Dr. Karen Lakin is the Medical Director of the LeBonheur Child Advocacy, Resource, and Evaluation Services (CARES) Team. She established the CARES Team, formerly known as the LeBonheur Child Assessment Program, in 2006. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in Child Abuse Pediatrics and General Pediatrics. She received her Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Duke University, Master of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Doctorate in Medicine from The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. After completing her residency in General Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and LeBonheur Children's Hospital, Dr. Lakin practiced General Pediatrics with the Raleigh Group, P.C. before joining the General Pediatrics Faculty at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in 1999.

Dr. Lakin has been qualified in multiple states as a medical expert in child maltreatment in criminal and civil courts and provided testimony in numerous cases involving Child Maltreatment for the past 15 years. She is also active in educating medical students, residents, fellows, and community partners about child maltreatment. She is currently Co-Chair of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect and appointed in 2020 as a member of the DCS Children's Advisory Council.