

APRIL 24–26, 2019 | WASHINGTON, DC  
WASHINGTON MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK



THE 21<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



Children's Bureau  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

# HOTEL INFORMATION

## Restaurants and Amenities

Hotel restaurants are located on the lobby level. The Health Club and Pool are located on the lobby level. Information on places to eat in Woodley Park and other DC neighborhoods is available through the NCCAN mobile app.

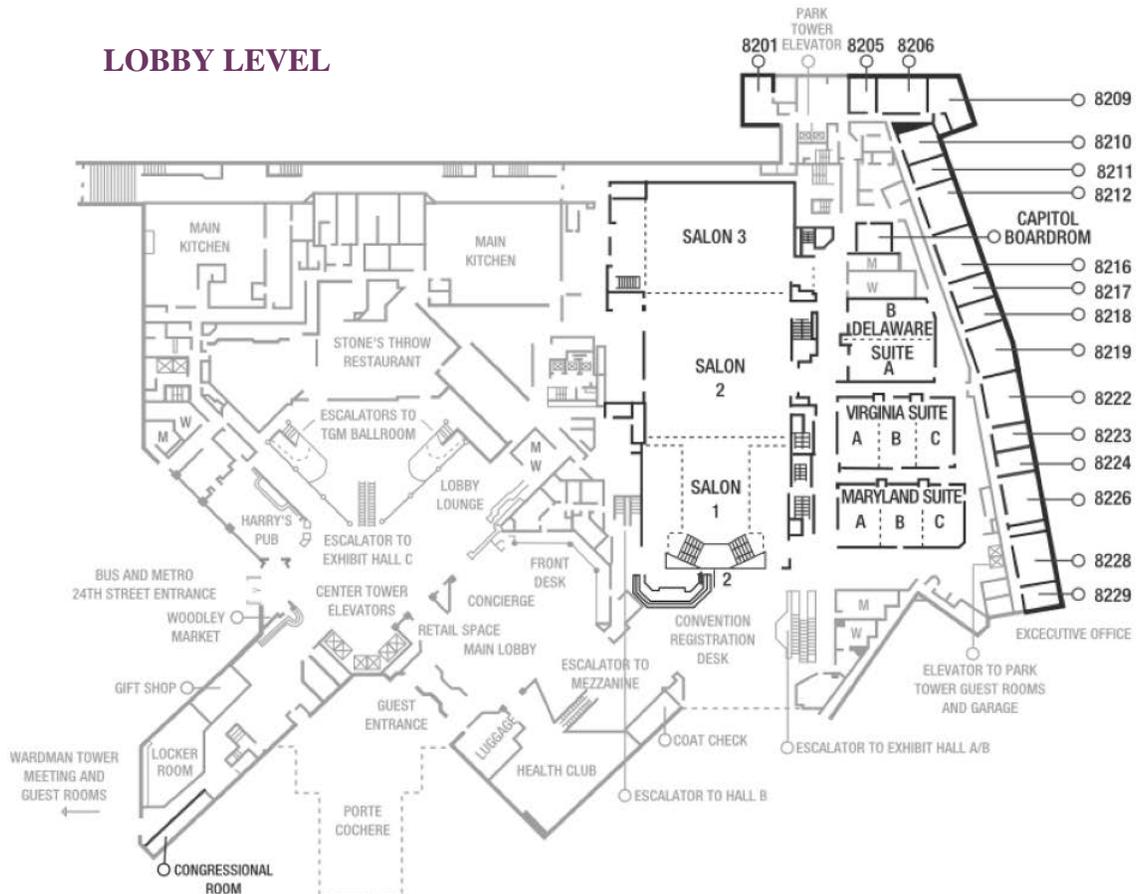
## NCCAN Registration and Information Desk

The Conference Registration and Information Desk is located on the lobby level. Hours are as follows:

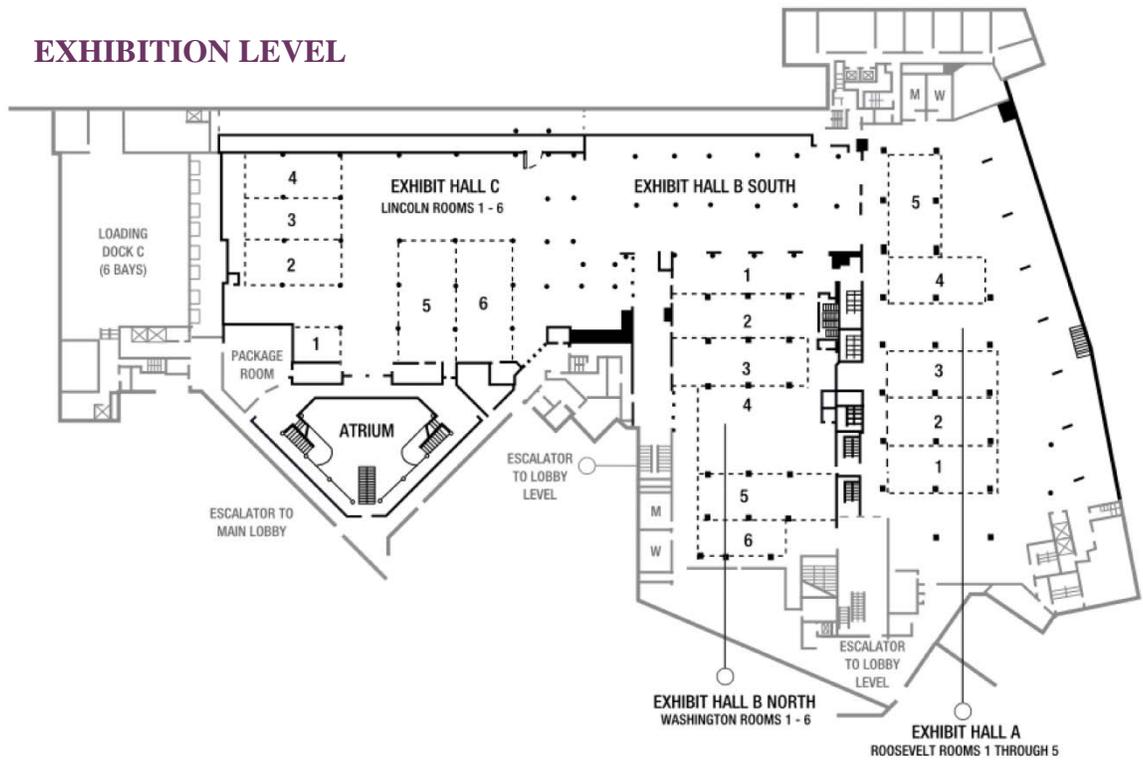
- Tuesday, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, 10:30 am - 5:30 pm
- Thursday, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
- Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

## HOTEL MAPS

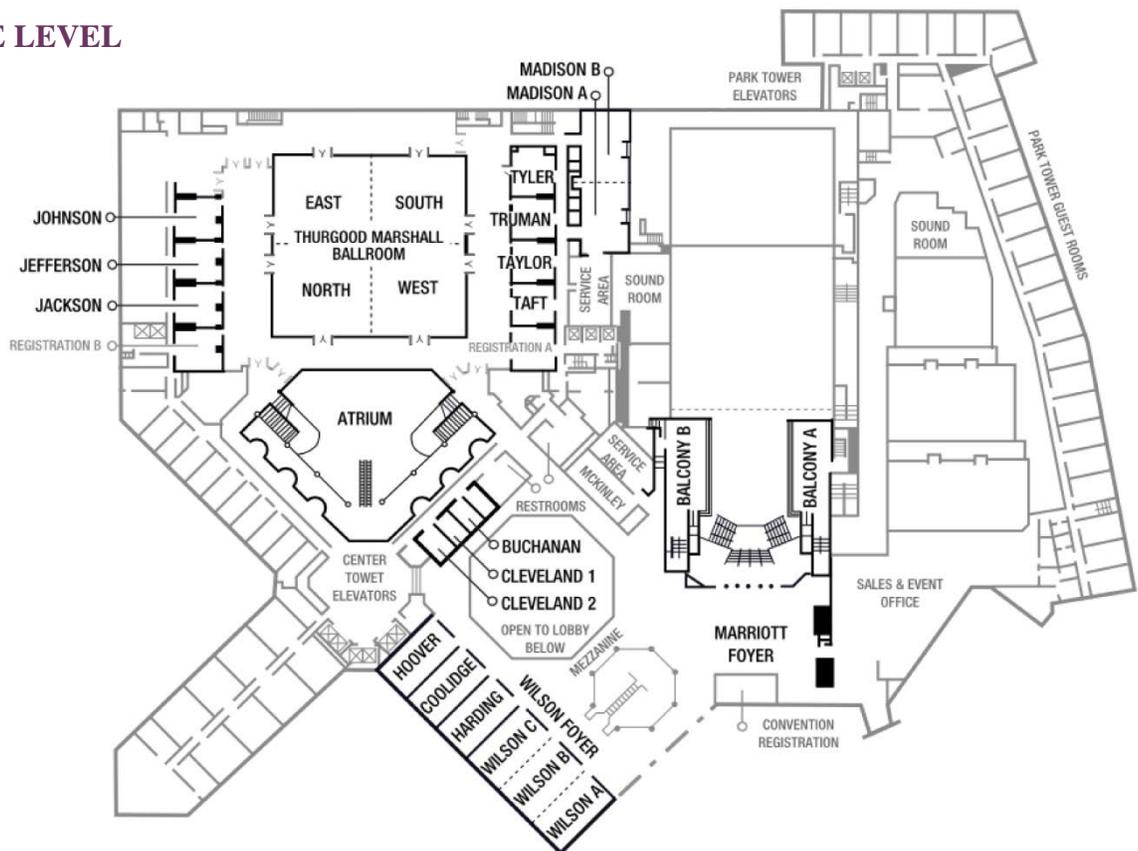
### LOBBY LEVEL



## EXHIBITION LEVEL



## MEZZANINE LEVEL



## CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

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### Tuesday, April 23

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Registration and Information Desk Open

### Wednesday, April 24

10:30 am – 5:30 pm Registration and Information Desk Open  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Opening Plenary  
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Break  
2:15 pm – 3:45 pm Concurrent Sessions  
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm Break  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

### Thursday, April 25

8:00 am – 5:30 pm Registration and Information Desk Open  
9:00 am – 10:30 am Concurrent Sessions  
10:30 am – 11:30 am Poster Sessions and Exhibit Hall  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Plenary Session  
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions  
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Poster Sessions and Exhibit Hall  
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm Concurrent Sessions

### Friday, April 26

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration and Information Desk Open  
9:00 am – 10:30 am Concurrent Sessions  
10:30 am – 11:30 am Poster Sessions and Exhibit Hall  
11:30 am – 12:30 pm Plenary Session  
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Concurrent Sessions  
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Break  
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm Concurrent Sessions



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| 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm                                | Concurrent Sessions .....              |
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# LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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## ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), it is my honor to have you participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) in Washington, D.C. This year's conference theme, *Strong and Thriving Families*, provides the opportunity to explore innovative and practical approaches, policies, and practices that support and strengthen families while preventing and reducing child abuse and neglect.

We know that if we want to help children, we have to help their parents. Our efforts should be focused on primary prevention—supporting the overall health and well-being of children and families, strengthening resiliency, and building parenting capacity. We also know that there is not a single one-size-fits-all approach to address the problem of child maltreatment. We believe strongly that primary prevention services must be located in the communities where families live and where they are easily accessible, culturally responsive, and adapted to meet local needs.

The 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect comes at a critical transition for child welfare as we strive to create integrated primary prevention networks in local communities throughout the country. The conference offers a forum for learning from one another, exploring key issues, and strategizing about innovative ways of moving forward.

We look forward to partnering with you in this effort.

Sincerely,

Lynn Johnson

Assistant Secretary for Children and Families



# LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER

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ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

Dear Colleagues and Partners:

We have a tremendous opportunity to come together at the 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and to explore how we can support families across systems, mitigate vulnerabilities, enhance protective factors, and ensure that children and families have the basic, concrete supports to keep them strong and thriving.

Right now, our child welfare system typically responds only after families have lost much of their protective capacity and children have been harmed. We need to create environments where families get the support they need before harm occurs. This calls for an intensified focus on primary prevention and a reconceptualization of the mission and functioning of child welfare systems.

We know the challenges of our current system, and the trauma and loss it has brought to so many children and parents. It is time to re-imagine how we work, to ensure that we are a nation of **Strong and Thriving Families**. We need to examine what we do around primary prevention and how we implement the foster care safety net, support service providers in the field, engage with community partners, and promote the health and well-being of the children and families we serve.

I hope that the 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference serves as a source of information and inspiration as, together, we create environments where children and families can thrive.

Regards,

Jerry Milner

Associate Commissioner for the Children's Bureau



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201 | [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is my great pleasure to have you join us for the 21st National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. The Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect has had the honor of hosting this important national gathering for more than 40 years. We have used this forum to bring together stakeholders from diverse fields to address some of the toughest challenges facing our field, to highlight breakthroughs, to learn from one another, and to affirm our commitment to this challenging but critically important work.

The 21st National Conference, with its theme of ***Strong and Thriving Families***, builds on this rich tradition. It offers us an opportunity to examine our current service systems to ensure that we are promoting the overall health, safety, and well-being of children, families, and communities. More than 200 unique learning opportunities address approaches, strategies, programs, and practices in the following formats:

- Plenary and Master Sessions that will be live-streamed to engage viewers throughout the country
- 90-minute workshops that feature up to 3 presenters to explore a single topic
- Policy forums that discuss child welfare policies and issues that have policy implications
- Interactive skills seminars to provide participants with hands-on training and practice
- Spotlight discussion sessions for in-depth discussions around issues or practices
- Poster sessions showcasing original research, initiatives, and programs

I hope that you will take full advantage of these opportunities, as you continue your efforts to improve the lives of children and families across the nation.

Sincerely,

Elaine Voces Stedt  
Director, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

The 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN Registration and Information Desk is located on the lobby level of the Washington Marriott Wardman Park. The hours of operation are as follows:

- 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 23
- 10:30 am to 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 24
- 8:00 am to 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 25
- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, April 26

In addition to providing registration services, the Registration and Information Desk is your one-stop spot for mobile app assistance, lost & found, and special needs & services.

The Washington Marriott Wardman Park is in compliance with the public accommodation requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Conference participants requiring assistance may contact either the hotel staff or request assistance at the NCCAN Registration and Information Center.

Room changes or other important announcements will be made through the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app. Please enable push notifications during the conference to stay up to date.

Please be advised that this is a non-smoking conference. Smoking is permitted only outside the Washington Marriott Wardman Park. We appreciate your cooperation.

### MEALS AND BREAKS

Federal regulations do not allow us to provide meals or beverages. The Washington Marriott Wardman Park will provide a coffee service on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:45 am – 8:45 am near the NCCAN Registration and Information Desk on the lobby level of the hotel. For other breaks, restaurants and grab-and-go shops offer food and beverage options at varying prices.

### TECHNOLOGY

#### Wi-Fi Access

Wi-Fi is available in all the conference meeting spaces for participants. Username: Marriott Conference. Password: NCCAN21.

#### 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN Mobile App

To optimize your conference experience, download the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN app on your mobile device or tablet. Use the mobile app to personalize your conference schedule; find session locations on the map; access speaker biographies, session presentations, and exhibitor details; connect with other conference attendees; stay up-to-date on conference events; and receive real-time communications from conference staff.

You can use the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer. Once you download the NCCAN app from the app store, you do not have to be connected to your mobile or wireless network to use it. However, push notifications will be sent with updates throughout the conference, which will require Wi-Fi access.



## Conference Agenda and Session Information

The 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app allows you to browse sessions by day, learning track, and session type. The app includes information on each session, as well as a link to the session location on the map. Information available includes the session name, type, presenters, location, and any presentations or handouts provided by the presenters. There will not be any printed materials available at the conference; all conference information can be found in the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app.

## Personalize Your Schedule

**New this year!** The session preferences you indicated during registration have been pre-loaded to the mobile app to populate your personal conference schedule. You must create a profile in the mobile app using the email address you used to register for the NCCAN to access this feature. Please note that your session preferences do not guarantee your admittance to sessions. Seating for all sessions is on a first-come basis, and you should plan to arrive early to make sure you get a seat.

## Social Media

Join us for ongoing dialogue on social media!

- Facebook [www.facebook.com/nccan21](http://www.facebook.com/nccan21) @nccan21
- Twitter [www.twitter.com/nccan21](http://www.twitter.com/nccan21) #21NCCAN

## VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION

We offer virtual participation in the Plenary and the Master Sessions through NCCANLive, the conference live stream. During these sessions, virtual participants will have an opportunity to offer comments and ask questions. Visit the [NCCAN website](#) to register for NCCANLive.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Please note that the Plenary and Master Sessions will be live streamed. In addition, there will be photographers onsite taking photos.

If you want to avoid being photographed or videotaped, please sit in the back of the ballroom during the Plenary and Master Sessions.

## EVALUATING THE SESSIONS

Your feedback on learning opportunities at the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN is important. Please remember to complete an electronic evaluation following each session you attend. Evaluations are accessible via the conference mobile app. Special note: You can set your profile to be anonymous for the purposes of providing your evaluation.

### Submitting an evaluation via the mobile app:

- Select the session you attended.
- At the top of the session and in the side menu, there will be a clipboard.
- Click on the icon, complete the evaluation and submit.



## EVALUATING THE CONFERENCE

We welcome your feedback about your entire conference experience. On the final day of the conference, the online evaluation will be available through the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app. Additionally, all registered participants will receive an email with a link to the online conference evaluation following the conference. Your candid responses are part of our ongoing quality improvement process. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

## LOCAL INFORMATION

Information about places to go and getting around in the District of Columbia, including places to eat, is available on the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN mobile app. The hotel is in DC's Woodley Park neighborhood, convenient to restaurants, walking trails, and the Metro.

## SESSION FORMATS

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The 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN offers participants the opportunity to engage in discussion with and learn from one another in a variety of formal and informal settings.

**Plenary Sessions** bring together all conference participants to hear remarks from high-profile speakers. These sessions will also be live-streamed to virtual participants.

**Master Sessions** provide additional opportunities to hear high-profile speakers on topics related to the conference theme. These 90-minute mini-plenaries are also available to virtual participants via live-streaming.

**Skills Seminars** engage participants in intensive, hands-on training designed to enhance proficiency and learn new skills and strategies. Presenters will use various formats, including dialogue, role-play, brainstorming, and other active learning modes, and will share tools and resources that participants can access after the session. Skills Seminars are 1.5 or 3 hours in length.

**Policy Forums** offer the opportunity to dig deep into an issue, allowing for the type of dialogue that is critical to informing the development of policies or improving policies being implemented. Policy Forums are 1.5 or 3 hours in length.

**Workshops** are designed to increase knowledge and understanding and provide practical applications for a broad range of research, policy, and programmatic issues. Presenters engage participants in exploration of a single topic over a 90-minute period.

**Showcase Workshops** are 40-minute sessions highlighting innovative program options, tools, or new research. More detailed background material will be available on the mobile app, so that face-to-face time can be devoted to key points and Q&A discussion.

**Spotlight Sessions** are 40-minute discussions that do not involve the use of audio-visual equipment. Spotlight Sessions are ideal for showcasing innovations or convening in-depth discussions around issues or practices. Background material will be available on the mobile app.

**Poster Presentations** offer unique opportunities to present original research, new data, exciting service delivery initiatives, educational activities, and other pioneering work impacting our field today. Posters will be available for general viewing throughout the Conference.



