

Sam Criss

Sam Criss is a seasoned leader with over 25 years of experience in child welfare and disability services. He has built a reputation for translating vision into actionable strategies and driving systemic change across both sectors. Sam has served in key leadership roles, including a brief gubernatorial appointment as interim director of Indiana's Department of Child Services. He was the founding President & CEO of Indianapolis-based Foster Success, a nonprofit organization serving teens and young adults in the foster care system.

From 2016 through 2021, he served in the Indiana state government, holding key leadership positions with the Indiana Department of Child Services, including Deputy Director of Innovation and Deputy Chief of Staff to Indiana's Attorney General. He led several transformational projects for both offices and acted as a key advisor.

Currently, Sam serves as the President and CEO of Tangram, Inc., a nonprofit organization that serves individuals with disabilities across 22 counties in Indiana. Tangram provides a range of services designed to support people with disabilities in living independently and successfully within their communities. Sam works closely with the board of directors, leads the executive team and sets a strategic vision for the organization.

Sam is a lifelong Hoosier born in New Castle, Indiana, and has lived in the Indianapolis area since 1997. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Ball State University and a master's degree in business management from Indiana Wesleyan University.