



Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc
“Working to End Poverty Where We Live”

CAAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ BIO 2010

ALICE MELLO



Alice Mello was born in Bahia-Brazil. She has a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the Federal University of Bahia, a master’s degree in Arts in Education from Harvard and an interdisciplinary doctorate at Tufts merging Theater, Technology and Education. She has worked in design and development of computer applications for 26 years in the fields of electrical energy, water treatment, environment, tourism, finance, and higher education in Brazil, Germany and the USA. She has consulted for a variety of projects on technology and learning in Latin America and the USA. She is interested in integrating STEM, arts and learning. She has been working on applied research on technology in education since 1998 with the Future of Learning Group from MIT-Media Lab, her own research on Virtual Forum Theater and with MSP2 – Middle School Portal for STEM at Education Development Center (EDC) in Newton-Ma.



BARBARA RUBEL (VICE PRESIDENT)

Barbara Rubel has been on the CAAS board for a number of years, representing the private sector in Somerville. She is the Director of Community Relations at Tufts University. Barbara sits on two other Somerville boards, SCM Community Transportation, Inc., and the Somerville Chamber of Commerce.

Barbara has degrees in English from Carnegie Mellon University and UMass/Amherst.

BRANDY BROOKS



Brandy is a 12-year resident of Somerville, currently pursuing her Master in Public Administration/Non-Profit Management at Suffolk University. Prior to returning to graduate school, Brandy spent 4 years as the founding Executive Director of the Community Design Resource Center of Boston, a non-profit that connects design professionals and community organizations for pro bono work and public education about the importance of design and planning. She received her Bachelor in Design Studies/Design Computing from the Boston Architectural College, and her professional experience and interests range from graphic and web design to architecture to community engagement in policy-making.

Brandy has a passion for volunteerism and organizational management, and has served on the boards of numerous community and design-related non-profits. Currently, she is Vice President of the Association for Community Design and a board member at Neighborhood of Affordable Housing in East Boston. Brandy lives in Union Square and loves it here! She is delighted to join the CAAS Board and be a part of its work to keep Somerville a community of opportunity, engagement and success for all of us.



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DANIELLE RAY

Danielle is a Head Start Parent. She was selected to represent the Somerville Head Start Policy Council.



EILEEN FELDMAN

Eileen is a piano teacher and arts therapist, working with children, families and adults for over 25 years. She founded Arts Reaching Through Society in 1994 to provide arts advocacy projects and groups to children and adults in education, health and social programs around the country, with violence prevention and community arts goals at their core.

Eileen is currently the Director of the Community Access & Inclusion Project, a statewide grassroots DisAbility Rights research, development and action organization. She loves performing benefit concerts and hearing birds sing.



EILEEN NOLAN

Eileen has lived in Somerville for 20 years and have two small businesses. She has been an advocate working and volunteering in the non profit sector for 35 years(St Patrick's Homeless Shelter, Rosie's Place, Pine Street Inn and CASCAP) mostly serving homeless, mentally ill and low income folks.



GALE DOANE

Gale has been on the CAAS Board for many years. For many years she was President of the PTA Council. Under Mayor Gay, she worked at the Council on Aging and in the Mayor's office. She lives on Craigie Street.



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JOHN CIAMPA

John has served on the CAAS Board for many years. He has also been active with the handicapped commission. He previously served on the Board of Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services. He lives at Perkins Street.

JUSTIN MOELING (CLERK)



Justin currently works for Community Substance Abuse Centers (CSAC) in Woburn, MA as a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW). He did his graduate work at Boston College and undergraduate work at Clark University in Worcester.

He spent six years serving as a member of the United States Coast Guard. His personal and professional interest include social justice, substance abuse treatment and prevention, issues affecting young people in our community, environmental issues, anti-racism work, and anti-poverty work.

Other agencies he has been involved with include the Massachusetts Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross, the National Association of Social Workers, Save Our Somerville, and Teen Empowerment.