# LEARNING TRACKS

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To achieve our vision, the 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN offers diverse sessions addressing current **approaches, policies, strategies, programs, and practices** in the following five priority areas:

## 1. PRIORITIZE PREVENTION

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Nurturing and safe family relationships are key to child well-being. Prioritizing families and focusing on primary prevention, through flexible funding and community-based services that strengthen the protective capacities of all parents, will help children and their families thrive. We must also focus our interventions in ways that prevent unnecessary placements, keep children in their communities and schools, and build family strengths as a primary intervention. *This track explores a variety of topics related to primary prevention, in-home services, family engagement, and other service innovations intended to support families and keep children with their families.*

## 2. FOCUS ON WELL-BEING

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We should ensure that our interventions support the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of all children and families. *This track explores a wide variety of topics relevant to the social, educational, economic, behavioral, cognitive, and relational well-being of children and families, including measuring well-being, addressing trauma, strengthening protective factors, and building resilience.*

## 3. RESHAPE FOSTER CARE AS A SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

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Engagement with the child welfare system should have positive impacts on children and families—equipping parents and caregivers with enhanced protective factors, skills, and supports to safely care for their children and improve child well-being. Even when parents are unable to keep their children safe at home, children need to feel connected to their parents, siblings, and relatives. Parents should remain actively involved with their children in foster care in safe and healthy ways, with foster and birth families working together to support children and ensure successful reunification whenever possible. *This track explores innovations in child welfare practice that keep families meaningfully engaged and connected, including approaches that promote the active involvement of parents in their children's lives while in out-of-home care, promote healthy relationships between birth and foster parents, provide timely and successful reunification, address kinship care, and avoid unnecessary family separation and trauma.*

## 4. BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

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Primary prevention of maltreatment and a focus on well-being occur best in the communities where children and families live, and cannot be the work of child welfare alone. A wide array of stakeholders and systems must work together—guided by the communities they serve—to build programs and systems that offer needed supports to families where they are and when they need it. *This track explores ideas and initiatives for leveraging diverse community-based partnerships to better serve children and families, including those aimed at reaching rural communities, engaging non-traditional partners, and moving beyond traditional services.*

## 5. SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE

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To serve families well, we must have a strong, competent, and healthy workforce. An effective child welfare system requires social workers, attorneys, and service providers to have adequate supports and supervision, manageable workloads, and the skills needed to do their work well. Inspired, competent leadership can garner the support of community partners, staff, and families on the path to meaningful and sustained improvement. *This track explores ideas and initiatives for supporting the child welfare workforce in ways that enhance effectiveness and ensure well-being, including addressing secondary traumatic stress, creating a safe and supportive organizational culture, and reducing staff turnover.*



# MEET THE 2019 CHILDREN'S BUREAU CHAMPIONS!

The Children's Bureau Champion Awards honor those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to improving the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. The 2019 honorees are:



## For Preventing Child Maltreatment

### Providence House

Founded in 1981 to provide emergency shelter for children in Greater Cleveland whose families were experiencing a crisis, Providence House supports one of the longest lengths of stay among nurseries in the U.S. and the deepest levels of services beyond children's emergency shelter, promoting family stability and preservation and preventing foster care placements. The program uses a multi-generation approach to keep children aged newborn to 12 years old safe and works with parents to address root causes of family instability. In doing so, they connect parents to necessary supports and help them break away from behaviors and systems that breed situations that lead to child abuse and neglect. Children at Providence House receive emergency shelter and basic needs, as well as direct care through trained early childcare staff. While children are at Providence House, parents maintain custody and have time to focus on treatment and rebuilding.

Licensed social workers work with parents using a strengths-based perspective that emphasizes resources and existing support systems. Providence House has built partnerships with over 100 organizations in the greater Cleveland community to ensure that children and families get the services and support they need to succeed.



## For Reshaping Foster Care as a Support for Families

### Andrew and Amy Baker

Andrew and Amy, foster parents since 2014, are committed to partnering with birth parents to help ensure that every child they have fostered is eventually reunified with his or her biological family. Andrew is the founder of Mercy Advocates for Parents (MAPS), a volunteer program focused on supporting biological parents through weekly meetings and participation in case management meetings. He also serves as White County Project Manager/State Director of Family Services for Restore Hope Arkansas, an initiative to improve both foster care and prison re-entry at the community and state level by ensuring that those in need have knowledge of and access to services in their communities. In 2017, Andrew, Amy, and their family were recognized by the Arkansas Division of Child and Family Services as the State Foster Family of the Year.





## For Promoting Child and Family Well-being

### Sue Williams

Sue has been a tireless advocate for children and families throughout South Carolina and at the national level. As CEO of the Children's Trust of South Carolina, Sue has built a collaborative program model where local partners deliver community knowledge, leadership, and access to families and program delivery. The Children's Trust provides program support, evaluation, training and coaching, and funding and other financial supports. To better coordinate services for children and families, Sue initiated and facilitated the merger of three child welfare

agencies in South Carolina that fund innovative programs across the state for preventing child abuse, neglect, and injuries. She has focused program funding on evidence-based or promising-practice programs and has built a reputation for delivering results and ensuring partners operate with fidelity, transparency, and integrity. With Sue's focus on research, the Children's Trust of South Carolina now collects and studies child data to know what is and is not working and where to focus the state's policies and programs to yield the most substantial and cost-effective benefits in preventing child abuse, neglect, and injury.



## For Building Community Capacity

### Good Samaritan Community Services

Good Samaritan Community Services acts as a catalyst for change, supporting youth, individuals, and families by providing community-based services designed to help them overcome economic poverty. These services, reaching more than 5,500 individuals and families across six sites in South Texas, include a child development program, afterschool and summer youth

enrichment programs, a college readiness program, and family services. Good Sam's Family Development Services program is a neighborhood resource offering adults and families the opportunity to enhance their employability and self-sufficiency and strengthen their family life. Services include emergency food, case management, counseling, referrals for GED/ESL and citizenship classes, and the only nationally accredited senior center in South Texas. Its Youth Development Services (YDS) program helps young people ages 6 to 18 acquire the life and academic skills necessary for personal success. YDS exposes youth to new experiences, provides safe spaces to learn, and helps develop a sense of purpose. Good Sam collaborates with a variety of community-based organizations to enhance services and empower children, youth, and families for a better future.



## For Supporting the Workforce

### Justin "Jay" Miller

Jay Miller is Associate Dean for Research, Associate Professor, Director of the Self-Care Lab, and the Doris Y. Wilkinson Distinguished Professor in Social Work Education in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky. Jay founded the Self-Care Lab at the university to address potentially toxic employment conditions for child welfare professionals. The Lab is a unique, collaborative partnership comprised of researchers across the nation generating empirical knowledge around broad-ranging self-care research and education. Jay is also engaged in state-

wide efforts to support foster/adoptive/kinship caregivers, improve the resilience and well-being of youth in care, and raise awareness about the impact that child trauma can have on young people. Before entering academia, Jay was a Child Protective Service worker and child maltreatment investigative social worker for the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Crimes Against Children Unit. Jay is also a proud foster care alum, having spent time in foster and kinship care as a young person. All of these experiences, singularly and collectively, have shaped his approach to serving child welfare staff, foster youth and their families, and caregivers.



# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

1:00 P.M.

## PLENARY SESSION

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### Despite the Odds: Looking for Solutions through a New Lens

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom

We deal with difficult problems. It's easy to focus on the challenges rather than what is working. In this session, we learn how focusing on those who succeed despite the odds can lead us to new solutions and new ways to work. In his keynote remarks, Dr. Arvind Singhal discusses positive deviance, an approach that has successfully grounded social change efforts around the world and in multiple disciplines. Positive deviance engages communities in making change happen by identifying those who are succeeding despite the odds and using what is learned to model practice for every family.

#### Opening Remarks

Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner for the Children's Bureau and Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families



#### Welcome

Lynn Johnson, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

As Assistant Secretary at HHS's Administration for Children and Families, Lynn Johnson provides leadership and oversees programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities with funding, strategic partnerships, guidance, training and technical assistance. She previously served as the executive director of Jefferson County Human Services in Colorado, overseeing the county's Head Start program, as well as programs on the workforce, career and family services, child welfare, justice services and community assistance. Prior to this position, Mrs. Johnson ran her own consulting firm, which dealt with mental health, high risk youth, developmental disabilities, child welfare and early childhood education.





### **Keynote Remarks**

Dr. Arvind Singhal, Professor of Communication and Director of the Social Justice Initiative at The University of Texas at El Paso

Arvind Singhal is a recognized expert in the diffusion of innovation and the positive deviance approach to organizing for social change. His work spans diverse fields from public health to education to social justice. Dr. Singhal is currently on faculty and serves as Director of the Social Justice Initiative at The University of Texas at El Paso. He has authored or edited more than 14 books and has received multiple awards.

### **Wrap-up**

Elaine Voces Stedt, Director, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau

**MASTER SESSION – 90 MINUTES**

**Why Everyone Benefits from High Quality Legal Representation**

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom, Salon B

Child welfare systems struggle with engaging parents and youth across the country. The words parents and youth use to describe their experiences with the foster care system reflect these struggles and often include: afraid, disempowered, overwhelmed, confused and judged. Ensuring that all parents and youth involved in child welfare proceedings have high quality legal representation is a critical strategy to ensure that parent and youth voice is heard, that parents and youth are engaged in all phases of child welfare proceedings and that critical family strengths and needs are identified and addressed. Research, procedural justice and basic fairness also combine to highlight the importance of high quality legal representation.

The CB believes strongly that high quality legal representation is critical to a well-functioning child welfare system. In December of 2018, CB made an important policy change to allow Title IV-E funding to be available to help cover the cost of legal representation for parents and children.

This session will discuss the importance of high quality legal representation for parents and youth in ensuring a well-functioning child welfare system, from the perspective of a child welfare agency director, a parent partner, a judge and an attorney that represents both parents and children. The session will focus in particular on the benefits of high quality of legal representation to all parties, how high quality legal representation is an asset to the child welfare agency, and the associations between high quality legal representation and increased parent and youth engagement, enhanced parent and child well-being and expedited permanency.

**Moderator:** **David P. Kelly**  
Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau

**Speakers:** **Edwina G. Mendelson**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, New York State Unified Court System

**Vivek Sankaran**  
Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School and  
Director of the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic

**Shrounda Selivanoff**  
Parent and Advocate

**Marc Cherna**  
Director, Allegheny County Department of Human Services



## POLICY FORUM – 3 HOURS

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### **One Roof: Leveraging Federal Opportunities to Keep Families Experiencing Homelessness Safely Together**

**Room:** 8219

**Presenters:** **Andrew Johnson**, CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing); **Caitlin Kovalkoski**, CSH (Corporation for Supportive Housing); **Leah Lindstrom Rhea**, Corporation for Supportive Housing; **Jasmine Hayes**, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

This interactive, action focused session provides opportunities for state and county leaders, and their partners, to engage in solution focused dialogue with national leaders. Working together, these experts are advancing innovative data driven, evidence informed, and integrated solutions that leverage housing as a platform, providing equitable opportunities for families experiencing housing instability and child welfare involvement to build successful futures, thereby breaking generational cycles of poverty and abuse. Informed by best practices and resources, participants will develop local policy strategies that further cross sector collaboration, resource development, services integration, and supportive housing development in alignment with national One Roof goals.

## SKILLS SEMINARS – 3 HOURS

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### **RPC+ TIPS (Trauma Informed Parenting Skills): Experiential Strategies for Trauma-Informed Providers and Caregivers**

**Room:** 8222

**Presenters:** **Amy Bielawski-Branch**, University of Vermont, Vermont Child Welfare Training Partnership; **Jennifer Jorgenson**, University of Vermont, Vermont Child Welfare Training Partnership

This hands-on session begins with a brief overview of the evaluation data and implementation findings of RPC+ TIPS (Trauma Informed Parenting Skills). Participants will then engage in practical, experiential, and skill-building activities related to implementing the RPC+ TIPS within community-based systems of care. The session utilizes adult learning methods (discussion, roleplay, video examples, and brainstorming) to train participants on components of three modules included in the RPC+ model. Presenters provide concrete tools and resources for future training that will further enhance practice with families.

### **Understanding Substance Use Disorders, Treatment, and Recovery: Child Welfare Strategies to Identify Substance Use and Engage Families of Infants and Young Children in Treatment**

**Room:** 8216

**Presenters:** **Kim Bishop-Stevens**, Children and Family Futures; **Kim Coe**, Children and Family Futures

This session provides an overview of substance use disorders and their effect on child safety and well-being. Presenters draw from decades of practical, front-line experience in the substance use treatment and child welfare fields implementing practices to improve outcomes for families, especially those of infants and young children. Attendees will learn about substances and their effects, the brain chemistry of addiction, and the continuum of substance use disorders, explaining the signs and symptoms and their effects on children and families. The presenters highlight skills and strategies to identify when substance use is a factor in the child welfare case, especially in cases involving infants with prenatal exposure to substances, use of substance use disorder assessment information in child welfare decision making, and strategies to engage families into treatment. Presenters also share experiences of persons with lived experience and strategies to improve teaming between treatment and child welfare to facilitate positive child welfare and recovery outcomes.



## POLICY FORUM – 90 MINUTES

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### Changes to the U.S. Social Safety Net are Causally Related to Child Maltreatment: Policy is a Strategy for Prevention

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Michelle Johnson-Motoyama**, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas; **Donna Ginther**, University of Kansas Department of Economics

Programs such as SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid provide nutritional, financial, and medical assistance to the nation's poor. Rigorous research demonstrates causal relationships between state level changes to social safety net programs and child maltreatment rates over time. Therefore, preservation of the social safety net represents a critical component in child maltreatment prevention efforts. This session provides participants with an overview of research on formal and informal policy changes to the social safety net that influence child maltreatment, and strategies for integrating policy into local and national child maltreatment prevention efforts.

## SKILLS SEMINARS – 90 MINUTES

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### Perfecting Case Planning: Utilizing Structured Assessments to Analyze and Improve the Family Service Plan

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Robin Orlando-Price**, Allegheny County Department of Human Services; **Mary E. Rauktis**, Child Welfare Education and Research Programs, School of Social Work, The University of Pittsburgh; **Rachel R. Winters**, University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Child Welfare Education and Research Programs

This session focuses on Service Process Adherence to Needs and Strengths (SPANS), a fidelity tool used to determine if children and families are receiving needed services and supports based upon their assessment of needs and strengths. Participants in this session will learn about SPANS, have a chance to practice using it, and see how it can be part of a quality assurance process. Participants will also utilize results from SPANS to improve a family service plan to include the strengths and needs of a family based on standardized assessments.

### Integrating Mindfulness to Support Well-Being and Resiliency in the Child Welfare Workforce

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Maria Gehl**, ZERO TO THREE; **Jenifer Goldman Fraser**, ZERO TO THREE

Child welfare professionals are exposed to difficult, potentially traumatizing experiences that can lead to secondary traumatic stress and burn out. Mindfulness is an evidence-based way to support health, well-being, and resiliency in the face of stress and trauma. In this seminar, participants learn about the health and wellness benefits of mindfulness and ways mindfulness has been implemented to support child welfare and other professionals working with children and families affected by trauma and adversity. A range of mindful practices are introduced and explored, with participants developing a plan for integrating practices into their daily work and home routines.



## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### Juvenile Justice Initiative Project: Improving Policies and Practices for System-Involved Youth and Families

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Tamara Sargus**, University of Arizona, Southwest Institute for Research on Women

The Juvenile Justice Initiative Project (JJIP), funded by the Vitalyst Health Foundation, is a collaboration between the Southwest Institute for Research on Women, The Children's Action Alliance, and Arizona Legal Women and Youth Services. JJIP investigates burdens placed on justice-involved youth that may hinder the well-being of youth and their families. This project investigates the process in which fines/fees are assessed on youth/families; and the process in which youth can apply for and successfully have their records expunged. JJIP's goals include identifying barriers for youth and families, developing best practices, and working with stakeholders to change laws, policies, and practices.

### From Child Welfare to the Juvenile Justice System: Disrupting the Abuse to Prison Pipeline for Girls

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Rebecca Burney**, Rights4Girls; **Cherice Hopkins**, Rights4Girls

This interactive session examines how experiences of gendered violence create pathways for girls into the juvenile justice system with an emphasis on cross over from the child welfare system into the juvenile justice system. Participants explore racial disparities and identify strategies to develop survivor-centered, culturally-competent, trauma-informed approaches to address the needs of vulnerable young women and girls in the child welfare system to prevent them from experiencing the Abuse to Prison Pipeline. Presenters use findings from their report, "The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story," which details how girls are criminalized for their victimization.

### Putting Family First: Addressing Overrepresentation of Marginalized Families in the Child Welfare System

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Karen Howe**, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

The session explores the history and impact of the decades-old overrepresentation of children from marginalized communities in the nation's child welfare system, including those families touched by domestic violence. The session focuses on families of color, including Native American and immigrant families, and provides a glimpse of some of the promising practices that foster community collaboration to address overrepresentation.

## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### Identifying the Secret Sauce: Building the Evidence for Advancing Family-Centered Child Welfare Practices

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Danielle Zuniga**, YMCA of San Diego County; **Marina Lalayants**, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, The City University of New York; **Cristina Magana**, Harder + Company Community Research

This session is facilitated by three grantees of the Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) grant funded by the Children's Bureau (2015-2018). FGDM is an evidence-informed, promising practice for addressing the current and emerging needs of child welfare involved children, youth and families. Guided by implementation science framework and Guidelines for Family Group Decision Making in Child Welfare, the presenters describe their project implementation drivers and barriers, FGDM fidelity monitoring, and the randomized controlled trial evaluations. The grant's Project Officer serves as discussant and provide commentary about implications for developing the evidence-base of the FGDM model.



## Lessons Learned about Building Infrastructure and Family Involvement in TINT: A Prevention Innovation

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Dondieneita Fleary-Simmons**, QIC-AG; **John Webb**, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Struggling to implement a prevention program? You are not alone! The State of New Jersey has wrestled with implementation issues and wants to share their insights with you. Come learn about Tuning in to Teens (TINT)©, a prevention program designed to strengthen families that was implemented as part of the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption/Guardianship Support and Preservation. This session focuses on the strategies, successes, and lessons learned around building infrastructure and facilitating family participation in a prevention intervention. Participants are asked to share their experiences on related topics.

## Documenting the Impact of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programs in Alabama: Aggregating Information Across a Wide Range of Programs

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Francesca Adler-Baeder**, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University; **Sallye Longshore**, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

This session highlights evaluation results of 150 child abuse and neglect prevention programs across Alabama. The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (ADCANP) partnered with Auburn University to conduct a systematic evaluation of all ADCANP-funded programs in an effort to document the magnitude of outreach and program effects for participating youth and adults across the state. Although each program differed in approach and delivery method, they shared common objectives in each area of emphasis. All programs have objectives that center on reducing risk factors for child maltreatment and promoting protective factors, the foundation of the Strengthening Families™ program.

