

CURRICULUM VITAE

ELIZABETH BURKE BRYANT, JD

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

1979 **University of Vermont**, Burlington, VT
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

1985 **George Washington University Law School**, Washington, DC
Juris Doctor

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2009-2016

& 2022 **Brown University**, Providence, RI
Adjunct Lecturer, Master of Public Affairs, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, and Master of Public Policy, A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions
Course: Public Policy Advocacy & Strategic Communications

July, 2023- **Brown University**, Providence, RI
Present *Professor of the Practice of Health Services, Policy and Practice*, Brown University School of Public Health and Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute
Course: Masters of Public Health Capstone Course Policy Brief Section

CAREER EXPERIENCE

July 2023-
Present **Professor of the Practice of Health Services, Policy and Practice**, Brown University School of Public Health, Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute, Providence, RI

Work with Hassenfeld Institute's faculty and staff to close disparities in maternal and child health with a focus on behavioral health. Use data, policy research on best practices for improving outcomes, and convening community, government and academic partners to advance effective programs and policies that increase the health and wellness of Rhode Island's children, youth and their families. Teach Masters of Public Health Capstone Course, Policy Brief section.

1994-2022 **Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT**, Providence, RI
Served as Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT from its founding in 1994 to 2022. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a children's policy and advocacy organization that provides data and information on child well-being, stimulates dialogue on children's issues, and promotes accountability and action with a core focus on equity. The organization provides policy makers, community leaders and the news media with the best available data and information on children's health, development, economic well-being, education, and safety. Worked with staff to create, edit and publish the annual [Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook](#) (1994-2022), *Issue Briefs*, *Policy Briefs* and *Legislative Wrap-ups*. The *Factbook* provides the latest available data, trends, and policy information on 71 indicators of child well-being for the State of Rhode Island, the four core cities, and Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns. It informs data-driven advocacy across the state, with a core focus on closing unacceptable disparities by race, ethnicity, and income. Provided leadership and communications strategies for advocacy campaigns on children's public policy issues including children's health insurance coverage, childhood lead poisoning, maternal/child health, mental health, juvenile justice reform, Early Intervention, Pre-K, Head Start and Child Care, gun violence prevention, and extension of services for youth aging out of DCYF care. Regularly provided testimony on children's issues to committees of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Worked with a broad, diverse array of community leaders from all sectors on issues affecting the health, education, safety, and economic well-being of Rhode Island's children and families. Worked closely with the RI Congressional Delegation, Governor, legislative leadership, and state agency directors to identify beneficial policies and investments for children and families and to provide strategic input on their effective

implementation. Planned and moderated the annual *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook Breakfasts* and *Celebration of Children's Health Luncheons*.

Selected appointments to government commissions and working groups on children/ families and public health issues, including:

- Governor's Council on Health (1997)
- RI Health Care Reform Commission (2011)
- RI Oral Health Commission (2010-2015)
- Co-chair of the Rhode Island Early Learning Council (2010-2022)
- Chair of the (Education) Foundation Aid Technical Advisory Group (2009)
- Co-chair of the RI Pre-K Design Team (2010)
- Co-chair, RI Education Funding Formula Working Group (2015)
- Member, DCYF Diversity Advisory Committee (2015-2018)
- Member, Governor's Reinventing Medicaid Working Group (2015)
- Member, RI Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census
- RI Commissioner, Education Commission of the States
- Member, RI Maternal Health Task Force (2024-present)
- Member, RI Olmstead Advisory Council (2025-present)

As Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, I contributed to the following policy victories:

- *Increase in percentage of children with health insurance coverage to nearly universal coverage* (from 12% uninsured in 1994 to 2% uninsured in 2024).
- *Passage of Cover All Kids Act* that restored RIte Care Coverage to all eligible children regardless of immigration status (2022)
- *Establishment of RIte Smiles* dental benefits program that provides access to oral health care for low-income children. The number of dentists accepting children with Medicaid coverage increased from 27 before *RIte Smiles* began in 2006 to 471 dentists in FY2023

- *Passage of RI Postpartum Coverage Extension Act-* expands postpartum health insurance coverage from 60 days to 12 months for women receiving RIte Care, regardless of immigration status (2022)
- *Passage of RI Lead Hazard Mitigation Act* (2002)
- *Reduction in childhood lead poisoning* from 44% of RI children entering kindergarten with a history of elevated blood lead levels in 2005 to 4% in 2024
- *Design, establishment, and expansion of the RI Pre-K Program,* ranked number one in the nation for quality (2009-2024)
- *Universal Full-Day Kindergarten* (required by law as of 2016-2017 school year)
- *Establishment and launch of BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System for Child Care* (2006-2009)
- *First permanent increase in Medicaid rates for Early Intervention Program in 20 years* (2022)
- *Supported doula/community-led effort for passage of the RI Doula Reimbursement Act, making RI the first state to require reimbursement for doula services through Medicaid and private insurance* (2021).
- *Passage of Voluntary Extension Care Act to extend DCYF services to age 21* to help ensure smooth transitions to adulthood for youth aging out of foster care (2018)
- *Reversal of a law that tried 17-year-olds as adults, with incarceration at the Adult Correctional Institutions* (2007)
- *Passage of RI Trauma-Informed Schools Act* to create school communities where all adults are prepared to recognize and respond to students who have been impacted by toxic stress and trauma (2022)

