

# Speaker Bios

**Juan Carlos Areán**  
**Children's Program Manager**  
**Family Violence Prevention Fund**

Juan Carlos Areán has devoted the last 16 years to engaging men across different cultures to become better fathers, intimate partners and allies to end domestic violence and achieve gender equity. For over a decade, he worked at the Men's Resource Center for Change in various capacities, including director of the Men Overcoming Violence and the Refugees and Immigrants Programs. He also worked as a sexual assault prevention specialist at Harvard University.

Mr. Areán is co-author of various articles, curricula and educational tools for men and an active trainer, who has led hundreds of workshops and presentations nationally and internationally.

**Lonna Davis**  
**Director of the Children's Program**  
**The Family Violence Prevention Fund.**

Lonna Davis has worked in the field of domestic violence since 1982 and for last 15 years she has provided technical assistance to states and communities on the overlap of violence against women and child abuse. In 2007, Ms. Davis and her colleague Juan Carlos Areán launched a new National Institute on Fatherhood and Domestic Violence, which serves as a leadership academy and training center for practitioners who work with abusive men and fathers. Ms. Davis currently works on three other national initiatives including: the Greenbook Project, the Safe Havens Grant Program and the Family to Family Initiative.

Prior to her current position at the FVPF, Ms. Davis worked for a variety of domestic violence programs, including two shelters for battered women, the Advocacy for Women and Kids in Emergencies (AWAKE) project at Boston Children's Hospital, and the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, where she co-founded a state-wide domestic violence program within the children protection setting.

Ms. Davis has authored several articles, tools and publications and has received special commendations from various local and national agencies. She holds a master's in social work from Salem State College in Massachusetts.

**Liz Roberts**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**Division of Family Support Services**  
**NYC Administration for Children's Services**

Liz Roberts is responsible for the development and implementation of systemic interventions that support and strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce the need for foster care placement of New York City's children. Previously, Ms. Roberts served for two years as the Assistant Commissioner for Child and Family Health at Children's Services, where she was responsible for the development and implementation of medical, mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence policies and programs. From 2001 through 2003, Ms. Roberts led the agency's efforts to address the overlap of domestic violence and child maltreatment within New York City's child welfare system. In this role, Ms. Roberts developed the agency's first domestic violence strategic plan, designed and delivered innovative training programs for child protective staff and family court attorneys, and supported the placement of twelve domestic violence consultants in child protective field offices throughout the city.

Prior to joining Children's Services, Ms. Roberts provided clinical intervention, advocacy, and professional training on behalf of families affected by violence for more than fifteen years. She worked as a clinician in a nationally recognized model program for young children who have witnessed violence, coordinated a domestic violence training program for pediatric and perinatal health care providers, and worked as a battered women's advocate and children's program coordinator in community-based domestic violence service programs. She has co-authored several books and articles, including *Shelter From the Storm*, a curriculum for mental health providers on working with children who have been exposed to domestic violence, and *For Shelter and Beyond*, a training manual for workers in the battered women's movement.

Ms. Roberts completed her BA in Social Anthropology at Harvard/Radcliffe College, and earned her Masters in Social Work degree from Salem State College with a concentration in Health/Mental Health.