## Handle With Care

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Andrea Darr**, WV State Police

This session offers innovative best practices for helping to mitigate the negative effects experienced by children's exposure to trauma and highlights a promising initiative (Handle With Care) between schools and child care agencies, law enforcement, and treatment providers. Handle With Care provides the school with a heads-up when a child has been identified by law enforcement as being at the scene of a traumatic event. Schools are responding with interventions to help mitigate the trauma, and mental health providers are co-locating at the school to provide services. Handle with Care programs promote safe and supportive homes, schools, and communities.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Citizen Engagement in Public Child Welfare: Promise and Peril

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Blake Jones**, University of Kentucky College of Social Work

Citizen participation has long been touted as a way to engage the community, provide for a fresh perspective to policymakers and administrators, and give citizens an outlet for watchdog as well as advocacy efforts. However, the research literature on these efforts are mixed. This session explores the benefits and dangers of citizen engagement, with a specific focus on Citizen Review Panels. Participants are provided with specific tools for using citizens in public child welfare settings, and the audience has the chance to provide their own input and suggestions about citizen engagement.



## **Mandated Reporter Guide: Community Guidance for the Decision to Report Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Kate Beier**, NCCD, Children's Research Center; **Karen Meulendyke**, NCCD, Children's Research Center

The decision to report suspected child abuse or neglect is a difficult one, often with competing concerns mandated reporters must grapple with. This session showcases the Mandated Reporter Guide (MRG), a new resource from NCCD Children's Research Center. The MRG is designed to help reporters weigh concerns and make more informed reporting decisions. It outlines how the MRG assists reporters when communicating concerns to child protection, while prompting critical thinking in other instances where there may be more effective and less-invasive solutions for families.

## **Implementing with Science: Developing Trauma-Informed, Data-Driven Child Welfare Systems with the Integration of Research and Practice**

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Jessica Strolin**, University of Vermont; **Becci Akin**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare; **Crystal Collins-Camargo**, University of Louisville

Trauma and behavioral health problems among children in foster care are prevalent, affecting their well-being and permanency. Despite the magnitude of these issues, few child welfare systems have integrated a service response into their routine practices. This session describes three federally-funded, statewide demonstration sites that aimed to implement trauma and evidence-informed initiatives. Applying implementation science frameworks, we share our experiences and lessons learned in four key stages of implementation: exploration, installation, initial implementation, and implementation.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

### Implementing Evidence-Based Practices for Child Welfare Populations: Perspectives from Implementation Science and a National Evaluation

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Patricia Del Grosso**, Mathematica Policy Research; **Mathew Stange**, Mathematica Policy Research

A clearinghouse established by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 will identify promising, supported, and well-supported practices appropriate for children who are candidates for foster care, pregnant or parenting foster youth, and their parents or kin caregivers. Agencies serving these youth and their parents need to become familiar with using evidence standards to select interventions. To ensure effectiveness, providers must have the capacity to plan, implement, and sustain evidence-based programs and practices. This session familiarizes participants with standards, let them practice applying standards, and review implementation best practices, opportunities, and challenges based on implementation science.

### Adapting the Evidence-Based Communities That Care Community Mobilization Intervention for Community Maltreatment Prevention

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Jean Vinson**, Lane Keeping Families Together Initiative; **Kevin Haggerty**, University of Washington Social Development Research Group; **Amy Salazar**, Washington State University

Child maltreatment is a challenge that communities nationwide struggle to address. This session introduces participants to Keeping Families Together (KFT), a project that has adapted the evidence-based Communities That Care (CTC) community mobilization model for use in preventing community child maltreatment and child welfare system involvement in Oregon. The session has two aims: (1) to describe findings regarding how KFT works to prevention child maltreatment and child welfare system involvement; and (2) to share stories from a local project coordinator on how this process has worked in their community to build coalitions and community support for child maltreatment prevention.

### Highlights from Child Maltreatment 2017 and Special Focus on Drug Exposed Infants

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Madonna Aveni**, WRMA; **Lana Zikratova**, WRMA; **Kristen Stafford**, WRMA

Presenters provide an overview of Child Maltreatment 2017 (release in early 2019), a leading resource of child maltreatment data, by discussing the report's data source—the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), key highlights from each chapter, and other report resources. Presenters discuss new state requirements to collect and report data on substance exposed infants and present targeted analyses using NCANDS data. A subset of victims younger than 1 year, both with and without a child risk factor of drug abuse, will be compared on demographics, maltreatment types, risk factors, prior CPS contact, and services receipt.

### Strengthening Protective Factors Through a Cultural Lens

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Javier Castellote**, Project Harmony

From childhood, our upbringing, how our parents respond to stress, and our socialization, form an inextricable link to culture. Strengthening protective factors in families depends on being informed and aware of our own cultural views and that of the families with whom we work. Understanding culture through a set of dimensions results in increased engagement with the family and a clearer understanding of their needs. In this session, participants learn how to work with children and families in a more culturally sensitive way.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Advocacy Lessons from the Wizard of Oz: Educating Decision Makers About Policies Linked with Reductions in Child Maltreatment**

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Jim McKay**, TEAM for WV Children

Advocacy can be intimidating, but it is crucial that policymakers hear from people who care about children and can help them understand the importance of enacting policies that are linked with reductions in child maltreatment. Using a fun approach based on the Wizard of Oz, this session features strategies to build grassroots support and advocate for policies effectively. The session also reviews policies identified by the CDC's Essentials for Childhood initiative that are linked with reductions in child maltreatment. The session also includes tips to excel at media interviews.

### **Listening Session: Identifying Best Practices and Challenges in Mandated Reporting**

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Jeremy Long**, Children's Bureau; **Jennifer Marcelli**, Capacity Building Center for States; **Julie Fliss**, Children's Bureau

The Children's Bureau will host a listening session to include mandated reporters and practitioners who train mandated reporters and receive reports of child abuse and neglect. Participants from various geographical locations throughout the country and that represent diverse service populations are welcome to join the conversation. The focus of the listening session is to identify best practices and challenges in mandatory reporting, as well as suggestions to improve mandatory reporting, especially among youth-serving organizations.

### **Systems Alignment: Developing and Implementing a Sustainable and Effective Governance Structure**

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Kelly Crane**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Larry Small**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Child welfare agencies in the midst of developing or refining their strategic direction, implementing new initiatives, or hoping to better track and monitor data-driven outcomes will benefit from this session. This session will walk participants through strategies for aligning a system's efforts, the use of action-oriented, results-based communication to drive implementation, and the use of data and evidence to measure performance and progress. Concrete system alignment examples or models will be shared with participants. Lastly, the role and engagement of agency leadership, staff, and stakeholders as a key element to successful implementation will be discussed.



4:00 P.M.

## MASTER SESSION – 90 MINUTES

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### National Efforts to Promote Strong and Thriving Families

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom, Salon B

As a nation, we continue to struggle with achieving satisfactory outcomes for vulnerable children and families. The Children's Bureau and its national partners are working to create a joint vision to support states and local communities in an effort to reimagine what child welfare should look like. This joint vision is rooted in the need to create a strong continuum of prevention services that strengthen the protective capacities of families to reduce the risk of initial harm to children and ultimately family disruption. This session focuses on a variety of federally funded initiatives that are working collaboratively to strengthen families and prevent maltreatment, highlighting common approaches and opportunities to reach vulnerable families in the communities where they live.

**Moderator:** **Melissa Merrick**  
Epidemiologist, Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) (Detailee)

**Panelists:** **Justine Lawson**  
Senior Medical Advisor to the Center for Mental Health Services and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

**James Mercy**  
Director, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

**Jerry Milner**  
Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

**Jennifer Renne**  
Director, Capacity Building Center for Courts

**David Sanders**  
Executive Vice President, Casey Family Programs

**Ellen-Marie Whelan**  
Chief Population Health Officer at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS), and Senior Advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)



## SKILLS SEMINARS – 90 MINUTES

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### Thinking About Thinking While You're Thinking: A Critical Thinking Framework for Child Welfare

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Alison Book**, Northern California Training Academy, Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension; **Nancy Hafer**, UC Davis, Northern California Training Academy

Critical thinking is often cited as one of the most important skills child welfare staff can have—but the conversation typically ends there, without a clear definition of critical thinking or steps to help build it. This experiential session provides a tangible framework for understanding and applying critical thinking in a child welfare context. Learn the elements of thought, intellectual standards, ethical traits of critical thinking, and how to recognize common types of bias in ourselves and others. Participants learn practical steps to increase their own critical thinking and evaluate their own and others' thinking and decision-making.

## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### The Public Health Framework of Child Welfare: Transforming Systems to Strengthen Families and Communities

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Teri Covington**, Within Our Reach, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

Three of the Children's Bureau's five strategic areas to transform child welfare—prioritizing prevention, focusing on well-being, and building community capacity—can be addressed when child welfare adopts a public health approach. Understanding the public health approach is essential to developing new strategies to ensure child safety and family wellbeing. This session provides an overview of the history of public health as a social reform movement and explain the components of a public health framework. The session will overlay this onto a child welfare systems approach, with recommendations on how child welfare can be transformed into a model of prevention.

### Using the UNCOPE Substance Abuse Screen as Part of Caseworker Assessment: Lessons and Findings from a Statewide Implementation

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Becci Akin**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare; **Jody Brook**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare; **Elicia Berryhill**, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

As part of the Regional Partnership Grants, the State of Oklahoma implemented the UNCOPE universal screen for substance abuse statewide for foster care involved families in the hopes of identifying parental substance abuse early on in the life of the case. This presentation focuses on the implementation process of the screen, and presenting data surrounding distribution of scores among foster care involved families. Analyses were conducted in multiple service areas, and correct implementation of the screen proved challenging for the workforce. Further analyses were conducted regarding correlates of positive UNCOPE screens insofar as other areas of risk and service needs.

### Promoting Father Involvement in Early Home Visiting Services: The Dads Matter-HV Intervention

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Aaron Banman**, University of Nebraska at Omaha; **Jennifer Bellamy**, University of Denver; **Neil Guterman**, New York University School of Social Work

This session explores the Dads Matter-HV enhancement to improve father involvement in early home visiting programs. This enhancement to perinatal home visiting services is designed to engage fathers and strengthen their positive involvement during the early stages of home visiting services for families at risk of future physical child abuse and neglect. The session examines the benefits and challenges of engaging fathers in home visiting services, practical strategies to assess and engage fathers, and presents new findings from a recently completed randomized controlled trial of the intervention.



## **Building an Adult and Child Survivor-Centered Approach to Address Domestic Violence in Child Welfare Involved Families**

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Wendy Mota**, Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence in Child Welfare at Futures Without Violence; **Charlyn Harper Browne**, Center for the Study of Social Policy; **Juan Carlos Areán**, Futures Without Violence

In this interactive session, leaders from the Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence in Child Welfare engage participants in exploration of a collaborative adult and child survivor-centered approach to helping families. The approach, which is being tested in three states, centers the inter-connected experiences of child and adult survivors in collaborative, cross-agency efforts to increase safety, well-being, and healing of individuals and families. The approach comprises a domestic violence risk and protective factors framework to expand planning options, and increased emphasis on working with the person causing harm to both hold them accountable and provide meaningful pathways to positive change.

## **Supportive Housing for Child Welfare-Involved Families: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from New Jersey's Keeping Families Together Program**

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Pamela Lilleston**, Office of Research, Evaluation and Reporting, Department of Children and Families; **Janel Winter**, Division of Housing and Community Resources, NJ Department of Community Affairs; **KerryAnne Henry**, Office of Strategic Development, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

This session focuses on supportive housing as a strategy to reduce child maltreatment and prevent family separation. Presenters discuss: 1) the role of supportive housing in child welfare; 2) the components of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Keeping Families Together program, an innovative supportive housing model for vulnerable, child welfare involved families; 3) strategies, successes, and lessons learned from working across government agencies to facilitate housing for high-needs families; 4) the impact of the program on families' housing stability, well-being, and child welfare involvement; and 5) key considerations for evaluating supportive housing programs in the child welfare context.

## **Peer Learning Network: A Strategy to Strengthen the Research Workforce, Generate New Learning, and Build Innovation**

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Deborah Daro**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Colleen Schlecht**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Ericka Lewis**, University of Maryland School of Social Work

Improving workforce capacity to prevent or respond to child maltreatment frequently focuses on enhanced training and supervision of direct service providers. Equally important is developing a cadre of researchers committed to and skilled in using evidence to enhance child maltreatment policy and practice. This session outlines one strategy for strengthening the research workforce: a peer learning network. We present information about how we created and evaluated an interdisciplinary peer learning network within the Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, and how this network generates innovative solutions while enhancing the skills of emerging leaders in the field.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Differences in Services Receipt of Victims and Non-victims and a Special Focus on Victims of Sex Abuse**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Mary Jo Ortiz**, WRMA; **Melanie Rowland**, WRMA; **Jessica Gagliardi**, WRMA

We will examine 5-year trends of in-home and foster care services received by victims to those received by non-victims. Grouping states into quartiles using victimization rates, we will compare the groups by caseload, screening, time to investigation, time to services, and administrative and descriptive data. We create a sexual abuse victims profile by demographics, additional maltreatment types, report source, risk factors, and services. We also examine the perpetrators of sexual abuse by demographics and perpetrator relationship. Finally, we discuss the CAPTA amendment on sex trafficking and how those data will be reported in NCANDS for fiscal year 2018.

### **Wisconsin's Fostering Futures Initiative: Integrating and Measuring Trauma-Informed Principles Across State, County, and Tribal Agencies**

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Monica Idzelis Rothe**, Wilder Research; **Jackie Aman**, Wilder Research; **Lynn Sheets**, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; **Carol Howard**, Fostering Futures

Fostering Futures is a Wisconsin statewide initiative that seeks to address the epidemic of toxic childhood stress by integrating trauma-informed care (TIC) principles into organizational culture, policies, and practices. In this session, we discuss the curriculum and coaching framework that is helping organizations across sectors—from child welfare agencies to state agencies to human service agencies—transform their workplace culture and service delivery to become more trauma-informed. We also share the overall evaluation approach, available TIC assessments, and a newly developed measurement tool aimed at assessing trauma-informed organizational change across multiple sectors.

### **Family-Based Recovery: Using Attachment as an Approach to Recovery**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Jeanette Radawich**, Yale University/Yale Medicine/Child Study Center; **Amy Myers**, Yale University/Yale Medicine/Child Study Center

Parental substance use creates risk for child maltreatment or foster care placement, thus impacting the attachment relationship. Family-Based Recovery (FBR), an attachment-focused, in-home intervention for families with parental substance use and a young child, was developed to address these concerns. FBR approaches clients as parents, recognizing that the desire to care for their child(ren) motivates parents to change. FBR attends to a parent's attachment needs during treatment, explores parent-child attachment, and focuses on children's emotional needs. This session utilizes didactics and video to highlight interventions useful for any practitioners using a relational approach or working with young children.

### **Online Training as an Effective Method for Cross-Systems Workforce Development: Results of the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Emily Smith Goering**, Center for Adoption Support and Education; **Catherine 'Kelly' Moon**, The University of Maryland, Baltimore

This session presents a pilot initiative to develop, implement, and evaluate an online training effort designed to build mental health and child welfare workforce capacity. The National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative was developed to create systems change by better equipping child welfare and mental health professionals to address the complex mental health needs of children who have been adopted and/or experienced foster care. This session explores the impact this training has had on workforce practice and the sustainability of the training in child welfare and mental health systems.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Reducing Trauma in the Child Welfare System: One Community's Innovative Approach

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Christina Siemens**, Tulsa Advocates for the Protection of Children

Foster parent recruitment and retention are at dangerously low levels across the nation. This spotlight session focuses on innovative ways one community is addressing this issue by partnering with local organizations and the state's child welfare system. Learn about the importance of recruitment and retention, as well as stabilization of care of the children in child welfare services from a successful non-profit organization. All categories of out-of-home care will be discussed, including traditional foster parent, emergency care, therapeutic foster care, relative and non-relative kinship, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

### Shining the Light on Child Welfare Workforce Interventions

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Lisa Merkel-Holguin**, Kempe Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine; **Kate Stephenson**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law

Child welfare agencies are creative organizations that implement continuous quality improvement efforts to address wicked and complex problems. Using a speed-sharing strategy, participants work collaboratively to “shine the light” on the various interventions being implemented or hold promise for implementation to meet the child welfare workforce challenges. We build on information synthesized by the QIC-WD through our comprehensive literature review and electronic survey, and the experiences of eight child welfare agencies that are implementing workforce interventions. Ultimately, this is organized as a shared learning experience, with the facilitators unearthing all participants’ experiences in tackling their workforce challenges.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Dissemination and Outreach Core: A Multi-Disciplinary Model That Aligns Prevention, Service, and Research Priorities to Improve Outcomes in Child Welfare**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Jennie Noll**, The Pennsylvania State University; **Sheridan Miyamoto**, The Pennsylvania State University; **Sarah Font**, The Pennsylvania State University

This session showcases the Dissemination and Outreach Core (DOC) of a National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Capstone Center on child maltreatment. It highlights how the DOC facilitates community-based participatory research that leads to timely, relevant problem identification, and meaningful solutions. The projects include a controlled clinical trial of a comprehensive evidence-based universal childhood sexual abuse prevention program, a telehealth program to improve access and quality of care for sexual assault and abuse victims in underserved rural areas across the state, and a time-use study to estimate the overall caseload burden of child welfare case workers.

### **Partners in Child Protection: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Clinical Service Provision in Child Welfare**

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Adrienne Whitt-Woosley**, University of Kentucky

The Partners in Child Protection (PICP) project is a trauma and evidence informed assessment, treatment, and consultation program designed to support collaborative decision-making and service provision within the child welfare system. This program also assists the child welfare system by identifying clinical service needs and developing and testing new technologies for maltreated children and their families. An overview of this model is presented along with case studies, clinical vignettes, information regarding the piloting of a trauma screening protocol utilizing child welfare workers, and an introduction to a new trauma-focused intervention designed for children and families in foster care.

### **Promising Futures: Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth, and Parents Exposed to Domestic Violence Showcase Workshop**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Rebecca Rodriguez**, Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network; **Yasmin Turk**, SAFE Alliance; **Kristina Scott**, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence; **Shellie Ryan**, Texas Council on Family Violence

Child welfare agencies have a unique opportunity to provide effective clinical and non-clinical interventions for children who have experienced domestic violence to promote healing and resiliency for all family members. This session provides child welfare workers with an overview of current research on evidence-based and promising interventions for child survivors of domestic violence that can be provided in a variety of community settings. Participants learn about concrete resources that non-clinicians can implement to enhance their response to children involved in child welfare. The session also covers considerations for collaborative efforts between child welfare and domestic violence agencies.



## Putting the Pieces Together for a Stronger Child Welfare System

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Kathy Stone**, Wilson County Department of Social Services

Wilson County Department of Social Services redesigned our child welfare system to be responsive to the needs of our customers by increasing their access to trauma and evidence-informed practices and services, as well as prevention programming. Our trauma-informed, safety organized reform supports the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of all children and families. Our staff focus on safety rather than a myriad of "what ifs" and are clear about the distinction between risk and safety. Through this approach, we have been able to return to social work practice that recognizes the importance of strengthening protective factors and building resilience.

## Preparing the Child Welfare Workforce Through Powerful University-Agency Partnerships

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Gary Anderson**, Michigan State University School of Social Work; **Cheryl Williams-Hecksel**, Michigan State University School of Social Work; **Robin Leake**, Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver

This session describes lessons learned from 10 years of support for university and agency partnerships to recruit, select, educate, and train a diverse child welfare workforce through the National Child Welfare Workforce (NCWWI) stipend program. Presenters discuss effective strategies and supports for academic training and transition to a professional work environment from the experience of 22 partnerships. The focus is on curriculum building for practice competency, field education models, and transition to work, as well as challenges for new professionals, and for agencies aiming to promote worker retention.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

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### Trauma & Hope: Tools to Help Families Thrive

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Rebecca Gillam**, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships & Research; **Jacqueline Counts**, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas

This session links the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study with hope theory and provides practical tools for translating these areas of research into practice to build strong and thriving families. Participants learn about the components of hope, agency and pathway, along with individual and group exercises for building hope in their work. This interactive session will incorporate real-life examples with strategies for increasing hope contagion. Presenters share other resilience strategies, including early literacy and the ACEs questionnaire. A high level of audience interaction is encouraged; questions and answers are welcome throughout the session.

