

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Matt Buckman is a licensed Clinical Psychologist in private practice and founder of the Stress & Trauma Treatment Center. He also serves in various part-time leadership and consultative roles. Dr. Buckman is the CO-PI and Clinical Director for several programs and projects. Throughout his roles, Dr. Buckman provides supervision, consultation, and training as well as direct services to children, teens, young adults, and families to help improve a variety of emotional and behavioral health issues. He has worked in various schools, medical, and clinical settings with a specialization in childhood trauma and certifications in Early Intervention, Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, and Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. He has extensive experience working with victims of abuse and their families as they recover and heal from significant adversities and considers his work in this area to be his calling in life.

Tammy Wrobbel has worked in the field of early childhood education for 21 years. Tammy has a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and a Master of Science in Developmental Therapy. She has been employed as an Inclusion Specialist with the state's Project CHOICES and worked as a Developmental Therapist in Early Intervention as well as a disability program coordinator for Head Start/Early Head Start. Tammy's career includes working with parents, childcare providers, and community leaders: coaching parents and childcare teachers, providing professional development for Parents and childcare providers, coordinating community screenings, referrals, and enrollment events, and serving as a Special Services Program Coordinator for a large Head Start/Early Head Start program. Tammy helped promote inclusive programming and coordinated the instruction of and training for providers using the Pyramid Model for a local childcare program consisting of 13 locations. She also has experience collaborating with community agencies and serves on several committees including Greater East St Louis Early Learning Partnership, Children's Home & Aid Early Childhood Advisory Council, early learning councils, and Leadership Team in the Greater East St Louis Race to the Top Innovation Zone. Tammy is also a Certified Infant Massage Instructor as well as a Youth Trauma Yoga specialist and has completed the Volunteer Advocacy Project through Family Matters. She also has two children with disabilities and personal experience advocating for inclusion for children with disabilities. Tammy has been trained in: Adaptive Schools, Pyramid Model for Social Emotional Development, Sensory Integration & Sensory Processing, Facilitating Attuned Interactions, and over 300 additional hours in the areas of typical and atypical development, assessment, working with families, and intervention.

Talin Tokat is an Inclusion Specialist for Early CHOICES, an Inclusion initiative of the Illinois State Board of Education. Talin has a master's degree from Erikson Institute in Child Development with a specialization in Children's Law & Policy. She has worked as an early childhood educator, program director, and therapist, always with a focus on increasing inclusive and equitable opportunities for all children. Her own personal mission aligns with that of Early CHOICES, which promotes increasing high quality inclusive early care and education for each and every child, birth to age 5.

Karla Belzer is the Family Life Educator for University of Illinois Extension. Karla provides community-based training and education on life issues affecting families, adults, and individuals as they age. Karla has worked in the health and human services field for the past 20 years, including as a Recreational Therapist in a variety of clinical and community-based settings and as a social worker. Her educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Administration from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Indiana University.