Selected Coalitions and Advisory Committees on Children's Issues

- *Co-Chair, Rhode Island Early Learning Council* (2010-2022)
- *RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty* (2008-2022)
- *RI Life Index Advisory Committee* (2019-2022)
- *New England Children's Behavioral Health Network* (2022-present)
- *Rhode Island Foundation Long Term Health Planning Committee* (2019-2022)

- *Rhode Island Foundation Long Term Education Planning Committee (2018-2022)*
- *Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute Advisory Council (2016-2023)*
- *Hasbro Children's Hospital Children's Leadership Council (2010-present)*
- *United Way of Rhode Island Community Advisory Board*

Selected Rhode Island KIDS COUNT publications:

- ***Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Annual Factbooks 1994-2022***
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Child Neglect and Abuse in Rhode Island: Prevention and Support for Children and Families (2022)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Maternal Depression in Rhode Island: Two Generations at Risk (2018)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Children's Economic Well-Being in Rhode Island (2021)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Child Hunger in Rhode Island (2020)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Child Poverty in Rhode Island (2020)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Issue Brief: Children of Incarcerated Parents in Rhode Island (2020)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Brief: Housing Instability and Homelessness Among Rhode Island Children (2021)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Brief: Childhood Overweight and Obesity: Trends in Rhode Island (2022)*
- *Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Legislative Wrap-ups 2010-2022*

National Leadership

Alliance for Early Success - National organization that invests in state-based advocates to build momentum for effective, equitable policies for young children birth to age 8.

Facilitated the Alliance's national State/Federal Advocacy Peer-to-Peer Working Group from 2013 to 2022 to share strategies to promote state policies for early childhood education, health, and family support and to inform the development of federal policies in these areas.

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading - A collaborative effort by foundations, non-profit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states, and communities across the nation to ensure that more children in low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, career, and active citizenship. It focuses on an important predictor of school success and high school graduation – grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

Served on the Campaign's Leadership Team as Policy Advisor from 2010 to 2020. Gave policy presentations and moderated sessions at the Campaign's national conferences and presented to Campaign allies including the National Governor's Association.

National School Readiness Indicators Initiative: Making Progress for Young Children, a 17-state initiative, coordinated and led by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT to establish a set of school readiness indicators for children birth to eight to enable states to make informed policy decisions that enhance school readiness and track progress in meeting goals for young children. The initiative was funded by the David and Lucile Packard, Ford, and Kauffman Foundations.

*Served as co-coordinator of this three-year national initiative that brought the participating states together for 5 working meetings to develop school readiness indicators and culminated in the publication of *Getting Ready: Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative – a 17 State Partnership* (2005)*

Partnership for America's Children – A national network of state and local child advocacy organizations working to improve policies affecting children at the local, state, and national levels. Its mission is to connect, strengthen and inspire child advocates from across the nation.

Served as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Membership Committee (2014-2021).

- 1992-1994 **Housing Specialist, Adult Correctional Institutions, Women's Prison Mentoring Project**, Cranston, RI
Assisted incarcerated women in the transition back into the community by locating affordable housing alternatives.
- 1987-1991 **City of Providence**, Providence, RI
***Director of Policy**, Office of Mayor Joseph R. Paolino, Jr.
***Assistant City Solicitor**, Providence Housing Court Prosecutor

SELECTED AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- ❖ City Year Rhode Island Umutu Humanitarian Award (2025)
- ❖ USA TODAY Woman of the Year for Rhode Island (2023), a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country
- ❖ RI General Assembly Senate and House of Representatives Resolutions in recognition of 28 years of dedicated and exemplary service to children, youth, and families (2023)
- ❖ American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter Public Service and Advocacy Award (2022)
- ❖ Congressman David Cicilline's Women Leading the Way Award (2022)
- ❖ Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England Leading Women of Distinction Award (2022)
- ❖ RI Interfaith Coalition Policy Leadership Award (2022)
- ❖ University of Vermont Alumni Achievement Award (2015)
- ❖ National Florette Angel Child Advocate of the Year Award, Partnership for America's Children (2007)
- ❖ YWCA of Rhode Island Women of Achievement Award (2007)
- ❖ Rhode Island Foundation Community Leadership Award (2010)
- ❖ Rhode Island Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Silver Rattle Award (2002)
- ❖ Rhode Island College Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree presented at 2023 Commencement (also gave the Commencement Address)