Justin is married to Stephanie Toews-Moeling. His daughter Ivy attends the Brown School. Justin lives in Winter Hill.

PAUL BOCKELMAN (TREASURER)



Paul has lived in Somerville for 25 years. He currently serves as the Director of Administration and Finance at the Massachusetts Municipal Association, an agency that advocates on behalf of Massachusetts cities and towns.

He served as Town Manager for 14 years in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, where he oversaw town budgets, negotiated with municipal unions, and facilitated communication between town government and the School Committee.

A long time volunteer in the Somerville Schools, Paul helped coordinate public participation in the recent School Superintendent search process. A frequent classroom volunteer at the Healey School, he also served a three-year term as co-chair of the citywide Choice Program.

Paul holds a Masters in City Planning degree from MIT and a Bachelor's Degree from Hampshire College.



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PAUL DIPASQUALE

Paul is the former President of the CAAS Board. In the past, Paul has been very active in educational activities and, in particular, gave lots of volunteer time with the Somerville Band Parents Association. He works as a computer technician for the State and is living on Irving Street.



ROBERTA BAUER (PRESIDENT)

Roberta served on the Somerville School Committee for ten years. She currently works as a Regulatory Specialist and Data Specialist at a small non-profit organization that conducts clinical trials of drugs for HIV/AIDS. One evening each week, she volunteers at SCALE as a classroom aide with adult English language learners.

Roberta and her husband spend many hours bicycling together, either on individual bikes or on their tandem. She lives in a bright orange house which contains, among other things, her collection of over seventy teapots.



SONJA DARAI

Sonja is currently the Director of the Office of Somerville Commissions in the City of Somerville. This role works within the Health Department regarding vulnerable populations and also provides staff assistance to several commissions and community groups: the Human Rights Commission, the Somerville Commission for Women, the Multicultural Affairs Commission, and the LGBT Community Outreach and Engagement.

Sonja has worked for the City for five years and lived in Somerville for ten years. Sonja has a Master's degree in Multicultural Communications and Sustainable Development. Sonja actively works on issues of increasing participation of marginalized populations in civic engagement, systemic-level prevention of intimate partner violence, and also is one of the founding board members of the Friends of the Birth Center which supports the Cambridge Birth Center.



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SUZANNE BREMER (VICE PRESIDENT)

Suzanne Bremer, a long time resident of the Union Square area of Somerville, is a librarian at the Global Development & Environment Institute at Tufts University. Her interests include community organizing, the application of traditional and emerging technologies in support of equity and justice, and bringing dessert to pot luck dinners.

Suzanne has two children who attend the John F. Kennedy Elementary School.

VIRGINIA AZUBUINE



Virginia and her husband have lived in Somerville for 25 years. They have 3 adult children: two sons, who have finished college and are working, and a daughter, who is a 3rd year medical school student.

Virginia has been involved with P.T.A. for a number of years, where she has served as Vice-president, and recording Secretary. She has also served as President and Treasurer for the Somerville High School Band where her children attended. Virginia has been a daycare provider for 22 years in Somerville. She loves working with the children and their families from all over the Boston, Cambridge, Medford and Somerville areas.

YARITZA CALZADA-RIVERA



Yaritza Calzada-Rivera is 23 years old and she has a 3 1/2 year old little girl (going onto 4 on February 6, 2010) whose name is Leilani. Her parents are from Puerto Rico and she was born and raised in Cambridge. Yaritza graduated from Everest Institute in April 2007 as a Medical Assistant and worked in Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates for a year and a half. She resigned from her position and focused on her little princess. Yaritza will enroll into Bunker Hill Community College to become a Registered Nurse. Then, she wants to transfer to a four year college to graduate with a Master in Nursing.

She says that it is an honor for her to be a member in the CAAS Board, and represent the Cambridge Head Start Policy Council. She hopes she can show how wonderful Cambridge is as a Community and find ways to make it grow more successfully then what it is already.