NICHQ

National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality

Biographical Data Form

Please complete and return the following
Polly Arango

Education (include basic preparation through highest degree held)			
Degree	**Institution (Name, City, State)**	**Major Area of Study**	***Year***
BA	University of New Mexico	English	1964
	Note: I firmly believe any academic credentials I might have are less important than my life experiences as a mother of a son with special health care needs.		

Use the space below to provide a brief bio describing professional experience or areas of expertise related to involvement in continuing education and particular role, e.g., planner, presenter, administrator, etc.

Polly Arango's youngest son, Nick, an artist, has multiple disabilities and is medically fragile. In 1992, Polly co-founded Family Voices and was its Executive Director for eight years. She is a writer, speaker, and advocate for children with special needs, children in foster care, families, and family-centered care. She has served on the National Foster Care Pew Commission; Heinz Award Jury; Bright Futures Expert Panel; Editorial Board, *About Children*; Faculty, IHI Triple Aim; National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality/NICHQ board of directors. In New Mexico, Polly co-founded PRO, the statewide parent organization, serves on the Board of Directors of New Mexico Voices for Children, the state Medicaid Advisory Committee, is a member of the state Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project, and is a member of the Board of Directors at El Pueblo Health Services and Tijeras Film Institute. Polly lived in Latin America with the Peace Corps and has traveled and lectured about family-centered care and family organizations in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Norway, Russia, and Argentina. She is co-author of several books, including: *New Mexico, a New Guide to the Colorful State; Touring New Mexico; Family/Professional Collaboration;* and *Partners at Work*, as well as many articles on health care, New Mexico, foster children, and family. She is executive producer and writer of *What Does Normal Mean?*" a PBS documentary film about inclusion. Polly has received many awards for her work on behalf of children, the most recent the 2008 Southwest Conference Justin Dart Disability Advocacy Award.