### Thinking Outside the Box: Partnering With Survivor Led Services and the Child Welfare Agency

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Tina Frundt**, Courtney's House

In DC, an urgent need to identify and provide support to youth who are confirmed or at risk of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation, led to an innovative approach and partnership with Courtney's House, an anti-trafficking organization. This session discusses DC's partnership with Courtney's House. Courtney House staff participate in CFSA's At Risk CSEC Case Review Meetings, which includes the youth's team and focuses specifically on CSEC concerns, youth's strengths and supports, service needs, barriers to services, placement considerations and safety planning. Courtney's House is able to provide direct supportive services, safety planning, support groups for parents of survivors, placement recommendations and technical assistance to CFSA Social Work Staff. Both CFSA and Courtney's House are significant partners in Here Opportunities Prepare you for Excellence (HOPE) Court, a voluntary, specialized court for youth who have Person In Need of Supervision (PINS), Delinquency and/or Neglect cases.



# THURSDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 A.M.

## MASTER SESSION – 90 MINUTES

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### Prioritizing Community-Based Family Support

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom, Salon B

Prevention is rooted in family and community well-being. Robust cross-sector partnerships among child welfare agencies and community-based providers ensure that providers can evolve, adjust, and respond proactively to the needs of the children and families in their communities before they reach a level of risk or danger that puts their children in harm's way. Providers are uniquely well-positioned to partner with government and the community to implement, adapt, or create programs, services and interventions because of their knowledge of and commitment to the needs of families in their communities, the cultural norms and expectations, and the formal and informal support systems that can be mobilized on behalf of children and families.

This Master session highlights several state and community-level efforts to engage families proactively, provide comprehensive family support, and mobilize the larger community around a family well-being agenda.

**Moderator:** **Julie Fliss**  
Child Welfare Program Specialist, Children's Bureau

**Speakers:** **Katie Albright**  
Chief Executive Officer, Safe and Sound

**Marcus Jordan**  
Youth Advisory Community Coordinator, Good Samaritan Community Services

**Sasha Rasco**  
Associate Commissioner - Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

**Benjamin Soriano**  
Senior, Lanier High School



## SKILLS SEMINARS – 90 MINUTES

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### **Supporting CPS Workers through Supervisory Coaching to Ensure the Safety of Maltreated Children**

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Diane DePanfilis**, Hunter College-City University of New York; **Theresa Costello**, ACTION for Child Protection; **Michele Vigeant**, Workforce Institute, Administration for Children's Services

To protect children and serve families well, we must have a strong, competent, and healthy workforce. Supervisory coaching is a core strategy for retaining a competent workforce so that staff in turn can empower families to keep their children safe. The supervisor essentially serves as the critical link to strengthening the quality of practice. In particular, supervisors strive to support their staff to build and apply competence in areas of safety including assessment, decision-making, planning, and management. This hands-on session demonstrates and has participants apply a coach approach targeting child safety focused job tasks.

### **Introducing the Needs Portal: A Web-Based Management Information and Service Referral Tool for Families Involved in the Child Welfare System**

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Elinam Dellar**, The Ohio State University, College of Social Work; **Bridget Freisthler**, The Ohio State University, College of Social Work

This session presents the Needs Portal, a secure web-based resource, referral, and Management Information System (MIS) designed to link families to behavioral, social, and health services more quickly and efficiently. In essence, it provides a unique opportunity for collaboration and communication between registered caseworkers and community-based based. The innovation of the Needs Portal is that it is not a “static” resource guide, which may be outdated or inaccurate, allowing providers to update their availability in order to tailor services to the specific needs of families. The tool utilizes traditional and non-traditional agencies who have the capacity to service families in crisis.

## POLICY FORUM – 90 MINUTES

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### **Making Child Welfare More Trauma Informed: A Discussion of Policy Implications for Child Welfare and Behavioral Health Systems**

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Kay Jankowski**, Dartmouth Trauma Interventions Research Center; **Melinda Baldwin**, Children's Bureau; **Crystal Collins-Camargo**, University of Louisville

Three cohorts of Children's Bureau discretionary grants implemented activities (e.g., screening, assessment, case planning, progress monitoring, and service array reconfiguration) designed to make child welfare systems more trauma-informed and promote child well-being. This required considerable collaboration among child welfare, behavioral health, Medicaid and other systems, and has raised a host of policy challenges related to practice, payment, data exchange and service integration. Project outcomes, lessons learned, and policy implications are summarized. This session engages participants in discussion of the challenges and potential solutions to facilitate collaboration to promote child well-being on the state and federal levels.



## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### **Safe Babies Court Teams from Implementation to Evaluation: An Approach for Children Birth-to-3 Years in Dependency Court**

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Rebecca Ruffner**, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona; **Nicole Roskens**, Maricopa County Juvenile Court; **Timothy Ryan**, Maricopa County Juvenile Court; **Judy Krysik**, Arizona State University Center for Child Well-Being

Children from birth to three years of age constitute over 40% of the out-of-home care population in Arizona. The largest county in the state implemented Safe Babies Court Teams in 2011. This session focuses on adaptation and implementation of the 12 core components, and presents the results of a six-year longitudinal evaluation utilizing comparison and control group designs. Outcomes include type of permanency, time to permanency, re-report and re-entry, as well as sub-analyses by race and placement type. The approach is dually focused—evolution of community capacity to support the youngest children and families, and a focus on the family.

### **Addressing the Needs of Infants with Prenatal Substance Exposure: Collaborative Community Court Teams**

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Ken DeCerchio**, Children and Family Futures; **Tracy Watkins**, Children's Bureau; **Terri Tobin**, Center for Research and Evaluation

This session includes an overview of National Quality Improvement Center for Collaborative Community Court Teams (QIC-CCCT) and the implementation strategies from 15 court teams to address the needs of infants and their families affected by substance use disorders. The presenters discuss the policy and practice implications of the CARA amendments to CAPTA, the role of the court in implementing Plans of Safe Care, and expanding their partnerships to better serve infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families. The QIC-CCCT evaluation plan, including process and outcome indicators, are also presented.

### **Understanding Indian Child Welfare: How Tribes are Building Strong Programs to Keep Native Families Together**

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Kathy Deserly**, Tribal Law and Policy Institute; **Robin Leake**, Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver

Many child welfare professionals are unaware that tribes have their own child protection systems. Thus there is often confusion and misunderstanding about the role, function, and operation of Indian Child Welfare Programs (ICW) in tribal communities. This session explores tribal approaches to child welfare. Across more than 560 federally-recognized tribes, there is a great deal of variation in how tribes structure and operate ICW Programs. ICW programs can be a powerful mechanism that allow tribes to exercise sovereignty by ensuring that Native children are not removed from their tribal communities and that efforts to ensure child and family well-being are grounded in cultural values and traditional practices.

### **Rethinking Family Recovery: Lessons from the Prevention and Family Recovery Program**

**Room:** 8222

**Presenters:** **Theresa Lemus**, Children and Family Futures; **John C. Rowley**, Tompkins County Judge; **Deana Bodnar**, Tompkins County Department of Social Services

This session explores family readiness as a collaborative practice issue by raising the need for coordinated case plans and effective communication protocols across child welfare, substance use treatment, and court systems. The session reviews program designs across grantee sites, including the timing and phasing of reunification, family maintenance supervision, and case termination. Presenters highlight nine lessons from the Prevention and Family Recovery Initiative and feature a site example and presentation from the Tompkins, New York, site. Participants learn successful key concepts and practical strategies to implement these lessons in their jurisdiction.



## How to Ask the Right Questions When Choosing an Evidence-Based or Evidence-Informed Program: The EBP Information and Ranking Tool

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Sasha Rasco**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division; **Andrea Jacks**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division; **Kathryn Horton**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division

The Prevention and Early Intervention Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services will discuss their experience developing and piloting the EBP Information and Ranking Tool, which they created to help communities move beyond evidence-based clearinghouses to determine the appropriate evidence-based program or promising practice that best fits their program, target population, and desired outcomes. Representatives from the division share the tool with attendees and discuss how it can be applied to their work.

## An Alumni Perspective: Preventing Unnecessary Removal of Children from Their Families

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Crys O'Grady**, National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council; **David Hall**, National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council; **Kodi Baughman**, National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council

The National Foster Care Youth and Alumni Policy Council represents collective viewpoint of youth and alumni who have personal experience in the foster care system. In this session, young adults who experienced the foster care system share their recommendations on policies and services that are reasonable alternatives to removal, including collaboration with other social service agencies. Additionally, Council members address how the Family First Prevention Services Act creates a unique opportunity to involve youth and families in mental health and substance use treatment services to prevent removal and reentry into foster care.

## Policy Approaches to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect and Other Adversities

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Melissa Merrick**, CDC; **Angie Guinn**, ORISE/CDC

The promotion of safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for young children and policies from the CDC Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Package, which have evidence in preventing and reducing child abuse and neglect and other early adversity, are discussed from a public health perspective.

## Improving Outcomes for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorder: What Child Welfare, Direct Service Providers, and Courts Need to Know

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Kim Coe**, Children and Family Futures; **Nancy Young**, Children and Family Futures

Families affected by substance use disorders and involved in the child welfare system require involvement from diverse systems to address their multiple and complex needs. This mixture of services systems often brings a considerable range of approaches, affecting service coordination and sometimes exacerbating the challenges faced by families. This workshop will identify collaborative practice elements including multidisciplinary case planning, cross-system communication, leadership engagement and development of shared outcomes. The presenters offer concrete action items and tools to help participants improve collaboration in their systems and in their daily practice to improve safety, permanency, well-being and recovery outcomes for families.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **It's All Relative: Supporting Family Engagement Through Innovation in Kinship Care**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Marcelli**, Capacity Building Center for States; **Tim Harless**, Children Services Board of Richland County; **Tyler Allen**, Colorado's Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare; **Jeannie Berzinskas**, Colorado's Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare

How can communities strengthen families by supporting out-of-home placements with relative caregivers? Join us to hear about Ohio and Colorado's innovative work in kinship care support, including: • Strategies and supports that encourage kinship care placements • Highlights from leaders and families in innovative kinship programs • Community partnerships and resources that help agencies offer this programming. You will also hear about the "It's All Relative: Supporting Kinship Care" discussion guides and video series.

### **Adaptation of a Training Curriculum to Ensure American Indian/Alaskan Native Resource Families are Equipped to Care for Children**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Angelique Day**, University of Washington; **Virginia Drywater-Whitekiller**, Northeastern State University ; **Kim Stevens**, North American Council on Adoptable Children

Although American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) resource families share many of the same training needs of other resource families, they have some unique needs that must be taken into account when developing training. This session discusses adaptations that are being made to a state-of-the-art training program funded by the Children's Bureau that will help to ensure AI/AN resource families have the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to effectively care for children placed in their homes while also supporting the birth families.

### **Connections Matter®: A Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences in Rural and Urban Communities**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Elizabeth Cox**, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa; **Lucy Holms**, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa; **Lora Kracht**, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

The Connections Matter® curriculum, developed in conjunction with Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and Dr. Linda Chamberlain, aims to combat Adverse Childhood Experiences in urban and rural communities by educating on trauma-informed practices and resilience. The Connections Matter® program works in multiple sectors including: faith communities, education, and business. This session focuses on how you can bring the Connections Matter® message of resilience and support to your community through discussion, and how to create a plan of concrete steps to make sustainable change for the future using trauma-informed practices.

### **Innovation in Home Visitation: QED Study Demonstrates How AmeriCorps Keeps Families Together**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Sheila Boxley**, Child Abuse Prevention Center; **Rebecca Frazier**, JBS International, Inc.; **Stephanie Biegler**, Child Abuse Prevention Center

Child abuse and neglect are overwhelmingly perpetrated by biological parents. Parenting behaviors are repeated each generation unless alternative skills are learned. Since 1998, Sacramento County's Birth&Beyond program has had a cooperative partnership with Child Protective Services to deliver child abuse and neglect prevention services that build parenting skills as an alternative to abusive, neglecting practices. A unique cost-effective feature enrolls AmeriCorps members to provide family strengthening home visitation services. A QED study found that parents receiving 25-34 hours of home visits were 173% less likely to have a future substantiated child abuse allegation than those who had not received services.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Attachment and Biobehavioral Catchup: Lessons Learned from Implementation of an Evidence-Based Practice in Rural and Urban Communities**

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Whitney Grube**, University of Kansas; **Kaela Byers**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Patricia Sattler**, University of Kansas; **Amy Mendenhall**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare

When implementing an intervention in new contexts and with different populations, evaluation of both outcomes and the implementation process itself is necessary. This presentation discusses an effort to implement an evidenced-based practice, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catchup, in various parts of the state (including rural areas and with Spanish speaking families), and with various agencies providing early childhood services. Using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR; Damschroder et al, 2009), researchers discuss five broad constructs with associated sub-items that can be assessed during implementation and the lessons learned from implementation.

### **Build a "Child Protection Connection" to Support Legal Professionals and Improve Outcomes for Children, Youth, and Families**

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Barbara Elias-Perciful**, Texas Lawyers for Children; **Robin Rosenberg**, Florida's Children First

Five states are leveraging technology to improve outcomes for children and youth in cases involving child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile justice, immigration, and sex trafficking by mobilizing judges, attorneys, and others to build a "Child Protection Connection" to fill gaps in resources, tools, and training, and break down silos across systems. Session participants learn about the Child Protection Connection and ways they can utilize resources and collaborative communities to improve case outcomes for children and families.

### **Success Coach: Implementation of a Post-Reunification Service Within a Child Welfare Agency**

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Berenice Rushovich**, Child Trends, Inc.; **Karin Malm**, Child Trends, Inc.; **Debra Katz**, Child Trends, Inc.

Families investigated for child abuse and neglect and whose children are subsequently removed from their home for a period of time, often face significant struggles to reunify. Many families continue to face challenges even after their children are returned home. North Carolina's Catawba County Department of Social Services developed the Success Coach model as a post-reunification support for families. Following positive findings from a quasi-experimental evaluation, Child Trends is conducting a randomized control trial. Participants discuss challenges associated with the study, including referral and recruitment of families, and with ongoing implementation, and engage in brainstorming possible solutions.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

### Equipping Resource Families with Knowledge, Skills, and an Attitude to Care for Children from Hard Places and Support Birth Families

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Melinda Lis**, Spaulding for Children; **Debbie Riley**, Center for Adoption Support and Education; **Ryan Hanlon**, National Council For Adoption; **Kevin Haggerty**, University of Washington Social Development Research Group

Resource parents are one of the most critical components of the child welfare system. They are entrusted to provide a safe, nurturing home for children while also supporting birth families in hopes that they can reunite with their children. However, resource parents are often not provided with the training and on-going skills development that helps them fulfill these expectations. This session discusses a state-of-the-art national training program that the Children's Bureau has funded to prepare resource parents and provide them with access to on-going training and skill development.

### Lessons from the Field: Building Successful Parenting Education Programs Using Children's Trust's Evidenced-Informed Parenting Model: Seven Core Elements

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Tanji Donald**, The Children's Trust

It's all about planning! This highly experiential session will introduce the Seven Core Parenting Education and Support Elements. These core elements are based on the Children's Trust of Massachusetts' evidence-informed, family strengthening parenting model. Since its inception in 1988, the Children's Trust's mission is to stop child abuse in Massachusetts. Participants learn how to apply the seven core elements and develop successful parenting education programs as a primary prevention tool. This model addresses how to engage the needs of diverse parent populations in rural and urban communities.

### Child First: Healing Trauma, Creating Connections, and Building Strong Thriving Families

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Darcy Lowell**, Child First, Inc.; **Rebecca Parilla**, Child First, Inc.

This session discusses Child First (CF), a two-generation, home-based, evidence-based, intensive intervention that focuses on extremely vulnerable young children (birth – 5 years) and their families to prevent and heal the damaging impact of trauma and adversity. Most of the families we serve are current or past child welfare recipients. Through intensive work by teams of licensed, mental health clinicians and care coordinators, we decrease "toxic stress" through developing protective, nurturing caregiver-child relationships, connecting families to needed services, and scaffolding executive functioning in caregiver and child. Our goal is to prevent/decrease child abuse and neglect, decrease emotional/behavioral problems, and promote learning success.

### A Collaborative Approach to Engaging Family

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Cynthia Osborne**, Child and Family Research Partnership; **Jennifer Huffman**, Child and Family Research Partnership; **Candice Dosman**, Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The session examines Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE), an adaptation of the Family Finding™ model that aims to develop a lifetime network for children in out-of-home care using intensive family searching and engagement techniques. The panelists discuss how Texas adapted Family Finding™, lessons learned during implementation, and preliminary outcomes findings from the evaluation of CFE. Participants have the opportunity to learn about Texas's experience implementing CFE and how approaches like CFE can be used to support children and their parents.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Effective Engagement of Families Navigating Complex Waters: The Challenge for Our Child-Serving Systems

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Woolard**, Georgetown University; **Abram Rosenblatt**, Westat; **Lynda Gargan**, National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health; **George Gabel**, Westat

Child welfare, like other family service systems, presumes that good family engagement for families served will lead to better outcomes. The literature speaks to the common definitions and components among the systems. How a family navigates successful engagement in multiple systems at the same time is more complex. Family engagement literature speaks about differences and commonalities in multiple systems, but not about how a family navigates multiple systems at the same time. The presenters will facilitate an in-depth discussion of family engagement and highlight the challenges for a fragile family involved in multiple systems from family and systems perspectives.

### Parent to Parent: Fostering Children's Social and Emotional Development

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Kara Georgi**, National Alliance Parent Partnership Council, Co-Chair; **Martha Reeder**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **LaChrisha Rose**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Corey Best**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

The Alliance National Parent Partnership Council has created a conversation guide that models true parent partnership by pairing parent leaders as co-facilitators of important conversations with organizational partners. The conversation examines four questions to stimulate ideas about ways parents can and are supporting their children's social and emotional development.



## POSTER PRESENTATIONS – 60 MINUTES

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### **Strengthening Protective Factors with CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early."**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Julia Abercrombie**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **Camille Smith**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." (LTSAE) program aims to increase early identification of children with developmental disabilities so children can access services as early as possible and families receive information and support. This poster describes the free LTSAE tools and resources that enable families to learn about and track child development and act early on developmental concerns. Child welfare staff and prevention partners can use the LTSAE resources to help promote the protective factors, especially knowledge of child development.

### **Understanding the Role of Paternal Economic Support in Early Childhood Development Among Families with Unmarried Parents**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Michael Chen**, University of Rochester

Early childhood development and well-being have lifelong implications. Among families with unmarried parents, one crucial strategy to foster positive child well-being is to ensure that fathers provide financial resources including child support payments and/or in-kind contributions. Previous research found that paternal economic support is associated with better child outcomes. However, most existing studies have not thoroughly examined the underlying mechanisms that may be driving this association to exist. Using data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, this study tests the Family Stress Model as a potential explanation for the effects of paternal economic support on positive child well-being.

