

SC Children’s Justice Act Task Force
2021-2023 Members

Chair: Tom Knapp

Vice Chair: Trista Baird

Category	Member	Title/Agency
Law Enforcement	Trista Baird (Vice Chair)	<i>Lieutenant,</i> SC Law Enforcement Division, SVU - Department of Child Fatalities
	Vicky Gaskins	<i>Lieutenant,</i> Aiken County Sheriff’s Office, Juvenile Division
Criminal Court Judge	Honorable Jocelyn Newman	<i>Circuit Court Judge,</i> 5th Judicial Circuit, Richland County
Civil (Family) Court Judge	Honorable Rosalyn Frierson-Smith	<i>Family Court Judge</i>
	Honorable Kimaka Nichols-Graham	<i>Family Court Judge</i> 13th Judicial Circuit, Greenville County
Prosecuting Attorney	Erik Drylie	<i>Assistant Solicitor,</i> 11 th Judicial Circuit, Saluda, Edgefield, & McCormick Counties
	Debbie Herring-Lash	<i>Assistant Solicitor,</i> 9th Circuit Solicitor’s Office, Charleston County
Defense Attorney	Sarah Smith	<i>Assistant Public Defender,</i> Richland County Public Defender’s Office
Child Advocate (Attorney for Children)	Mary Christine “Tena” Hardee	<i>General Counsel, Guardian ad Litem Program</i> S. C. Department of Children’s Advocacy
	Angela Kohel	<i>Managing Attorney, CASA</i> Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates
CASA/GAL Representative	Pamela Robinson	<i>Volunteer Guardian ad Litem and</i> <i>Director, Pro Bono Program, UofSC Law School</i>
	LaDara Josey	<i>Director,</i> SC Guardian ad Litem Program
Medical Professional	Dr. John Melville	<i>Division Chief and Associate Professor of</i> <i>Pediatrics, MUSC Children’s Hospital</i>
	Dr. Olga Rosa	<i>Associate Professor of Pediatrics</i> USC School of Medicine, Division of Forensic Pediatrics <i>Director, SC Children’s Advocacy Medical</i> <i>Response System</i>
Mental Health Professional	Dr. Libby Ralston	<i>Director Emeritus,</i> Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center <i>Co-Director, Project BEST</i>
	Emily Miller	<i>Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Center</i> <i>of Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union</i>

Child Protective Service Agency	Carissa Gainey	<i>Director, Office of Safety Management, SCDSS</i>
Experienced with Children with Disabilities	Jennifer Buster	<i>BabyNet Director, SC Department of Health and Human Services</i>
	Cheryl Fitts	<i>Education Associate, Social Emotional Learning SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services</i>
Parent Group Representative	Amy Holbert	<i>Executive Director, Family Connection of SC</i>
	Lisa Franklin	<i>Program Administrator, SC Foster Parent Association</i>
Adult with Lived Experience in Child Welfare	Kelley Perkins Brown	<i>Deputy Public Defender Aiken County, 2nd Judicial Circuit - Juvenile Division</i>
Experienced in Working with Homeless Children	Deborah C. Boone	<i>McKinney-Vento Coordinator, Richland County School District One</i>
Court Admin. Rep.	Amy Wessinger	<i>Program Coordinator, SC Court Administration</i>
DSS Rep.	Portia Hawkins	<i>Program Unit Manager, SC Department of Social Services</i>
SCNCAC Rep.	Tom Knapp (Chair)	<i>Executive Director, SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers</i>
Department of Children's Advocacy Rep.	Amanda Whittle	<i>State Child Advocate and State Director, SC Department of Children's Advocacy</i>
At-Large Members	Megan Branham	<i>Director of Community Health Family Connection of South Carolina</i>
	Ellen Hamilton	<i>Executive Director, Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault</i>

Children's Law Center Staff	Rebecca Carney	<i>Children's Justice Act Coordinator carneyr@mailbox.sc.edu</i>
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