

**Erica Barnes**  
**Executive Director**  
**Minnesota Rare Disease Counsel**

Erica Barnes is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Rare Disease Advisory Council and a well-respected healthcare innovator for the rare disease community. In 2010, when Erica tragically lost her young daughter, Chloe, to metachromatic leukodystrophy (MLD), a rare disease, Erica found herself in the role of a rare disease advocate. Erica has spent the past 12 years in the advocacy community, championing policies related to timely diagnosis, appropriate care, and effective treatments.