### **Recognizing the Strengths of Birth Parents in Juvenile Dependency Cases**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Kyndra Cleveland**, Vanderbilt University

The burden on the U.S. child welfare system is heavy, with over four million reports of child maltreatment recorded annually; billions of dollars spent each year to improve the system; and countless hours of service delivery to families. Yet, even after these efforts are successful in reunifying families, some continue to experience problems, with approximately 30% of children re-entering foster care within three years. These statistics highlight the critical need for research to determine what predicts successful, safe, and long-lasting family reunification. The current study, rather than focusing on the known risks that dependency-involved parents face, examines parents' strengths.

## **Abuse, Sexual Behavior Problems, and Sexual Trauma: Exploring Forensic Interviewing Data and Well-Being in a Child Advocacy Center Patient Cohort**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Rebecca Dillard**, The Ohio State University College of Social Work; **Kathryn Maguire-Jack**, The Ohio State University College of Social Work; **Kathryn Showalter**, The Ohio State University College of Social Work

This session presents original research on children who completed forensic interviews at a Midwestern child advocacy center. The study explores the relationships between abuse disclosure types, problem sexualized behaviors, and trauma symptomology for referred youth. In the session, participants have the opportunity to critically engage with the presenters who conducted the research and explore the relevance of applying results within their own professional contexts. The visual display allows participants to easily consume essential study components. Participants gain population-specific knowledge and leave with an understanding of the study implications for practice, policy, and future research.

## **Family Finding with Youth with Developmental Disabilities: Transforming and Strengthening Connections**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Annette Semanchin Jones** - University at Buffalo, State University of New York School of Social Work; **Dena Adler**, Hillside Family of Agencies; **Michelle Belge**, Hillside Family of Agencies, Family Connections and Partnerships

Connectedness is essential for healthy youth development and overall well-being. The Family Finding Model has been used to strengthen connections to promote permanency and well-being for youth in child welfare. Hillside Family of Agencies adapted this approach of Family Finding for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (FF-IDD). A pilot project was conducted to implement and evaluate FF-IDD. Findings indicated significant increases in supportive connections for youth and improvements in several domains of quality of life for youth with developmental disabilities in out-of-home placement, and 6 of the 36 youth in the intervention moved from higher to lower levels of care.

## **The Implementation Fidelity of The Family Finding Intervention Through the Lens of Permanency Specialists**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Liat Shklarski**, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College and The Graduate Center.

Family Finding Intervention is a tool to help foster youth to reconnect with their families, and expand their lifelong connections. There is preliminary evidence that intervention improves permanency outcomes. To ascertain whether or not this intervention is worthy of further interest and advancement, prior to widespread implementation, it is essential to first understand how well organizations have implemented the intervention with fidelity. Preliminary research on the fidelity of the intervention indicates gaps in implementation. The current study was designed to learn about implementation fidelity by conducting a survey and interviews with permanency specialists across the country.



## **The Opioid Epidemic and Child Wellbeing: Assessing the Effectiveness of a Family Support Program**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Mary Beth Morrissey**, Cornell University; **Elizabeth Day**, Cornell University; **Laura Tach**, Cornell University

As policymakers pour resources into combating the opioid epidemic, it is critical to understand the impact of programs targeting at-risk parents and their children. This poster presents findings on the effectiveness of the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), a whole-family evidence-based program that improves family relationships and reduces the likelihood of child maltreatment. The program broadly targets at-risk families, but in our study, SFP serves families involved in family drug treatment court. Participants have active child welfare cases and attend SFP with the ultimate goals of family reunification and limited future contact with child welfare services.

## **Rising Strong Regional Partnership: Family-Centered Treatment with Housing**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Arriell Jackson**, Washington State University; **Michael McDonell**, Washington State University; **Dawn Kinder**, Catholic Charities; **Nadine Van Stone**, Catholic Charities

This presentation focuses on the Rising Strong program interventions and evaluation plan. As an alternative to removing children from their parent's care, the Rising Strong program offers housing, substance use disorder and mental health treatment for parents, evidence-based child mental health services, and support services. We estimate a total of 150 families will enroll in this program. The evaluation includes primary data collection from parents at program enrollment, during the intervention, and 6 months after program completion. We also compare administrative outcomes of participants to a matched sample of families who did not participate in the program.

## **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health for Home Visitors: A Professional Development Curriculum for Addressing/Incorporating Mental Health into Care Systems**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Laura Meyer**, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

This poster aims to illustrate the evaluative outcomes of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health for Home Visitors professional development curriculum. The overarching goal of this 10-month training series is to supplement the knowledge of professional home visitors in order to develop a cadre of multi-disciplinary infant mental health professionals able to identify, address, and support children and families with mental health concerns and to reduce the number of unidentified mental health issues among children from birth to 8 years old.

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences Among At-Risk Latino Families: Findings From a Study of Families Involved in Child Maltreatment Prevention Programs**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Amber Borcyk**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Catherine LaBrenz**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Lisa Panisch**, The University of Texas at Austin

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have been linked with a plethora of negative long-term mental and physical health outcomes and risk behaviors. In response, researchers and practitioners have focused on prevention and early intervention for children exposed to adversity, such as child maltreatment, parental substance use, or parental mental health problems. Yet few studies have examined the impact of ACEs on long-term outcomes and well-being for Latino families. This presentation displays the results of a research project that examined the prevalence of ACEs and their impact among Latino families participating in child maltreatment prevention programs across 16 counties in Texas.



## **A Look Past the Cliff: Findings from Colorado's Child Care Cliff Effect Pilot Program**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Sarah Prendergast**, Colorado State University; **Natalie O'Donnell Wood**, The Bell Policy Center

Stable child care is an important primary prevention strategy for promoting children's development and helping parents maintain employment or attend school. Yet affordable care is financially out of reach for many families. Child care subsidies help families make ends meet while providing safe and stable environments for their children. Yet, as families improve their economic situations, they can lose child care benefits (e.g., the Cliff Effect). We share insights from research on Colorado's Cliff Effect Pilot Program that can help states, counties, and providers understand the importance of supporting families as they approach the child care cliff.

## **Parent-Focused Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: Results from an Acceptability and Feasibility Pilot**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Kathleen Zadzora**, The Pennsylvania State University; **Kate Guastaferrro**, The Pennsylvania State University

Child sexual abuse (CSA) affects nearly 60,000 children annually. Prevention efforts do not explicitly target parents, particularly those involved in the child welfare system. As a result of child welfare involvement, parents often receive general parent-education (PE) programs, and their children are at an increased risk for CSA. Interviews with providers of PE programs indicated that an entirely new program would not be feasible given caseload volume and demands on time; however, a single-session added onto a PE program would be possible. This poster presents results from an acceptability and feasibility pilot of a parent-focused CSA prevention module.

## **A Mixed Methods Investigation of Factors Supporting Retention of Child Welfare Professionals: What is Working, What is Not**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Michelle (Micki) Washburn**, University of Houston; **Patrick Leung**, University of Houston; **Monit Cheung**, University of Houston

This mixed methods investigation conducted in fall 2016 explored factors associated with child welfare workforce retention within a large public state child welfare agency. Results indicate that caseload was positively associated with turnover and that the use of accumulated comp time, supportive supervision, and opportunities for merit pay were associated with workforce retention. Implications for child welfare research practice and policy are explored, along with recommendations for other child welfare jurisdictions seeking to improve workforce retention through the implementation of various financial incentives and targeted workforce culture change.

## **Family and State Factors that Impact Successful Reunification: Understanding Risk and Protective Factors to Better Support Families**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Catherine LaBrenz**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Rowena Fong**, The University of Texas at Austin

Despite the priority federal legislation places on reunification for children in foster care, research suggests that up to one-third of children who reunite with their biological parents re-enter care, with the majority of disruptions occurring within the first 2 years. This presentation displays results from a study that examined family and state system-predictors of successful reunification for families of infants and young children. Findings from the study inform the implications for policy and practice, including the importance of not rushing reunification and providing families with ongoing support to prevent recurrences of child maltreatment and neglect.



## Examining the Differing Effects of Economic Hardship and Poor Maternal Well-Being on Cumulative Exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Kiley Liming**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare

This study sought to examine the differing effects of economic hardship and poor maternal well-being on a child's exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to enhance the knowledge base and understanding of mitigating familial risk factors. Confirmatory factor analysis results revealed greater economic hardship had a significant direct effect on a child's ACE exposure and poorer maternal well-being. Poor maternal well-being had a significant mediation-like effect on the relationship between economic hardship and a child's cumulative ACE exposure. Practice and policy implications include early ACE assessments tailored to identify children and families experiencing adversity across multiple domains.

## Understand the Characteristics and Reentry Rate of Infants and Toddlers with Short Stays in Foster Care

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Ann Turnlund Carver**, Arizona State University School of Social Work; **Qi Wu**, Arizona State University

Quantitative research on infants and toddlers has overwhelmingly excluded short-stayers. Given the impact of a removal from the primary impact on a child, the high rate of reentry of children from birth to age 3 and the cost associated with child welfare involvement for children with a short stay in out of home care, it is important to examine the factors related to short-stayers. The present study found that age of child and parental factors related to short stayers and reentry. Further exploration of ethnicity and reentry is warranted based on the results of this study.



## PLENARY SESSION

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### **The Human Need for Belonging: Moving from Harm to Healing**

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom

There is growing evidence that our current child welfare system is doing more harm than good. When we truly understand the agonizing, inter-generational impact of disconnection that is experienced by the children and families whose lives we touch, it creates an urgent imperative to change our practices. In her keynote remarks, Dr. Franck Meyer will explore the human need for belonging and how, despite our best intentions, our traditional interventions may not be delivering what children need to flourish. She will also discuss what a new vision of a family-first approach to our work and the changes needed to chart a pathway forward to helping our youth, families—and all of us, to thrive.

## RECOGNITION OF CHILDREN'S BUREAU CHAMPION AWARD RECIPIENTS

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Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner for the Children's Bureau and Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families

### **For Supporting the Workforce**

Justin "Jay" Miller (Louisville, KY)

### **For Reshaping Foster Care as a Support for Families**

Andrew and Amy Baker (Searcy, AR)

### **For Preventing Child Maltreatment**

Providence House (Cleveland, OH)

### **For Promoting Child and Family Well-being**

Sue Williams (Columbia, SC)

### **For Building Community Capacity**

Good Samaritan Community Services (San Antonio, TX)





Keynote Remarks  
Amelia Franck Meyer  
Founder and CEO, Alia

Amelia Franck Meyer is CEO of Alia, a national non-profit focused on transforming how child welfare is done in this country. Alia is convening change-makers across the country—including sustained work with 14 child welfare jurisdictions—to use UnSystem Guiding Principles as a vision for child welfare system transformation.

As the former CEO of Anu Family Services, she spear-headed a cultural and practice transformation that is producing nationally-recognized child permanence and placement stability outcomes for children in out-of-home care and is on the leading-edge of promoting and measuring wellbeing. Under her leadership, Anu won the prestigious Bush Innovation Prize (2013), received a Youth Thrive Award for Exemplary Programs (2014) from the Center for the Study for Social Policy, and the Eureka! Innovation Award (2014) from the Twin Cities Business Journal. In 2018, Ms. Franck Meyer was named one of *People* magazine's 25 Women Changing the World.

## LUNCH on your own

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.



1:30 P.M.

## MASTER SESSION – 90 MINUTES

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### Applying the Science of Child Development to Child Welfare Decision-Making

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom, Salon B

The science of child development and adult capabilities point to a set of “design principles” that policymakers and practitioners in many sectors can use to improve outcomes for children and families. In this highly interactive session, the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard will present the science behind these principles and introduce a tool to apply them to daily child welfare practice and policy decisions. In small groups, participants will learn how to apply the design principles to sector-specific decision moments, such as procurement, workforce development and support, and practice and policy design. Virtual participants will have an opportunity to use the tool and engage in the exercises alone or in small groups during this session. Attendees will leave with a greater understanding of how this tool can make the science of child development actionable in a child welfare context.

**Introduction:** Elaine Voces Stedt  
Director, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children’s Bureau

#### Presenters from The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University:

Hannah Barber, Project Manager  
Al Race, Deputy Director and Chief Knowledge Officer  
Tien Ung, Director of Leadership Programs and Initiatives  
Corey Zimmerman, Director of Policy and Scaling Strategies

## SKILLS SEMINARS – 3 HOURS

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### Motivational Interviewing Practice Labs: An Innovative Model to Support Family Engagement via Strength-Based Practitioner Skill Acquisition

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** Mary Hodorowicz

Participants will be introduced to a Motivational Interviewing (MI) Practice Lab Protocol, developed in collaboration with a large child welfare system, to support the transfer of MI learning from knowledge into practice within community based settings. Experiential activities specifically designed for adult learners will be facilitated by trainers experienced with MI in child maltreatment prevention. A variety of teaching methods will be used to enhance MI skill use and increase understanding of MI as an intervention method to support family engagement and prevent child maltreatment. Opportunities will be provided to collaborate, share expertise, and learn about resources to continue learning post session.



## Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) and Organizational Culture: The Role of Administration in Addressing STS

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Brandynicole Brooks**, Eban Consulting, LLC

Organizational well-being initiatives seek to provide support to child welfare professionals through primary and secondary traumatic experiences. While executive leadership and management have good intentions, the mark is often missed because of a lack of focus on changing organizational culture to meet well-being needs. Child welfare administrators hold the ultimate responsibility to guide change management processes towards an enhanced supportive culture that effectively addresses well-being. Through the application of trauma-informed practices, this session provides participants with the opportunity to assess the current culture of their child welfare agencies while developing a strategic plan to enhance organizational well-being and resiliency.

## POLICY FORUM – 3 HOURS

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### Policy Enhancements to Promote Family Engagement: Aligning with Values and Research

**Room:** 8222

**Presenters:** **Kevin Campbell**, Self-employed; **Beverly Ali**, Office of Family Team Conferencing, NYC Child Welfare; **Michael Nash**, Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection; **Robert Friend**, National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness at Seneca Family of Agencies

If research and our values clearly indicate that children are better off with the love and support of their families, then what obstacles interfere with better practice, and what policy could shift to a new paradigm that disrupts this “business as usual” practice that fractures and isolates families and community? This forum begins with leading subject matter experts framing the conversation regarding family engagement multiple perspectives. Attendees will then participate in smaller policy strategy sessions to generate ideas on focused topic areas, and develop a set of policy recommendations based on the ideas generated in small groups.

## SKILLS SEMINAR – 90 MINUTES

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### Our Tomorrows: Using Self-Interpreted Stories, Community Sensemaking, and Complexity to Inform Child Maltreatment Prevention Practice

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Jacqueline Counts**, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas; **Rebecca Gillam**, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships & Research

To build strong, thriving families, we need to understand the social norms under which maltreatment continues to occur. This session presents the Our Tomorrows project, which uses a complexity-based narrative approach—SenseMaker—to collect stories about what individuals think families need to survive and thrive. Participants engage in community sensemaking and have the opportunity to provide their own story, interpret patterns, and work with colleagues to generate solutions. Participants gain a practical understanding of how they can use this approach in their work, and specific interventions they can use based on the national story bank.



## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### High-Quality, Interdisciplinary Legal Representation for Children and Parents: Achieving Family Justice and Improving Outcomes for Families

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Mimi Laver**, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law; **Susan Jacobs**, Center for Family Representation; **Leslie Heimov**, Children's Law Center of California; **Ginelle Stephenson**, Center for Family Representation Inc.

This interactive session focuses on the Family Justice Initiative which promotes an interdisciplinary model of legal representation for children and parents involved in the child welfare system. It challenges the structure of a legal system that often unnecessarily make adversaries of children and parents by pitting the right to family integrity against the right to be safe, as if the two are always incompatible. Additionally, this session provides a national perspective on best practices in legal representation for children and parents and provides an overview of research regarding legal representation and improved child welfare outcomes.

### Using CFSR Case Review Results Within a CQI Framework to Drive Practice and Outcomes Improvement

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Denise Conway**, Maryland Social Services Administration; **Haksoon Ahn**, University of Maryland School of Social Work; **Katherine Rollins**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Presenters provide an overview of CFSR tools and processes, and describe opportunities for jurisdictions to leverage CFSR case review results to inform an integrated performance- and practice-improvement strategy as part of CQI. They describe how Maryland has integrated the CFSR in to a holistic to CQI system to create an evidence-informed focus on improving casework practice to improve targeted child and family outcomes. The session culminates with a facilitated exercise where jurisdictional teams can use tools and resources provided to identify opportunities to systematically integrate CFSR findings with other evidence within their strategic planning and CQI processes.

### Outcomes from a Supportive Housing and Child Welfare Experiment

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Miller Haight**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Emily Rhodes**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Bridgette Lery**, San Francisco Human Services Agency

This session discusses major outcome findings of a randomized trial testing a housing intervention for homeless, child welfare involved families. Presenters report housing, child welfare, and well-being findings and interactively discuss with participants the critical relationship between implementation and outcomes. Although the findings are promising, such interventions and their evaluations are highly complex and expensive to implement. This poses important policy considerations for discussion around how child welfare agencies should participate in the development of the evidence base about what works in the context of the Families First Prevention Services Act.

### Foster Parent Mentoring: A Tool to Improve the Quality of Parenting, Reduce Disruptions, and Foster Positive Relationships with Families

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Ashley Akerman**, Children's Home & Aid; **Melissa Ludington**, Children's Home & Aid; **Mary Gaitlin**, Children's Home & Aid

Research has documented the adverse effects that placement disruptions have on children in foster care. In 2017, Children's Home & Aid created the Foster Parent Mentoring program to increase the support available to foster parents with a goal of decreasing placement disruptions and improving the quality of foster parenting. Over 100 foster parents have been developed as mentors, offering targeted support and training to foster families. Since the initiative's creation, only one placement disrupted at the first notice of intent by the foster parents to terminate the placement. The session will cover the development, implementation and expansion of the program.



## **Appreciating Native Wisdom: Collaboration to Support Infants Affected by Prenatal Substance Exposure and their Families in Tribal Communities**

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Barbara Gladue**, National Indian Child Welfare Association; **Katie Ryan**, Children and Family Futures

This session identifies the foundational elements of collaboration to support infants with prenatal substance exposure and their families. Discussion includes: (1) the unique experiences and perspectives of tribal communities that may affect how collaboration is perceived, implemented and sustained; (2) how historical trauma, world view, and unique structures in tribal communities affect collaboration within and outside tribal systems; (3) lessons gleaned from state systems; and (4) tools created to guide development and sustainability of collaborations and consider modifications necessary to fit the context, world view and experiences of tribal community members and the systems that serve them.

## **Ensuring Usability of a Community-Led Primary Prevention Effort**

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Leah Bartley**, The National Implementation Research Network, UNC Chapel Hill; **Allison Metz**, The National Implementation Research Network, UNC Chapel Hill; **Nancy Gagliano**, New Jersey Department of Children and Families; **Claudia Forte**, New Jersey Department of Children and Families

This session describes a multi-step method to define one state's primary prevention community-based intervention's guiding principles and core components using frontline and system stakeholders' voices and perspectives through the Practice Profile methodology (Metz, 2016). A high-functioning teaming structure was used to guide the process, which included a document review, key informant interviews with frontline staff and systems stakeholders, a systemic scoping review, consensus-driven vetting, and usability testing to identify and refine well-operationalized intervention components from the perspectives of frontline staff and community member. Participant dialogue and brainstorming will facilitate the application of the methodology in other settings.

