragedy of an inadvertent injury inflicted by school teachers and administrators. It is time for North Carolina to adopt a statewide ban on corporal punishment in the public schools.

Economic Opportunity

7) Fund N.C. EITC Outreach and Expand EITC beyond five percent: In 2009, low income families will be able to receive a state earned income tax credit (EITC) equal to 3.5 percent of the federal EITC for which they already qualify. In 2010, the state EITC will increase to five percent of the federal credit. EITC pumps up local economies by annually helping over half-a-million working North Carolinians make ends meet in every part of the state. An increase in the EITC will further support families who have been forced by rising unemployment to work fewer hours or in lower-wage jobs.

8) Expand the Child Care Subsidy Program: Currently, over 30,000 children are waiting to receive child care subsidies so they can be in safe, developmentally-appropriate child care arrangements while their parents are working. With the unemployment rate at a 25-year high, the subsidy program must provide additional help to unemployed parents.

A) Allocate additional funding to reduce the child care subsidy waiting list.

B) Make available new temporary subsidies for recently unemployed parents who are searching for work or participating in education or job training. Child care subsidies must support unemployed caregivers who are making themselves more employable through school or job training and while they search for work.

N.C. Child Advocate Conference Calls

Want to learn more about child advocacy issues this legislative session?

Can't get to Raleigh regularly to sit in committees?

Need weekly updates on bills and budget items affecting children in North Carolina?

Join Action for Children's Sorien Schmidt and other guest experts at 1:30 p.m. Fridays during the legislative session for N.C. Child Advocate conference calls.

Dial 1-866-210-1669 and enter participant passcode 7160625.

Conference call calendar

Friday, Jan. 30: Mental Health Reform

Guest: Jennifer Mahan, Mental Health Association-N.C.

Friday, Feb. 6: Medicaid Appeals Process

Guest: Douglas Sea, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont

Visit www.ncchild.org for call calendar updates

Action for Children celebrates 25th anniversary

Action for Children North Carolina kicked off a year-long celebration of its 25th anniversary this month.

Founded in 1983 as the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute, Action for Children has blossomed into a statewide force for securing policy change to promote child well-being in the state.

Selected accomplishments by Action for Children include expanding access to affordable health insurance coverage for children, establishing the N.C. Earned Income Tax Credit, founding the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, helping pass the graduated driver's license law, improving healthy food options for children in vending machines and school cafeterias and banning cell phone use by teens with a graduated driver's license.

"Our organization has been extremely fortunate to have dedicated directors, staff members and partners in the community over the years who have helped us become what we are today," said Barbara Bradley, President and CEO. "We know that with continued commitment, even greater accomplishments can be possible in the next 25 years."



As part of its ongoing anniversary festivities, Action for Children has partnered with Fairway Outdoor Advertising on an organizational billboard and with Time Warner Cable on a Public Service Announcement. The billboard will be posted in the Raleigh area in February while the PSA is already airing on Time Warner Cable channels. To watch the PSA online, visit www.ncchild.org.

Look for those advertisements and be on the lookout for more anniversary events and special promotions throughout the year!



AfC honored with Nonprofit Sector Stewardship Award

Action for Children North Carolina received statewide honors on Oct. 16, 2008, when it accepted a 2008 Nonprofit Sector Stewardship Award from the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits.

The N.C. Center for Nonprofits, a coalition of 1,600 nonprofit organizations in all 100 counties of North Carolina, created the Nonprofit Sector Stewardship Awards in 1995 to recognize nonprofits that demonstrate the high standards of accountability, ethics, and stewardship that the public expects of them as tax-exempt organizations.

"To be recognized in this way by our peers in the North Carolina nonprofit community is an amazing honor," said Barbara Bradley, President and CEO of Action for Children North Carolina. "Excellent stewardship will always remain our utmost priority."



Photo courtesy N.C. Center for Nonprofits

Action for Children President and CEO Barb Bradley (center) accepts the Sector Stewardship Award along with (from Bradley's right) Board Chair Polly Hathaway, Randi Munns, Angella Bellota and Josh Meyer.

Action for Children was one of the founding members of the N.C. Center for Nonprofits when the organization formed in 1992.

