Dr. Rick Fiene, a research psychologist, has spent his professional career in improving the quality of child care in various states, nationally, and internationally. He has done extensive research and publishing on the key components in improving child care quality through an early childhood program quality indicator model of training, technical assistance, quality rating & improvement systems, professional development, mentoring, licensing, risk assessment, differential program monitoring, key indicators, and accreditation – the Early Childhood Program Quality Improvement and Indicator Model (ECPQI2M4©), now in its fourth edition. Dr. Fiene is a retired professor of human development & psychology (Penn State University) where he was department head and director of the Capital Area Early Childhood Research and Training Institute. He is presently President of the Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC (RIKI), a limited liability company in Pennsylvania.

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