## **Building Rural Capacity and Engaging Rural Communities to Prevent Child Abuse in Lane County, Oregon**

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Phyllis Barkhurst**, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, University of Oregon; **Sara Loveless**, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, University of Oregon

Lane County is a county the size of the state of Connecticut, with 378,000 people, 91,000 children. 90by30, the Lane County Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, developed with local leaders, seven strong and unique Regional Leadership Teams. Within the CSSP protective factor framework and using a two year planning process, the Regional Leadership Teams decided what blend of prevention strategies will fit best in their unique region. They are now implementing these strategies with the goal that 90by30 will be the mechanism that will allow each individual and group to play their part in local prevention efforts.

## **SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES**

### **Peer Mentoring Services, Opportunities, and Outcomes for Child Welfare Families with Substance Use Disorders**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Tina Willauer**, Center for Children and Family Futures

Peer recovery support services in child welfare are provided by mentors in sustained recovery from substance use disorders (SUD) to parents with acute SUD. This slide presentation with video and Q and A presents a study of 28 family mentors serving 783 families with child maltreatment and parental SUD over 8 years in a family-centered system-transformation model. We describe the role of peer mentors as a catalyst toward effective prevention strategies including fostering quick access to treatment, supporting parental recovery, strengthening family centered-care that focuses on child-parent relationships, increasing the intensity of intervention, and building collaboration across systems.



## **The Trafficking Awareness Survey: Collaborative Development, Analysis, and Lessons Learned from a New Instrument**

### **Showcase Workshop**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Michael D. Pullmann**, University of Washington School of Medicine; **Melissa Johnson**, University of South Florida; **Anne Fromknecht**, James Bell Associates; **Judy Krysik**, Arizona State University Center for Child Well-Being

Increasing child welfare stakeholders' awareness of child sex trafficking is a need in the field. Since no validated instruments of trafficking awareness exist, evaluators from the Grants to Address Trafficking within the Child Welfare Population worked together to develop and test a pre/post measure of knowledge of trafficking (for example, the definition of trafficking); 2) beliefs about trafficking; and 3) self-efficacy to identify victims and make referrals. This session outlines the steps to develop and test a new instrument and presents psychometric testing and findings from survey data. Limitations of self-report measures and possibilities for instrument refinement will also be discussed.

## **A Trauma-Informed Workforce: The Key to a Greater Professional Quality of Life and Supportive Organizational Culture**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Winkler**, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services; **Molly Garwood**, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services; **Heather Washington**, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services

The impact of early traumatic experiences has been recognized to contribute to poor health outcomes. There is growing literature to support trauma-informed approaches in service delivery with children and families. However, less is known about how to address the parallel process of trauma among health and human service professionals and organizations. This session highlights Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's implementation of the Sanctuary Model® of trauma-informed care, and demonstrates the impact sanctuary training has had on staff knowledge, attitude, emotional intelligence, and behavior; professional quality of life; and resiliency.

## **Implementation of an Evidence-Based Practice to Prevent Child Maltreatment and Promote Child Well-Being: An Overview of the SafeCare® Program**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Daniel Whitaker**, National SafeCare Training and Research Center, Georgia State University; **JoAnne Bielecki**, National SafeCare Training and Research Center; **Shannon Self-Brown**, Georgia State University

SafeCare is an evidence-based behavioral parent training program that has been used extensively in child welfare systems across the U.S. It has been shown to reduce child maltreatment recidivism and promote positive parenting in randomized trials. In this presentation, we: 1) describe the SafeCare model and review components of the curriculum; 2) discuss how the program is implemented and review the latest technology applications being used to assist with implementation; and 3) provide an overview of the research base.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Parent Reports of Engagement and Challenges Early in Their Involvement with Foster Care

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Stacy Dunkerley**, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare; **Becci Akin**, University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare; **Jody Brook**, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare

Engaging biological parents in foster care services is an ongoing and challenging element of child welfare work. This presentation provides insight into the importance of engaging parents in the early stages of foster care and highlights the challenges parents identified as barriers to engagement. Results indicate parents in this study were moderately engaged early in foster care, suggesting this may be an opportune time for workers to focus on engaging parents in services. This session includes discussion on practical parent engagement strategies for child welfare workers.

### Developing a State-Wide Infrastructure to Support Implementation of Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) as a Family Strengthening Initiative

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Marshall Tyson**, North Carolina Division of Public Health; **Kristin O'Connor**, North Carolina Division of Social Services; **Sara van Driel**, Triple P America

Child abuse and neglect (CAN) is a significant public health problem, impacting health across an individual's lifespan. Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) is a multi-tiered system of evidence-based parenting interventions (education and support for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The North Carolina Divisions of Public Health and Social Services have partnered together along with other public/private and local partners to develop a statewide infrastructure for the implementation of Triple P to reduce child abuse and neglect and create safe, stable and nurturing environments for children.

### New Hampshire's Wellness and Primary Prevention Council: Working Together to Recognize Quality Programming

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Maria Doyle**, NH Children's Trust

New Hampshire created a process for recognizing family resource centers of quality. There was an interest in recognizing family resource centers to assure quality for participants and be eligible for funding opportunities with a recognition that family resource centers are more than a collection of co-located programs. The Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support, from the National Family Support Network, ignited a conversation and an advocacy effort to expand the role of New Hampshire's Wellness and Primary Prevention Council to include recognition of these programs. This session provides an opportunity to learn more about this effort.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Peer Support for Families with Substance Use Disorders and Child Welfare Involvement: Promoting Family Recovery and Well-Being**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Janelle Sanders**, Center for Children and Family Futures

Families affected by substance use disorders and child welfare involvement may have challenges engaging and remaining in substance use treatment. Peer support programs for these families have been shown to be effective in assisting families to access treatment services and navigate the child welfare and treatment systems. The presentation highlights successful peer support models and program components, such as the programmatic structure, goals, roles and responsibilities, and outcomes. Representatives from the Kentucky START Program and the Connecticut RSVP Program share implementation lessons on their models of peer support.

### **Safe@Home IV-E Waiver Initiative: A Community Based Approach to Placement Prevention and In-Home Safety Management**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Todd Holder**, ACTION for Child Protection, Inc.; **Jolie Courtney**, Clark County Department of Family Services

The state-of-the-art for safety management promotes safety plans that limit family disruption and avert trauma experienced by children due to separation from their parents. The lack of suitable in-home safety service resources is a primary factor restricting child welfare agencies' ability to prevent the placement of children. Clark County Department of Family Services presents its IV-E waiver project Safe@Home – a community based safety services model, including conceptual framework, community design, evaluation, and practical challenges to effective implementation. This session provides an interactive experience, which encourages participants to consider the feasibility of this approach for their communities.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### **The Parent Engagement Meeting as an Approach to Prevention**

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Grace Harrison**; **Corinna Pannell**, Family Preservation Program and CCC in Jefferson County; **Summer Giron**

This session reviews the Parent Engagement Meeting (PEM) program, which began in 2012 by Community Collaboration for Children (CCC) and has become extremely successful in diverting at-risk families from being referred to the child welfare system in the state of KY at an average rate of 75%. All of the referrals for PEMs are forwarded to CCC by the school system for children between the ages of five to eleven, and have been found at risk of educational neglect (identified as 6 or more unexcused absences). The PEM occurs prior to a formal referral is made to the child welfare agency as a prevention effort in assisting the family with services on the forefront.

## Children's Trust Funds: Leading the Way in Strengthening Families and Communities, Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect, and Promoting Well-Being

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Teresa Rafael**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Kendra Dunn**, Colorado Children's Trust Fund, Office of Early Childhood; **Judy King**, Strengthening Families Washington, Department of Early Learning; **Sallye Longshore**, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

For almost four decades, children's trust funds (CTFs) have been state leaders in prevention, serving as catalysts, incubators, funders, trainers and translators of research into practice. Collectively, CTFs invest \$200 million each year in prevention programs and other strategies. Learn from the leaders of three CTFs about their ground-breaking work and about national resources available free of charge for use in your own community. Gain insights into the powerful linkages with national initiatives, federal and state policies, state-wide and community strategies and how they can best work together to strengthen families and promote well-being for children, families and communities.

## Nebraska's Alternative Response Program: An Examination of Implications for Family Engagement, Protective Factors, and Well-Being

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Kate Stephenson**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law; **Amanda Burgin**, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of children and Family Services; **Stephanie Weddington**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law; **Michelle Graef**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law

In an effort to increase family engagement and reduce instances of families returning to the child welfare system, Nebraska implemented Alternative Response across the state as a Waiver Demonstration Project. This session provides an overview of the components of Nebraska's Alternative Response program and shares preliminary evaluation results around family engagement, family protective factors, and well-being. Lessons learned for implementing and evaluating a prevention program of this scale are discussed.



## POSTER PRESENTATIONS – 60 MINUTES

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### **Promoting Outcomes for Children and Families: Organizational Supports to Promote Evidence Use in Private Child and Family Serving Agencies**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Crystal Collins-Camargo**, University of Louisville; **Emmeline Chuang**, University of California-Los Angeles; **Bowen McBeath**, Portland State University

Private child and family serving agencies seeking to improve outcomes may invest in organizational supports promoting the use of data, research, and other evidence. This study examined the supports, including technical and knowledge management infrastructure, strategic alignment, and linkage and exchange efforts, used by over 200 agencies in 6 states, and the factors impacting investment in such supports. Results may inform managers of private agencies of different types regarding how best to support evidence-informed decision-making on the organizational and frontline practice levels. Public agencies may also benefit from understanding supports for evidence use employed by their private agency partners.

### **Results from a Community Collaboration Demonstration for Supportive Housing and Child Welfare**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Miriam Landsman**, University of Iowa

Homelessness and housing hardship and child welfare involvement are interrelated, though housing and child welfare systems operate independently of each other. This study presents results from a 5-year Children's Bureau funded initiative to build community capacity to strengthen child and family well-being through supportive housing with high need, child welfare involved families. Findings indicate supportive housing helped the majority of child welfare involved families achieve both housing and family stability, but stable housing did not guarantee family preservation or reunification. Results have important implications and applications for building community capacity to address homelessness and housing hardship among the most vulnerable child welfare involved families.

### **Partnering with Parents and Supporting Communities: A Model for Providing Self-Advocacy Resources to Parents in the Child Welfare System**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Brittany Mihalec-Adkins**, Brittany Paige Mihalec-Adkins; **Amanda Warnock**, Purdue University

Navigating the child welfare system is overwhelming for parents. This poster outlines a pilot initiative undertaken in Tippecanoe County, Indiana to provide Self-Advocacy Resource Kits to parents of children in temporary foster care. The kits include empirically-sound information on child development, positive parenting, and parental engagement, as well as guidelines related to visitation, rights and responsibilities, court proceedings, and even explanations of common acronyms. Kits were distributed to local parents, attorneys, extensions educators, and CASA volunteers, as well as made available electronically. Attendees are provided with a model and many resources for developing similar initiatives in their communities.

## **Rural Primary Care Capacity Building: Preventing Maltreatment Through an Innovative Use of Technology**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Deborah Moon**, KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth, School of Medicine, University of Kansas; **Eve-Lynn Nelson**, School of Medicine, University of Kansas; **Michelle Johnson-Motoyama**, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas

This session presents the process of a rural primary healthcare organizational transformation toward trauma-informed integrated healthcare through an innovative use of technology. The organizational change effort was pursued through the partnership among: a federally qualified health center and its rural community stakeholders; a non-profit organization seeking to disseminate evidence-informed positive parenting strategies; and a university affiliated research center focused on community-engaged research. Preliminary data from the HRSA supported study exploring facilitators and barriers in aforementioned processes will be presented. Implications for rural primary care capacity building efforts will be discussed.

## **The Road to Reunification: Innovative Interventions to Increase Post-Reunification Success**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Chun Liu**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Lisa Panisch**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Catherine LaBrenz**, The University of Texas at Austin

Despite high rates of re-entry into foster care, few studies have examined interventions that could support families during and post reunification. This is crucial for families of infants and toddlers, given the particularly detrimental impact that disrupted attachments can have during the first 3 years of life. This presentation critically examines the results of a project that systematically reviewed prior studies of interventions that could increase reunification rates or rates of successful reunification. Implications for practice and policy at child welfare agencies include how they can best implement these interventions to support families and prevent re-entry into care.

## **Relationships Between Birth and Non-Related Foster Parents: Narratives of Collaboration and Conflict**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Jill Spielfogel**, University of Chicago

Positive working relationships between birth and foster parents are an essential aspect of family-centered child welfare services, but are notoriously difficult to achieve in practice. This presentation includes research findings from a study conducted with triads of matched birth parents, foster parents, and caseworkers. In-depth interviews were conducted with 35 participants. Differences between foster parents who had positive working relationships are compared and contrasted with those with more conflicted relationships, and those with moderate relationships (relationships that are neither positive nor conflicted).



## Reentry After Legal Permanence: A Longitudinal Examination of Reentry After Reunification, Adoption or Guardianship in Texas

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Kevin White**, East Carolina University, School of Social Work; **Monica Faulkner**, University of Texas at Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work; **Rowena Fong**, The University of Texas at Austin; **Nancy Rolock**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

The long-term outcomes for children who exited care through reunification (N=41,344) adoption (N=34,292) or guardianship (N=19,734) were examined. This study found that the vast majority of permanent placements do not reenter foster care, regardless of the type of legal permanence. Older adopted children experienced higher risk for reentry, while older reunified children experience lower risk for reentry. Children who were disabled or experienced three or more moves in foster care were at higher risk for experiencing reentry. These findings can help practitioners target limited resources to those most at risk for reentry.

## Evidence of a Resiliency Framework and Strengths-Based Perspectives in Child Welfare-Focused Social Work Education: A Systematic Review

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Mary Kirk**, Winona State University

Child welfare-focused social work education is intended to shape the profession's future through the education of competent professionals, the generation of knowledge, and the promotion of evidence-informed practice through scientific inquiry (EPAS, 2015). Best practice in child welfare includes strengths-based approaches that harness a resilience perspective. How does the current professional literature include these perspectives in child welfare-focused social work education? This session presents a systematic review that illuminates the extent to which strengths-based and resiliency perspectives exist in the literature, as well as an exploration as to how these perspectives are addressed and discussed.

## Moving Beyond the Jargon: Making Continuous Quality Improvement and Data-Driven Decision-Making Approachable

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Kathryn Horton**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division; **Andrea Jacks**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division; **Shontay Brown**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division; **Noko Wilson**, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Prevention and Early Intervention Division

Join representatives from the Prevention and Early Intervention Division of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as they discuss their strategies for de-mystifying Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and data-driven decision-making, moving beyond the jargon, and showing how we all use these skills in our everyday lives. Attendees will receive tips, tools, and tricks on how to more effectively engage in CQI in their organization and the processes for building an understanding of data as a part of their work. Throughout the session, attendees are encouraged to brainstorm and discuss how the information applies to their organization.



## **Family Finding with Youth with Developmental Disabilities: Transforming and Strengthening Connections**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Annette Semanchin Jones**, University at Buffalo, State University of New York School of Social Work; **Dena Adler**, Hillside Family of Agencies; **Michelle Belge**, Hillside Family of Agencies, Family Connections and Partnerships

Connectedness is essential for healthy youth development and overall well-being. The Family Finding Model has been used to strengthen connections to promote permanency and well-being for youth in child welfare. Hillside Family of Agencies adapted this approach of Family Finding for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (FF-IDD). A pilot project was conducted to implement and evaluate FF-IDD. Findings indicated significant increases in supportive connections for youth and improvements in several domains of quality of life for youth with developmental disabilities in out-of-home placement, and 6 of the 36 youth in the intervention moved from higher to lower levels of care.

## **The Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) & The Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII): Evaluating Family Needs**

**Room:** Exhibit Hall A

**Presenters:** **Robert L.P. Klaehn**, AACAP Subcommittee for the CASII/ECSII; **Peter Metz**, AACAP Subcommittee for the CASII/ECSII; **Geri Fuhrmann**, CASII/ECSII Trainer; **Ashley Green**, CASII/ECSII Trainer

This presentation reviews the Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) and The Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII), standardized assessment tools that provide a determination of the appropriate level of service intensity needed by a child or adolescent age 6 to 18 (CASII) or age 0 to 5 (ECSII) and their families. The CASII and ECSII are unique in their capacity to guide treatment planning and monitor treatment outcomes in all clinical and community-based settings. The CASII and ECSII have an established evidence base and have been used in over 34 states and 4 foreign countries for over 15 years.



4:00 P.M.

## MASTER SESSION – 90 MINUTES

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### Promoting Partnerships Between Parents and Resource Families

**Room:** Marriott Ballroom, Salon B

Child welfare system can and should be designed to protect children by keeping families safe, healthy, and together whenever possible. Rather than being a substitute for parents, foster care can be a critical support for families when parents, for whatever reason, have lost much of their protective capacity. So what does it mean for birth parents and foster parents to truly work together in support of children's well-being? This session explores the question from three perspectives the birth parents, the foster parents, and the workers, with the focus on the systemic changes that are needed to nurture these partnerships.

**Introduction:** **Jeremy Long**  
Child Welfare Policy Adviser to the Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau

**Moderator:** **Irene Clements**  
Executive Director, National Foster Parent Association

**Panelists:** **Julia Jean-Francois**  
Co-Director, Center for Family Life

**Jeyanthi Rajaraman**  
Chief Counsel, Family Representation Project, Legal Services of New Jersey

**Supajee Arnau**  
Parent

**Linda and Darius Pietrocola**  
Resource Family

**Susan Esquilin**  
Psychologist



## SKILLS SEMINAR – 90 MINUTES

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### Understanding and Developing Child Welfare Questions Through a Geographic Lens: Why "Where" is Important

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **George Gabel**, Westat; **Kathryn Kulbicki**, Capacity Building Center for Tribes/Westat

Geography is significant part of the child welfare systems that helps us understand where children are placed, where foster parents are located, where children are being removed from, where children attend school, where services are located for families, and where social services staff are needed. All of these questions focus on "where," which is a fundamental geographic question. This session provides examples of how child welfare agencies are using geography and Geographic Information Systems. Participants develop research questions and action steps specific to their own community's needs.

## POLICY FORUM – 90 MINUTES

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### A Traumatic Social-Ecological Framework for Understanding Child Sex Trafficking: Applicability to Real Life Interventions, Research, and Policy

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Melissa Johnson**, University of South Florida; **Anne Fromknecht**, James Bell Associates; **Nadine Finigan-Carr**, University of Maryland School of Social Work; **C. Joy Stewart**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work

The issue of child sex trafficking is receiving a great deal of attention from practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. Increased recognition that sex trafficking constitutes a form of child abuse has led to a paradigm shift in the field of child welfare. As we build the evidence-base to address this issue, a theoretical framework that provides direction on how to intervene and conduct research is necessary. This session presents a traumatic social ecological framework and discusses ways leading experts have been applying this framework to research and interventions in multiple states. Implications for policy development based on lessons learned will be discussed.

## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### Helping Youth Thrive: Build Your Capacity to Promote the Well-Being of Adolescents

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Leonard Burton**, Center for the Study of Social Policy; **Lisa Primus**, Center for the Study of Social Policy; **Francie Zimmerman**, Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)

In 2011, the Center for the Study of Social Policy reviewed and synthesized the most recent research on resilience, positive youth development, neuroscience, and trauma to examine how all youth, including those involved in public systems, can be supported in ways that advance healthy development. This session introduces participants to the resulting Youth Thrive™ framework, currently in use in seven jurisdictions. Participants have the opportunity to experiment with the newly developed, field-tested, and validated survey that measures the presence of the Youth Thrive five protective and promotive factors intended to help youth become healthy adults.



