



National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality

*Biographical Data Form*

*Christy S. Blakely*

*Please complete and return the following*

<b>Education (include basic preparation through highest degree held)</b>			
<b>Degree</b>	<b>Institution (Name, City, State)</b>	<b>Major Area of Study</b>	<b>Year</b>
BS	Purdue Univ West Lafayette, IN	Elementary Education	1979
MS	Purdue Univ West Lafayette, IN	Special Education	1980
CNA	PASCO Home Health	Certified Nursing	1993

**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.**

Family Voices CO advocates on behalf of Children with Special Health Care Needs throughout the state. Christy worked previously as a Parent Advocate at Health Care Policy and Financing, Colorado Medicaid. Christy's other positions have included: Project Participate through JFK Partners working on, a grant to bring about inclusion for children with significant disabilities through the use of assistive technology and Easter Seal Colorado, Assistive Technology Lab, under the Assistive Technology Project.

Christy and husband, Todd are the proud parents of two daughters, Allison (25), a producer at CNN, Atlanta and Lauren (26) who is consulting with ARC Thrift designing a marketing program for art by people with disabilities. Lauren is a young adult with significant disabilities. While Christy had higher education degrees in special education when her daughter was born, she learned far more as a parent. Over the years, Christy has teamed with insurance companies, doctors, schools, advocates, professionals, therapists, hospital staff, and state agencies to improve policies and practices on behalf of children with disabilities. She has learned and shared her learning in parent leadership, assistive technology, service systems, insurance, policy, law and most importantly resources and funding with many people around the State of Colorado and the country.

Christy has worked nationally with the National Initiative for Child Health Quality (NICHQ) as a faculty on both a Medical Home Learning Collaborative and an Epilepsy Collaborative. She has consulted on an obesity Project and currently NICU Project. She has also worked with the American Academy of Pediatrics on the concept of Medical Home. Whether through her work in health policy or supporting an individual family to navigate today's complex health system, Christy's passion is to build parent leaders for the future.