



Joan Levy Zlotnik, PhD, ACSW — Director

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Speaker Biographical Sketches

Jamie Liban, MSW has served as Executive Director of The Arc of Virginia since 2007. In her role as Executive Director, her work focuses primarily on grassroots advocacy, public policy and chapter development. Lately, her advocacy efforts have concentrated on the U.S. v. Virginia Settlement Agreement, which addresses the Commonwealth's services for Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This historic consent decree will transform Virginia's service system from one that is reliant on large segregated institutions to one that is focused on safe, integrated community-based services.

In October 2012, The Arc of Virginia had the honor of receiving The Arc's National "Advocacy Matters!" Award for its efforts to help Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities live "A Life Like Yours" in the community. Under Jamie's leadership, The Arc of Virginia has also received recognitions from several partner organizations including Hope House Foundation "Community Award" (2012), the Virginia Association of Personal Care Assistants Advocacy Award (2012) and the Virginia Collaborations Leadership Award (2010). In 2011, Jamie was named one of Style Weekly's "Top 40 Under 40" for her work on behalf of Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Jamie has 10 years of experience working for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a variety of capacities including advocacy, case management, residential and day support. Prior to her current role at The Arc of Virginia, she served as the Advocacy Coordinator for The Arc of Northern Virginia, where she coordinated a regional advocacy initiative to improve quality of services and increase community integration.

Jamie has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from James Madison University, and a Master's degree in Social Work from George Mason University.

Linda S. Spears, Vice President, Policy and Public Affairs, Child Welfare League of America
Linda Spears has worked on the front line of child protection and in senior management in child welfare services for nearly 30 years. Recently appointed Vice President for Policy and Public Affairs, Linda spearheads all of CWLA's national public policy work and its media and public relations efforts. Central to this work is CWLA's Campaign for a 2010 White House Conference for Children, which will identify and advance the next generation of policy, program and best practice work to improve outcomes for abused, neglected, and vulnerable children.

Linda recently served as Acting Senior Vice President during CWLA's recent transition and also served as Vice President for Corporate Communications and Development, leading public relations, foundation, corporate, and individual development activities. Throughout her tenure at CWLA, she has also served as Associate Vice President for Programs, guiding CWLA's research, consultation, training, and best practice activities in program areas, including foster care, adoption, and domestic violence.

She has also served as Director of Child Protection and began her work at CWLA as Senior Consultant, charged with working with numerous state and local jurisdictions to assist with program and practice improvement, agency management, and accountability. She has facilitated communitywide children's services needs assessment and planning in local and state jurisdictions. Linda has authored several works on domestic violence and child protection, and she has received numerous awards for her tireless advocacy on behalf of abused and neglected women and children. Because of her depth of knowledge and breadth of experience, Linda has emerged as a key national spokesperson on today's core child welfare issues.

Marco A. Villagrana, MSW currently serves as Associate Director for Federal Relations for The Joint Commission. In that role, he is responsible for a range of activities that foster productive relationships with healthcare policy makers, federal agency officials, and key elected officials. He provides strategic advice on health policy matters of relevance to The Joint Commission.

Prior to joining The Joint Commission, Mr. Villagrana served as a health care fraud investigator for the Senate Special Committee on Aging and the Senate Committee on Finance where he provided strategic advice to Committee Members and drafted bipartisan legislation to address Medicare and Medicaid fraud. He served as an analyst and a congressional liaison for the Office of Inspector General at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where, among other accomplishments, his analysis identified over \$400 million dollars in improper Medicare payments. He also served as a Health Insurance Specialist at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services where he was responsible for Medicare certification of long-term care facilities, home health agencies, and outpatient physical/occupational therapy facilities.

Mr. Villagrana was appointed by the Arlington County (Virginia) Board to serve on the Commission on Long-term Care Residences whose mission is to advise the County Board about quality of care and quality of life issues and act as a liaison between long-term care facilities and the County. He was selected by the Commission's Chair and Members to serve as the Commission's Vice Chair. He is also a member of the National Association of Social Workers.

He earned a Master of Social Work degree with a concentration in management and policy and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also earned a Certificate in Legislative Studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University. He is a Certified Yellow Belt in Robust Process Improvement.