## Screening Youth to Identify Victims of Human Trafficking

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Michael D. Pullmann**, University of Washington School of Medicine; **C. Joy Stewart**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work; **Dean Duncan**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work

Youth in the child welfare system are of much greater risk of sex trafficking than youth in the general population. The poly-victimization experienced by these youth before and after entry into the system may result in an increase in reckless and dangerous behaviors, as well as difficulties in establishing meaningful relationships with peers and adults. This presentation describes the use of screening tools in two states: Washington and North Carolina. The presentations discuss issues related to implementation of the instruments, such as human subjects review, the dimensions assessed, and the findings to date.

## Let's Talk About . . . Using Protective Factors to Prevent Child Neglect

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Martha Reeder**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Corey Best**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Kara Georgie**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds

Explore ways that it is "Everyone's Responsibility" to help prevent child neglect and how building protective factors at all levels of the social ecology can be an effective prevention strategy. The session includes one entire training sequence from the new four-part training, "Let's Talk About . . . Preventing Child Neglect," which was developed by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds with support from the Children's Bureau. Participants will also be introduced to the remaining three training sequences in the series and other valuable resources related to preventing child neglect.

## Partnering to Serve Pregnant and Parenting Youth in Foster Care

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Amy Dworsky**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Jaime Russell**, Children's Home and Aid; **Stephanie Franklin**, UCAN

Although youth in foster care have much higher pregnancy and birth rates than their peers, and their children are at high risk for maltreatment, pregnant and parenting foster youth have generally not been served by home visiting programs. This session describes the development and implementation of a home visiting pilot program for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. It also includes a presentation of findings from an evaluation of the pilot and a discussion of how other communities can promote collaboration between the home visiting and child welfare system.

## Using Lived Experience to Engage and Support Families in Child Welfare or Juvenile Probation Placement

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Janice (Jane) Tabor-Bane**, UC Davis, Resource Center for Family Focused Practice; **Ebony Chambers**, Stanford Youth Solutions

Authentic engagement of families leads to more effective involvement in services, which is critical for success. Parent partners bridge the divide between anger, humiliation, and confusion to understanding and willingness to learn new ways to parent. California has embarked on reform efforts to implement teaming to support cross system collaboration, ensure the family voice, and build plans and actions reflecting family needs and strengths. Parent partners working on the teams have a critical role as key change agents. This session discusses how and when to use parent partners, where can they best contribute, and what are the steps to ensure they are prepared and valued.

## Effective Legal Representation for Maltreated Youth: Perspectives of Foster Youth and Alumni

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Jay Miller**, College of Social Work, University of Kentucky; **Jacquelynn Duron**, School of Social Work, Rutgers University; **Jennifer Geiger**, Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois at Chicago; **Jessica Donohue-Dioh**, Campbellsville University Department of Social Work



While there is broad consensus that foster youth embroiled in dependency court proceedings related to child maltreatment are entitled to effective representation, few studies have examined this phenomenon. Of particular paucity are efforts that integrate the perspectives of those most impacted by this representation: the foster youth and alumni, themselves. This study utilized Group Concept Mapping to engage foster youth/alumni in explicating a conceptual framework describing effective legal representation. This presentation examines this framework and discusses pragmatic implications for engaging youth/alumni and their families in court processes.

## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### Let's Talk: Family Conflict and Runaway Episodes

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Lee Osipchak**, National Runaway Safeline; **Gordon Vance**, National Runaway Safeline; **Rachel Reynolds**, National Runaway Safeline

Family conflict is the number one reason youth experience run episodes. This session provides insight into the contributing factors leading up to runaway incidents by reviewing current hotline trends and experiences of participants. Attendees participate in hands-on activities from the free evidence-based, trauma-informed "Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum" that is intended to increase resiliency and build protective factors in youth. Let's Talk can be valuable for anyone working with youth and looking for additional prevention tools that focus on building life skills, resiliency, and nurturing family relationships.

### Female Genital Mutilation of Girls in the United States: Why Child Protection Officials Should be Concerned

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **F.A. Cole**, Facole.org; **Susan Masling**, U.S. Department of Justice, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section; **Ranit Mishori**, Georgetown University School of Medicine

As the population of the United States changes, so do the dangers faced by over 500,000 women and girls at risk of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). The practice of cutting female genitalia, although illegal in the United States under various laws, is increasingly being seen by service providers who do not know what protocols to follow when presented with a case of suspected FGM/C. This session tackles the information needed to effectively handle cases involving FGM/C. Participants will learn the types of FGM/C and their different names, risk factors, and justifications for the practice.

### Uncovering America's Best Kept Secret: Family Resource Centers and Family Support and Strengthening Networks

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Andrew Russo**, National Family Support Network

The history of the Family Support and Strengthening field goes back more than 100 years, and yet has been largely under the radar. Family Support and Strengthening Networks, described as "America's best kept secret," are comprised of more than 3,000 Family Support and Strengthening organizations, such as Family Resource Centers, across the country. This workshop provides an overview of the history, current lay of the land, and the latest research on the value of these networks and programs that work with more than 2 million people each year.



## Quality Matters: Lessons Learned from Tennessee's Adaptation of Capacity Building Center for States' Resources to Improve Casework Practice

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Betsy Lerner**, Capacity Building Center for States; **Christina Fly**, Tennessee Department of Children's Services; **Hung Pho**, Capacity Building Center for States; **Jennifer Marcelli**, Capacity Building Center for States

This session highlights the Tennessee Department of Children's Services' adaptation of Quality Matters: Improving Caseworker Contacts with Children, Youth, and Families and other Capacity Building Center for States resources. Resources are used to improve the quality of worker visits with children and families, integrate global assessment into daily practice, and improve documentation. Tennessee piloted their distance-learning webinar series with over 600 child welfare staff between November 2017 and June 2018, and added supervisor coaching sessions to enhance transfer of learning. This session describes resources, examines lessons learned, and generates ideas with participants for using resources to support child and family well-being.

### SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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#### Protecting Vulnerable Families and Children in the Crosshairs of the Opioid Epidemic: A Research-Practice Partnership in Upstate New York

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Laura Tach**, Cornell University; **Anna Steinkraus**, Cornell Cooperative Extension; **Elizabeth Day**, Cornell University

The opioid epidemic has become a national public health crisis; more than 90 Americans die every day from opioid overdoses. This trend has dovetailed with another worrisome trend: some low-income, rural communities have experienced a significant increase in substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect over the past several years. Understanding the links between the opioid epidemic and child maltreatment is crucial for finding the best ways to support vulnerable families. In this session, we specifically explore the role of research-practice partnerships as a rich opportunity for building community capacity for addressing complex problems such as the opioid epidemic.

#### An Overview of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Samantha Florey**, National Family Support Network

What does it mean to be a quality Family Strengthening and Support Program? The National Family Support Network's Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support integrate and operationalize the Principles of Family Support Practice with the Strengthening Families Framework and its research-based, evidence-informed five protective factors. The standards are designed to be used by all stakeholders—public departments, foundations, community-based organizations, and families—for planning, providing, and assessing quality practice across different kinds of Family Strengthening and Family Support programs. Participants learn about the standards and reflect on their potential application in their work.

#### Turning Intention Into Practice: A Continuous Quality Improvement Approach to Designing a Child Welfare Supportive Housing Intervention

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Lilli Milton**, Homeless Prenatal Program; **Jocelyn Everroad**, San Francisco Human Services Agency; **Bridgette Lery**, San Francisco Human Services Agency

The Children's Bureau funded five sites nationally to design, implement, and evaluate permanent housing models for homeless, child welfare involved families. San Francisco's design called for explicit partnership among several agencies in order to implement and evaluate the program. Three speakers will reflect on their five years of experience designing and administering the program. The focus will be on how a team can embed continuous quality improvement habits into implementation in order to ensure the best chance that cross-system collaboration actually occurs.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **A Guide for Foster Caregivers to Support the Well-Being of LGBTQ+ Foster Youth and the Foster Youth Caregiver/Family Relationship**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Amy Salazar**, Washington State University; **Susan Barkan**, Partners for Our Children, University of Washington School of Social Work; **Kevin Haggerty**, University of Washington Social Development Research Group

In this session, participants have an opportunity to actively engage in a newly developed curriculum aimed at providing information and support to foster and relative caregivers so they can better support the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and two-spirit (LGBTQ+) youth in their care. The curriculum activities include a variety of active learning modalities including roleplaying, viewing short videos and discussion, brainstorming and use of resource tools.

### **Abusive Head Trauma in Infants and Young Children**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Vincent Palusci**, NYU School of Medicine

This session reviews a new consensus statement from the Society of Pediatric Radiology, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others that addresses significant misconceptions about the diagnosis of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in infants and children. It builds on 15 major national and international professional medical society and organization consensus statements confirming the methodology and accuracy of the AHT diagnosis. This information should reduce confusion by providing judges and jurors with the tools necessary to distinguish genuine evidence-based opinions from legal arguments or etiological speculation unwarranted by the clinical findings, medical evidence, and the medical literature.

### **Using a Collaborative Training Model to Build Capacity among Child Welfare, Behavioral Health and Community Partners**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Dorothy Hickerson**, University of Louisville; **Nicole George**, University of Louisville

This interactive session provides a background on the training model for standardized screening and assessment in Kentucky. This model uses the innovative approach of incorporating information from each discipline into the other's training, in an effort to enhance communication and develop a common language. Furthermore, training serves as a platform for engaging families and youth in the process. As a result, a child's system of care becomes trauma-informed, educated about the complete needs of children and their families and gathers information from other perspectives.

## Building and Maintaining a Resilient Workforce

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Carole Wilcox**, Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver; **Sharon Kollar**, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, University at Albany School of Social Welfare; **Charmaine Brittain**, Butler Institute for Families, University of Denver

Explore the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute's Workforce Development Framework. The framework offers a comprehensive and innovative approach to recruiting, developing, and retaining a committed, competent, culturally responsive workforce. Discover the key steps and core components needed to address your agency's workforce challenges. Learn about the tools available to comprehensively assess and strategize around workforce improvements, including racial equity strategies to enhance workforce development. Participants experience the highly interactive MyNCWWI website, generate ideas together to close gaps, and learn of critical resources. Bring your electronic device to the session for real-time polling and an online learning portal demonstration.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Building Collaborative Capacity to Serve Families Affected by Substance Use: Lessons from Initiatives in the State of New Jersey

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Christine Scalise**, New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services; **Charlea Wetzel**, New Jersey Department of Children and Families; **Nancy Young**, Children and Family Futures

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare developed a case study in 2018 highlighting the collaborative efforts of the state of New Jersey to address the full range of issues affecting families with substance use disorders who have involvement with the child welfare system. This session provides an engaging discussion with a representative from New Jersey to communicate findings of the case study and lessons of building state capacity to address the needs of families affected by substance use disorders. Presenters share policy and practice changes that other communities can employ to better serve these families.

### Innovating for Improvement: When Data Drives Positive Change

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Worden**, Minnesota Department of Human Services; **Ryan Borowicz**, MN Department of Human Services

To effectively prevent child maltreatment, we will need to innovate, collaborate across sectors and with community partners, and use data to drive decision-making. This session explores two related initiatives being deployed in Minnesota aimed at reducing the number of children in out of home care and addressing the disproportionality of American Indians and people of color in the child welfare system: an Improvement Science Initiative and the development of a Child Safety Decision Framework. The session also engages participants in a design activity to develop a key improvement science tool that they can use in their own planning.

### The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Katherine Chon**, Office on Trafficking in Persons; **Glen (JR) Ujifusa, Jr.**, Chair – National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States

This session discusses the work of the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States (the Committee). The Committee was established in January 2017 as authorized by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (P.L. 113–183). The session focuses on the development of two tiers of recommended best practices for states to follow in combating the sex trafficking of children and youth.



# FRIDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 A.M.

## SKILLS SEMINARS – 90 MINUTES

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### **Building Effective Parent/Practitioner Collaboration: Creating Stronger Communities by Supporting Parent Leaders and Organizations to Work Together**

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **MaryJo Caruso**, FRIENDS National Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention; **Carolyn Abdullah**, FRIENDS National Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention; **Jessica Diel**, FRIENDS National Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Parent Advisory Council

This session provides practical guidance on assessing program readiness to engage in parent/practitioner collaboration while also exploring the roles and benefits of parent leaders in programs and community activities. Participants will participate in skill-building activities that: • Build capacity in developing parent/practitioner teams • Reinforce the importance of parent/practitioner teams building Protective Factors in programs and communities • Identify priorities for action-planning related to parent/practitioner collaboration activities

### **Building an Appetite for Evidence: Training the Current and Upcoming Workforce in the Practice of Being Evidence-Based**

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Jennifer Miller Haight**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Daniel Webster**, California Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project, UC Berkeley; **Susan Brooks**, Northern California Training Academy, UC Davis; **Bridgette Lery**, San Francisco Human Services Agency

Increasingly, all members of the child welfare workforce are expected to rely on evidence-based programs to produce strong outcomes for the children and families with whom they interact, and to be “data-driven” in their assessment of those programs and of overall system performance. In this skills session, attendees learn and practice techniques that have been developed for several training curriculum from across the county in which participants are taught best practices in measurement. Through hands-on practice, this 3-hour session highlights the core measurement principles in the curricula that build workforce capacity to recognize and rely on scientifically defensible evidence.

## POLICY FORUM – 90 MINUTES

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### **Ending Child Abuse in Our Lifetime: What Would It Take?**

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Richard Krugman**, National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect; **Lori Poland Jackson**, National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect

The National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect (EndCAN) commissioned four “disruption” papers in 2018. The areas were clinical, training, prevention, and research. Authors were asked to reimagine the ideal approaches to each of these areas where we were able to “start over” and redevelop all aspects of our child protection system (including CPS, mental health, law enforcement, and medicine). This session briefly reviews EndCAN’s unique purpose and history and then presents summaries of the four disruption papers one at a time for audience feedback, criticism, and suggestions.



## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### Enhancing Organizational Effectiveness Through a Racial Equity Team

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Salvador Armendariz**, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute; **Sharon Kollar**, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, University at Albany School of Social Welfare

This session gives participants the opportunity to explore and discuss the process for establishing a racial equity team at their organization. Participants receive guidelines for creating a strategic plan for workforce development and organizational change that addresses issues of equity and inclusion using an evidence-informed analysis and action framework. Tools that lead to the successful implementation of a racial equity strategic plan are examined by exploring the journey of a racial equity team at a national child welfare collaborative.

### Findings from the Regional Partnership Grant National Cross-Site Evaluation - Partnerships Developed, Evidence Based Programs Offered, and Participant Outcomes

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Juliette Henke**, Mathematica Policy Research; **Russell Cole**, Mathematica Policy Research; **Angela D'Angelo**, Mathematica Policy Research

News of the increasing toll substance abuse is taking on families, children, and health systems has policymakers, service providers, and individuals struggling for solutions. Since 2006, Congress has authorized the Department of Health and Human Services to make Regional Partnership Grants (RPG) to support partnerships between child welfare and substance use disorder treatment providers improve the well-being, permanency, and safety of children in, or at risk of, out-of-home placement as a result of a parent's or caregiver's substance use. This session describes the design of, and findings from, the national cross-site evaluation of the 2012-2017 RPG program.

### Developing a Culturally Responsive Court: Lessons from Rio Grande Valley West and Austin, Texas

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Darlene Byrne**, 126th Civil District Court; **Carlos Villalon**, Child Protection Court of the Rio Grande Valley West

Juvenile and family courts serve children and families of all races, legal, ethnic, and socio-economic statuses. To best serve these children and families, all members of the court system must recognize, respect, and seek to preserve the ethnic and cultural traditions, and strengths of those who appear before the court. This session will discuss some of the unique cultural dimensions that arise in child welfare cases as well as strategies to support the cultural needs of families.

### System-Level PerformanceStat as a Tool for Identifying Organizational Supports for Frontline Staff

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Brian Clapier**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Christina DeNard**, Jane Addams College of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Chicago

The need for increased organizational support to increase staff retention and worker satisfaction and its positive effects on service delivery and child and family outcomes cannot be overstated. PerformanceStat is a leadership strategy employed by public agencies that can provide child welfare agencies with a data-driven feedback loop allowing caseworker concerns to be voiced and executive and other organizational leadership to be held accountable to systemically addressing those concerns. This session provides information on PerformanceStat, its child welfare adaptation, and how it can be used to increase organizational supports. Participants participate in a simulated PerformanceStat meeting.



## Designing and Implementing a Well-Being Dashboard

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Jennifer OBrien**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; **Kiljoong Kim**, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

The Administration on Children, Youth, and Families released guidance on Promoting Social and Emotional Well-Being for Children and Youth Receiving Child Welfare Services, encouraging state systems to use assessments and evidence based interventions to improve functioning. A well-being dashboard provides a mechanism for identifying and tracking the cognitive, emotional, and social needs of children and families and allows public and private child welfare staff the ability to identify and monitor well-being outcomes. This session includes a presentation and facilitated discussion of a design and implementation approach that examined the problems, solutions, and critical components to launch a well-being dashboard.

## Connecting Survivors to Services: The Use of a Broadcast and Social Media Campaign to Raise Awareness of Human Trafficking

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Elizabeth Kline**, Capitol Broadcasting Corporation; **Dean Duncan**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, School of Social Work

Reaching individuals who are being trafficked and connecting them with services is a significant challenge. Many of these individuals do not realize they are being exploited or that services are available. As part of an anti-trafficking effort in North Carolina, Project NO REST developed a collaboration with a local broadcast outlet to create an outreach campaign designed to connect survivors to services. This campaign used broadcast as well as social media to reach survivors. Project success was measured through a number of means including monthly reports of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

## Adapting Interventions for Child Welfare Populations: Important Considerations

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Leanne Heaton**, Westat; **Susan H Chibnall**, Westat

The Permanency Innovations Initiative, a multi-site demonstration project, supports the implementation and evaluates the effectiveness of innovations to improve permanence for foster children with serious barriers to permanence. In 2010, the Children's Bureau funded six grantees and an evaluation team as part of the initiative. This presentation reports evaluation findings, but will place them in the context of their implications for building an evidence base to serve families with serious barriers to permanence. It concludes with important considerations or lessons learned to inform future evidence building efforts that can be disseminated to a broad child welfare audience.

## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Collaboratives

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Elizabeth Cox**, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa; **Julie Gibbons**, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

This session explores how one community collaborative formed and worked together in identifying and executing a shared work plan to meet the mental health needs of children in their community. Join in exploring how this group brought together a broad cross section of entities in a geographically defined area to collaborate and cooperate in their efforts to build and improve the effectiveness of Prevention and Early Intervention Services. They would measurably improve mental health and well-being outcomes for children and families by using sound public health principles of prevention and population health.



## Partnering with Parents to Hasten Child Permanency; Implementing the Safe Babies Court Team Approach

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** Darneshia Bell, ZERO TO THREE; Joseph Seidlin, Iowa Judicial District 5C; Lucy Hudson, ZERO TO THREE

Parents of young children involved with the child welfare system have long histories of trauma that interfere with their ability to safely reunify with their babies and toddlers. Five completed evaluations speak to the ability of the Safe Babies Court Team approach to increase reunification while reducing the time between removal and reunification—even for parents with significant trauma histories. With knowledge of the basic components of the Safe Babies Court Team approach and details about the latest research findings, session participants will identify and pose solutions for the obstacles faced by families with young children in foster care.