"We are honoring Action for Children North Carolina for its focus on advocacy and collaboration to improve public policies that affect people's lives. The ability to develop workable solutions to diffi-

cult public problems is a hallmark of the nonprofit sector and careful stewardship of resources," said Jane Kendall, N.C. Center for Nonprofits President. "Action for Children also used sound practices in nonprofit management and governance to transform itself into a results-oriented organization that is truly statewide. Its board and staff defined what 'child well-being' means, and they are measuring tangible progress toward this goal."

"They are responsible advocates, and their work exemplifies the approach that any advocacy organization should take," said Liz Ryan of the Campaign for Youth Justice, which makes grants to Action for Children. "You don't develop your position in a vacuum. You listen and develop coordinated strategy. They really listen to what people on the ground are saying."

Action for Children Gratefully Acknowledges Its Recent Business and Foundation Partners

- Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina
- A.J. Fletcher Foundation
- American Association of University Women -- NC
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Applebee's
- Back 40 Films
- Bailey & Associates
- Bank of America Foundation
- BB&T
- BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina
- Blumenthal Foundation
- Boone United Methodist Women
- Brenner Children's Hospital
- Campaign for Youth Justice
- Center for Teaching Quality
- CFED
- Corning Foundation
- Corning, Inc.
- Duke Energy
- Duke University Health Systems
- Eckerd Family Foundation
- EMBARQ
- EMC
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Fenwick Foundation
- First Focus
- Food Lion Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- Franklin Street Partners
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Golden Corral
- Greenfire Development
- Hanes Foundation
- Hendrick Motorsports
- Hershey Trust Company
- IBM
- James B. Hunt, Jr., Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy
- John Rex Endowment
- Julia and Frank Daniels Endowment Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation
- Kulynych Family Foundation II, Inc.
- Lenovo
- Levine Children's Hospital
- Liggett Vector Brands
- Lord Corporation
- Medimune
- Mary Grey Burney Foundation
- Michael and Laura Brader-Araje Foundation
- Mission Healthcare Foundation
- NASCAR Foundation
- N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers
- N.C. Association of County Boards of Social Services
- N.C. Association of Educators
- N.C. Community Colleges Foundation
- N.C. Dept. of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- N.C.'s Electric Cooperatives
- N.C. Foundation for Advanced Health Programs
- N.C. General Assembly
- N.C. Governor's Crime Commission
- N.C. Medical Society
- N.C. Mutual Life Insurance Company
- N.C. New Schools Project
- N.C. Partnership for Children
- N.C. Pediatric Society Foundation
- N.C. Pediatric Society
- Novo Nordisk
- Office Depot
- Paragon Commercial Bank
- Pearce, Brinkley, Cease & Lee, P.A.
- Pediatric Urology of North Carolina, P.A.
- Plachetka Family Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
- Preyer Jacobson Foundation
- Progress Energy
- Public School Forum of North Carolina
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Quintiles - via Triangle Community Foundation
- RBC Centura
- The Redwoods Group
- Robert T. Kent, D.D.S., M.S., P.A.
- Roblee Foundation
- Rural Economic Development Center
- SFL+a Architects
- Shanahan Law Group
- Southeastern Lending
- State Employees' Combined Campaign
- State Farm Insurance Company
- Storr Office Environments, Inc.
- Time Warner Cable
- Triangle Community Foundation
- Triangle United Way
- Tryon Capital Ventures, LLC
- UNC-Chapel Hill
- UNC Health Care
- UNC-Wilmington
- United Way of Forsyth County
- United Way of North Carolina
- United Way of Greater High Point
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Wachovia Corporation
- Wachovia Foundation
- WakeMed Health & Hospitals
- Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation
- Winston-Salem Foundation
- Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, PLLC
- Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
- The York Companies

- In-Kind Sponsors*
- American Airlines
- Capitol Broadcasting Company
- Carolina Ballet
- Corning, Inc.
- EMBARQ
- Fairway Outdoor Advertising
- Future Graphics
- IBM
- Joseph C. Woodard Printing Company
- Nathan Clendenin Multimedia & Photography
- Paragon Commercial Bank
- Raleigh News & Observer
- Time Warner Cable

Coming Soon!
 The 4th annual
 N.C. Children's Lifetime Legacy
 Award will be given to
 Julius Chambers on June 2.
 Check www.ncchild.org soon
 for more details!

