

# Building Capacity in Emergency Preparedness and Response with Family Partners of Children with Complex Needs in Pennsylvania



**Meg Comeau, MHA**

Meg is a senior project director at the Center for Innovation in Social Work and Health at the Boston University School of Social Work. She brings more than 17 years of health care delivery and financing experience to her roles as principal investigator for the HRSA-funded projects [Building Capacity in Emergency Preparedness and Response with Family Partners of Children with Complex Needs in Pennsylvania](#), the [Catalyst Center](#), the technical assistance center focused on improving insurance coverage and financing of care for children and youth with special health care needs and the [Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network to Advance Care for Children with Medical Complexity \(CMC\)](#).

Meg's professional expertise is complimented by her experience as the parent of a now young adult who was born with a medically complex genetic syndrome.



**Bethlyn Houlihan, MSW MPH**

Bethlyn's training and work over 20+ years lie at the intersection of social work and public health, partnering with people living with complex health conditions across the life course to improve the healthcare systems' capacity to meet their essential, interconnected health and social needs. She has co-developed and tested innovative, effective person-led, peer health coaching interventions and community-based educational programs. She serves as Co-Principal Investigator on our Emerging Issues grant, with her esteemed colleagues present today. She is Project Director for the HRSA MCHB-funded Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network for Children with Medical Complexity (CMC CoIIN) project, an interprofessional collaborative partnership supporting 10 state teams to transform systems of care and further elevating partnership with families of CYSHCN.



**Duane Spencer, BS EMTP**

Duane is with the Pennsylvania EMS for Children State Partnership Program where he has been the Program Manager since January 2020. Duane's education and experience has spanned over 45 years as a paramedic/ firefighter, flight paramedic, pediatric educator, and hospital administrator. His roles include EMS system development, emergency preparedness, clinical quality improvement, and targeted EMS for Children program development. He has served the Emerging Issues, with contributions supporting the capacity and needs of first responders across the state while considering the integration between this group and the caregiver/family component in supporting the development of materials necessary to improve the collaborative delivery of a successful program to inform, educate, and prepare individuals in the care of this vulnerable population during an unexpected emergency.

# Oregon: HERO Kids Registry



Benjamin Hoffman, MD, FAAP, CPST-I  
PI, HRSA Emerging Issues Grant

Ben is a nationally recognized expert in child passenger safety, and leader in the field of community health and advocacy training for pediatric residents. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at Doernbecher Children's Hospital and Oregon Health and Science University. There, he is also the Vice-Chair for Community Health and Advocacy, Director of the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, and Medical Director of the Tom Sargent Safety Center. He also serves as the Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Injury Violence and Poison Prevention, and Director of the Community Pediatrics Training Initiative. He remains very active in child health policy and community advocacy.



Brittany Tagliaferro Lucas, BS  
Co-I, HRSA Emerging Issues Grant

Brittany is the Program Administrator for the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs and HERO Kids Registry Project Manager. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Portland State University. Brittany has 13 years of experience managing statewide programs and registries, including grant administration, strategic planning, program development, implementation, and education. She was a founding member of the Oregon Portable Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Registry and remains active in the POLST community as a consultant to the Oregon POLST Coalition and its education and technology sub-committees.



Rachel Ford, MPH  
EMSC Consultant, HRSA Emerging Issues Grant

Rachel is the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Manager for the Oregon Health Authority. Rachel earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Business Administration from University of Oregon and her master's degree in Public Health Management and Policy from Portland State University. Rachel has 12 years of public health experience, including tribal public health, hospital system accreditation and compliance, hospital and clinic project management, and state government service.