We invite you to be a supporter of
 THE SENATOR
 WILLIAM N. MARTIN
 ENDOWMENT FOR CHILDREN,
 named in loving memory of our dear
 late Board Member and friend.
 Check www.ncchild.org for more
 information on how you can participate.

New Faces at Action for Children

Action for Children Board of Directors

Polly Hathaway, Chair
CapitalCare Collaborative

Laura Gerald, M.D.,
Vice Chair
Community Care of N.C.

Rebecca Johnson, Secretary
Educator and Civic Leader

Stafford L. Thompson, Jr.,
Treasurer
North Carolina Mutual Life
Insurance Company

Bill Jamieson,
Immediate Past Chair
Micah Institute

Natalie K. Best
French/West/Vaughan

Michael Brader-Araje
SunPocket Management, LLC

Brenda Branch
Chief District Court Judge
Halifax County District 6A

Dina C. Castro, Ph.D.
FPG Institute

David C. Coulter
WakeMed

Albert R. Eckel
Corning, Inc.

Clarence High Jr.
Chief Court Counselor

Jean Irvin
Forsyth Futures

Deremia Johnson
A.J. Fletcher Foundation

Kenneth Lewis
Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and
Rice

Peter Morris, M.D., M.P.H.
Wake County Human Services

Linda Fisher Poss
Children's & Women's Services

Gregory Richardson
N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs

Penelope Orr Spry
Children's Law Center of Cent. NC

Tracy E. Sternberg
EMBARQ

David T. Tayloe, Jr., M.D.
Goldsboro Pediatrics, PA

Ex Officio Member
Barbara Bradley
Action for Children North Carolina

Action for Children announces the addition of six new Board members and three new staff members.

Joining Action for Children's Board of Directors are **Natalie K. Best**, Senior Vice President at French/West/Vaughan; **Brenda Branch**, Chief District Court Judge in Halifax County; **Clarence High Jr.**, Chief Court Counselor in Halifax County; **Deremia Johnson**, Director of Administration and Programs at the A.J. Fletcher Foundation; **Linda Fisher Poss**, Manager of Planning Business Support & Outreach at Children's & Women's Services in Asheville; and **Tracy E. Sternberg**, Manager of External Affairs at EMBARQ.

"Action for Children is dedicated to serving *all* children in North Carolina, and we require a diverse array of dedicated directors in order to achieve that," said Polly Hathaway, Chair of Action for Children's Board of Directors. "These new additions range across professions, races, genders and geographic homes to provide us with the multiple viewpoints we need to succeed. We couldn't be more excited to have them join us."

Action for Children also announces the appointment to its staff of **Deirdre Morrison** as Finance Officer, **Josh Meyer** as Director of Communications and **Angella Bellota** as Research and Data Analyst.

"Deirdre, Josh and Angella have already made significant contributions in their time here," said Barb Bradley, President and CEO. "They each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are eager to see their outstanding work continue."

Action for Children Corporate Advisory Board

Albert Eckel, Chair
Corning, Inc.

Ron Bernstein
Liggett Vector Brands

Robbie Ferris
Shuller, Ferris, Linstrom &
Associates, Architects

Jim Fryling
The Redwoods Group

Lynne Garrison
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of
North Carolina

Redge Hanes
The Encore Group

Robert Holmes
Nortel

Tracey Jenkins
Eaton Corporation

J. Bryant Kinney
Duke Energy Carolinas

Molly O'Neill
Duke University Health
Systems

Jeff Snell
ENLIGN Business Brokers

Dale Whitworth
Golden Corral Corporation

Action for Children Staff

Barbara Bradley
President and CEO

Deirdre Morrison
Finance Officer

Sorien K. Schmidt
Senior Vice President

Josh Meyer
Director of Communications

Brandy Bynum
Director of Community
Outreach

Alexandra Forter Sirota
Director of Policy and
Research

Mandy Ableidinger
Director of Policy and
Budget Analysis

Angella Bellota
Research and Data Analyst

Randi Munns
Office Manager

Action for Children Fellows

Olson Huff, M.D.
Senior Fellow, Health

Tom Vitaglione
Senior Fellow, Health and
Safety