## Addressing the Health-Related Needs of Children Receiving In-Home Services: Nurse Care Coordination as an Innovative and Promising Approach

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** Anne Lilly, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

As a facet of well-being, the physical health of children receiving in-home child welfare services—the majority served by the child welfare system—is poorly understood. Yet when these children have complex or chronic medical conditions, or when their basic health needs are not met, they may be at greater risk for poor child welfare outcomes. This session explores a promising intervention to address the health needs of children in the in-home population aimed at preventing re-referral and removal. State child welfare leaders and researchers discuss the program's implementation and evaluation, highlighting implications for child welfare services and systems.

## Promoting Child Well-Being Through Standardized Trauma Screening and Assessment of Children in Out-of-Home Care: Preliminary Results and Lessons Learned

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** Lizzie Minton, University of Louisville; Brittany Stanley, Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Crystal Collins-Camargo, University of Louisville

Child welfare agencies are seeking to use evidence-informed approaches to promote well-being of children in out-of-home care. This presentation describes the interventions implemented as a part of a Children's Bureau-funded discretionary grant. Interventions included statewide standardized screening by child welfare staff, functional assessment by behavioral health clinicians, and data-driven evidence-based treatment selection, case planning, and progress monitoring in one state. Database interface enabled using screening, assessment, and treatment data to inform agency-wide decision-making. Preliminary evaluation results and lessons learned are shared which may be useful for other jurisdictions considering similar approaches.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

### "Angels in Disguise": Focus Groups Themes from a Children's Bureau Supportive Housing Demonstration

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** Mitchell Rosenwald, Barry University School of Social Work

The Children's Bureau is in the process of evaluating the efficacy of a Housing First supportive housing model among child welfare-involved families. This presentation provides qualitative data from three focus groups of families involved in one of the national demonstrations. Eight themes emerged from study participants about their perspectives on the value of the supportive housing program as well as its impact on their own lives with their families. Themes include experience with adversity, spiritual impact, resources and services, role of staff support, parentification, housing stability, self-sufficiency, and family stability. Practice implications are provided for child welfare professionals.



## Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study: Determining Better Child Abuse Prevalence Rates

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Jeff Todahl**, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, University of Oregon; **Phyllis Barkhurst**, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, University of Oregon; **Simone Schnabler**, Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect, University of Oregon

The Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study (OCAPS) was developed due to consensus in our field that relying on reports to child protective services or law enforcement as the basis for understanding the actual prevalence of child abuse and neglect is flawed and problematic. And yet our states do just that, and use report data to make policy and funding decisions relating to where to place resources and to determine areas most at risk. The OCAPS challenges the idea that there is not a better way to determine actual prevalence of child abuse and neglect. This Spotlight session is Oregon's answer.

## The Transformational Power of Starting with Well-Being

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Athisha King**, The Full Frame Initiative

This session will explain the connection between inequitable access to wellbeing, as codified in the evidence-informed Five Domains of Wellbeing framework, and perpetuated cycles of poverty, violence, trauma and oppression, even when everyone is doing exactly what they are supposed to. We will dynamically explore the Five Domains of Wellbeing's application in a prevention and intervention context, including the connections between a wellbeing orientation and trauma-informed care, positive youth development, family systems theory and community impact. The session will provide particular emphasis on the core wellbeing concept of "tradeoffs". Every decision or change we (or our participants) make, big or small, comes with both benefits and costs or consequences: a tradeoff. The session will explore how many of our models force short-term gains with long-term tradeoffs that undermine lasting change, and that reinforce-- not break-- cycles of violence, poverty, trauma and oppression. The session will use examples and preliminary data to illustrate how attention to tradeoffs and fostering wellbeing can support change that lasts, and new ways of intervening that also support prevention. Participants will gain an understanding of how wellbeing cracks open new possibilities for addressing a range of entrenched social challenges through exploration of "bright spots," such as Missouri's child welfare, juvenile justice and family court systems (St. Louis), and Massachusetts' domestic and sexual violence systems, all working to fundamentally shift agency culture, practice and policy and improve outcomes through an integrated approach to prevention and intervention.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Advancing Trauma Informed Care: Implementation and Practice Partnership in Child-Serving Systems**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Melissa Bernstein**, Rady Children's Hospital; **Brent Crandal**, Rady Children's Hospital; **Cambria Walsh**, Rady Children's Hospital

This session focuses primarily on the intersection of child welfare and mental health services. Presenters review the state of the field of trauma-informed care (TIC), highlighting two initiatives aimed at strengthening TIC in child serving systems through collaborative partnerships. The focus is on the identification and practical application of key TIC elements, along with resources and methods that support best practices.

### **Experiential Training to Prepare Today's Child Welfare Workforce**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Anna Lipton Galbraith**, Child and Family Research Partnership; **Cynthia Osborne**, Child and Family Research Partnership; **Jennifer Huffman**, Child and Family Research Partnership

The session examines the CPS Professional Development (CPD) training model, an experiential training approach developed by the Texas Department of Family Protective Services for training new caseworkers. We discuss the findings from our implementation and outcomes evaluation of the CPD training model, including identifying the core elements of the model, implementation challenges, and outcomes findings related to workforce quality and stability. Participants have the opportunity to learn about Texas's experience developing and implementing an experiential training approach and how caseworker training can be used to improve the stability and quality of the child welfare workforce.

### **Promoting the Rights of Parents with Disabilities: How Does the ADA and Section 504 Apply to Child Welfare Practices?**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Anne Raish**, Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice; **Sarah DeCosse**, Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice; **Carla Carter**, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights

Federal disability rights laws protect parents with disabilities from unlawful discrimination in the administration of child welfare programs, activities, and services. According to a 2012 report from the National Council on Disability, parents with disabilities are overly, and often inappropriately, referred to child welfare services, and once involved, are permanently separated at disproportionately high rates. This session illustrates civil rights protections, focusing on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and explores opportunities for participants to ensure compliance with federal disability rights laws in child welfare agencies and state court systems.



## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Stop Neglecting Neglect

**Room:** Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Ryan Brown**, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine; **Blake Gruenberg**, The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

This session addresses child maltreatment, a medical condition that affects hundreds of thousands of children annually. Of all the forms of abuse, neglect is the most common. Though neglect is the least understood of all the forms of abuse, it is most affected by community resources compared to the other forms. Therefore, education for the family, the providers, and the investigators of the benefits of community in the evaluation and treatment can be paramount.

### Child Neglect: Innovative Strategies for Prevention

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Alicia Luckie**, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP; **Aaron Miller**, Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood

While nearly 80% of substantiated child maltreatment across the country is neglect, the prevention field has been challenged to focus on this specific area. Because of the risks closely associated with neglect, such as substance use disorders, mental health conditions, domestic violence and especially, extreme poverty, neglect prevention is often well served by being woven into other public systems and addressed at multi-systemic levels. This workshop will discuss the socio-ecological approach along with identifying some successful evidence-informed strategies to preventing child neglect and provide an overview of one state, Colorado, and their current work to address neglect. In addition, it will highlight some of the information and resources available to states in the newly released FRIENDS Child Neglect Prevention Toolkit.

10:30 A.M.

## EXHIBITS AND FILM SCREENING – 60 MINUTES

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**Room:** Exhibit Hall A



11:30 A.M.

## PLENARY SESSION

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### Transforming Child Welfare

Room: Marriott Ballroom

Are you ready to be a part of the transformation in child welfare? In this session, we discuss a new vision for child welfare—and the role each and every one of us has in achieving that vision. Join us as Jerry Milner, the Acting Commissioner for ACYF, lays out a vision for change, discusses ways in which the Children’s Bureau and its partners will help to promote and facilitate this shift, and extends a challenge to those in the audience.

#### Opening Remarks

Elaine Voces Stedt, Director, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children’s Bureau



#### Plenary Presentation

Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner for the Children’s Bureau and Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families

## LUNCH on your own

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.



1:30 P.M.

## MASTER SESSION- 90 MINUTES

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### Broken Places Film Screening

**Room:** Marriot Ballroom, Salon B

BROKEN PLACES interweaves real-life longitudinal narratives with commentary from nationally renowned experts to help viewers better understand the devastating impact of childhood adversity as well as the inspiring characteristics of resilience. The session features an advance showing of the film, followed by discussion. Visit <https://brokenplacesfilm.com> to watch the trailer.

"The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places."

--Ernest Hemingway

**Introduction:** **Rosie Gomez**  
Child Welfare Program Specialist, Children's Bureau

**Speakers:** **Roger Weisberg**  
Director, Writer and Producer  
**Daniella Rin Hover**  
Film Participant

## SKILLS SEMINAR – 90 MINUTES

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### Building Family Protective Factors through Child Welfare Practice

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **Cailin O'Connor**, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Focusing on families' strengths can lead to better outcomes for children, better relationships with parents, and less burnout for child welfare caseworkers. In this session, we will focus on the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and how it can be applied in daily child welfare practice. Working through core areas of a typical child welfare practice model, participants will practice skills for identifying family strengths, building case plans around protective factors, conducting case visits, monitoring progress and working toward case closure. We will also focus on our own protective factors and identify ways to incorporate self-care into our daily routines.



## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### Coaching and Amygdala Hijack

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Alison Book**, Northern California Training Academy, Center for Human Services, UC Davis Extension; **Nancy Hafer**, UC Davis, Northern California Training Academy

Skills-based coaching works! Staff who have access to coaching have increased success in the implementation of new and best practices. However, when we work one-on-one with staff we come to understand the amount and impact of workplace stress they often feel. This session discusses the UC Davis Skills-Based Coaching Model and focuses specifically on how to coach through a neuroscience lens by first better understanding the causes of, and reactions to, social stress. Neuroscience has shown us the result of stress on behavior, and how coaching can help in a meaningful way.

### Aligning Community Resources for Prevention: A Geospatial Analysis of Risk and Protective Community Factors

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Carl Ayers**, Virginia Department of Social Services; **Jeff Price**, Virginia Department of Social Services

Predictive analytics is a growing trend in child welfare. Geospatial analytics is a model that uses location-based data to assess risk prior to a child entering the child welfare system, reflecting the national trend and movement towards early identification and prevention of child abuse. Geospatial analytics uses location-based data to build maps, which have been successful in identifying the geographic locations of future child maltreatment. Community members and stakeholders identify existing services and the gaps in services for the high-risk locations. Engaging a variety of community members and stakeholders redefines the responsibility of protecting children to all community members.

### Structures and Strategies to Promote Parent Voice and Create Strong Families and Supportive Communities

**Room:** Maryland A

**Presenters:** **Meryl Levine**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Corey Best**, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds; **Kara Georgi**, National Alliance Parent Partnership Council, Co-Chair

Parents are vital partners in supporting and strengthening families and communities and preventing child maltreatment. They have a unique knowledge of their families and communities and can provide valuable insight into the benefits and challenges of programs and services. Presenters discuss multiple community-based structures and strategies (for example, advisory councils and community cafes) that promote partnerships between parents and stakeholders and support parent voices in programmatic and policy decisions affecting families. Join us for an interactive learning experience on partnering with parents to lift up and highlight parent perspectives regarding building the capacity of strong families and communities.

### How Statewide Partnerships and the Adoption of Technology Resulted in Systemic Improvements Within Kentucky's Child Welfare System

**Room:** Virginia C

**Presenters:** **Steven Herr**, Advanced Metrics; **Nathan Lubold**, Advanced Metrics; **Lizzie Minton**, University of Louisville

Each year more than 9,000 children are placed in out-of-home-care in the state of Kentucky, many from rural counties. Historically, child welfare and behavioral health providers encountered numerous barriers ensuring that the behavioral health needs of these children were met. The absence of a universal screening and assessment approach, breakdowns with information sharing, and inconsistencies in data collection efforts, are a few challenges Kentucky faced to improve targeted service delivery and clinical and system outcomes. This session discusses how Kentucky invested in partnerships, technology, and a sophisticated implementation plan to improve the social and emotional well-being of children in the child welfare system.



## **A Regional Partnership to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes Among Substance Abusing Families: Exploring Community Partnerships, Study Implementation, and Outcomes**

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Anita Jose**, Montefiore Medical Center; **Jing Zhu**, Metis Associates; **Jacqueline Martin**, New York City Administration for Children's Services

Montefiore Medical Center, the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), and Metis Associates have formed a regional partnership to improve communication and collaboration between substance abuse treatment and child welfare providers, with the ultimate goal of enhancing child welfare outcomes for families where the parents are in substance abuse treatment. To meet this goal, all partners focused on ensuring strong and effective collaboration between child welfare and substance abuse providers, and addressing potential challenges to the implementation of manualized interventions to the unique context of Bronx, NY. This session integrates practical recommendations with empirical data to support providers.

### **From the Ground Up: Building a Prevention Program**

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Deb Anderson Pappas**, Project Harmony

More than 60% of all children are victimized by violence each year, resulting in symptoms of trauma and toxic stress. Despite this, only 20% receive mental health services. We believe no children should have to get hurt to get help. This session describes a preventative mental health program developed by a child advocacy center that focuses on preventing abuse before it happens. The presenter shares lessons learned in developing the program, from engaging children and families to developing a coordinated referral process, and providing evidence-based practice training for mental health providers.

### **Building Evidence for Prevention Program: The Critical Steps to Laying the Foundation for Evidence-Based Outcomes**

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Nancy Rolock**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; **John Webb**, New Jersey Department of Children and Families; **Dondieneita Fleary-Simmons**, QIC-AG

Delivering effective evidence-based programs is essential for families and, now more than ever, an expectation for funding. Demonstrating effectiveness requires the use of intentional design and/or implementation strategies. Over the past four years, the National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Assistance, (QIC-AG), has been evaluating the effectiveness of eight interventions. Using the State of New Jersey's implementation of Tuning in to Teens™ prevention program as an example, QIC-AG demonstrates the critical steps of implementation science and evaluation research needed to lay the foundation for developing evidence.

## **SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES**

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### **Evidence-Based Resilience and Well-Being: Practice and Research Results of Parents Anonymous Programs**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Lisa Pion-Berlin**, Parents Anonymous, Inc.; **Michelle Allen**, Parents Anonymous, Inc.; **JC Shay**, Parents Anonymous, Inc.

Explore the underlying phenomena of family strengthening in diverse families and communities. The theory of change and model of prevention and family strengthening of Parents Anonymous Programs for all parents, caregivers, and their children and youth, are reviewed and interactive elements utilized to promote a greater understanding of key nurturing and parenting strategies focused on positive change. Resilience as an intervention and result will be explored thoroughly across the life span. Well-being will be addressed as a key practice, outcome, and result of Parents Anonymous Programs.



## Harnessing the Power of Coalitions to Build Resilience and Well-Being

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Melissa Stropolis**, Children's Trust of South Carolina; **Aditi Srivastav Bussells**, Children's Trust of South Carolina; **Amy Moseley**, Children's Trust of South Carolina

Coalitions are an impactful source for igniting community-based change to improve outcomes for children and families. Many efforts in South Carolina are focused on the prevention of adverse childhood experiences, with a focus on factors that promote well-being. However, there is a need for frameworks that can support such work. This session highlights the importance of coalition work in child well-being, focusing on roles that organizations can have within coalition work to address complex issues. Also provided is an overview of a new framework designed to prevent ACEs that can be applied in a coalition setting.

## Supporting State Quality Assurance Staff in CQI and Program Improvement Efforts

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Candace Charkow**, JBS International, Inc.; **Steve Cleiman**, JBS International, Inc.; **Pete Pazmino**, JBS International, Inc.

Attendees will discover key features of the Child and Family Services Reviews Online Monitoring System (OMS) and the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) review site and how they help the states' child welfare workforce to improve the lives of children and families. They discuss challenges in administering CQI processes and have an opportunity to see a test case and the reporting and other functions of the OMS firsthand. The OMS is available to states for free, including access to a fully staffed help desk. States need no additional equipment or software to run the OMS.

## Working Together to Build Capacity to Respond to CSEC Victims

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Erin Aliano**, National Children's Alliance; **Catherine S. Connell**, Federal Bureau of Investigation; **David Betz**, National Children's Alliance

This session discusses the ability to identify and respond to child victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Crimes (CSEC). The National Children's Alliance and the Federal Bureau of Investigation partner to utilize best practices in unifying the response, improving the system, and healing the hurt. The ability to build capacity includes developing relationships with non-traditional stakeholders and resources in urban and rural settings. Presenters review approaches to evaluating the stakeholders and resources in communities to respond and support the victims and their caregivers, including include foster families and child welfare professionals.

## SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES

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### Fostering Hope Initiative (FHI): Strong Families, Resilient Neighborhoods

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **James Seymour**, Catholic Community Services (CCS) of the Mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast

Fostering Hope Initiative (FHI) is a proven, structured way to bring people and systems together to promote and achieve complex social change. Learn about this integrated response to social service, housing, and health needs of vulnerable individuals and families in eight Oregon neighborhoods. Seymour shares how FHI addresses social determinants of health and well-being by employing Certified Community Health Workers to integrate health care, housing, and social services in neighborhoods where residents experience high rates of poverty, chronic disease, teen pregnancy, health and education disparities, and child maltreatment.



## Children Impacted by Prenatal Substance Exposure: What the Literature Tells Us About Preventing Long-term Adverse Outcomes

Room: Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Sharon Newburg-Rinn**, Administration for Children and Families/Children's Bureau; **Heather McCann**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **Tammy Richards**, James Bell Associates; **Kristen Usher**, ICF

This session reviews state-of-the-art science regarding children with prenatal substance exposures in the child welfare system, leading to an interactive discussion around identifying and appropriately diagnosing such children. Focus is on how identification and diagnosis can facilitate child and family interventions that, in turn, can prevent reentry and escalation of involvement with child welfare. Topics include prevalence, screening practices, referral protocols, and interventions for affected individuals. Sharing knowledge and understanding of these issues are important in light of legislative mandates to refer children with prenatal exposures to child protective services.

## The Protective Factors Survey, Second Edition: A Resource in Prevention Evaluation

Room: Washington 3

**Presenters:** **Jessica Sprague-Jones**, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas; **Mallory Rousseau**, Center for Public Partnerships and Research, University of Kansas; **Cassandra Firman**, FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention

The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) is the only peer-reviewed valid and reliable tool measuring multiple protective factors, and is widely used by practitioners in child abuse prevention and related fields. In this session, we introduce a revised version of the tool: the Protective Factors Survey, Second Edition (PFS-2). We describe our efforts to improve the PFS in response to feedback from the field, and present the results of our field test. We then introduce supporting materials and tools to help practitioners field and analyze the PFS-2, and facilitate discussion about how the tool might be used to support prevention work.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Innovations and Opportunities in Child Maltreatment Fatality Prevention**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Amy Harfeld**, National Coalition to End Child Abuse Deaths; **Teri Covington**, Within Our Reach, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

This session describes progress in the U.S. in maltreatment fatality prevention—specifically implementation of recommendations from the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities. Key findings, the framework, and recommendations from the Commission. Case studies are shared from communities throughout the U.S. working to stem the tide of fatal child maltreatment. The session engages participants in discussion on how they can work to adapt the recommendations and align their work with efforts to transform child welfare systems into a 21st century model rooted in a public health framework.

### **Outcomes of Peer Parent Mentors: Parent Engagement, System Collaboration, and Reunification**

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Elizabeth Anthony**, Arizona State University Center for Child Well-Being; **Ann Turnlund Carver**, Arizona State University School of Social Work

Peer parent models in child welfare seek to match parents who have successfully navigated the child welfare system with parents who are encountering the system. The current study examines a model in rural Arizona from the perspective of stakeholders, parent mentors, and parents. Four themes were identified. A subsequent study examines 110 cases with peer parent involvement and compares timeliness to reunification to those cases where a peer parent was not involved. Discussion on implications and sustainability.

### **Minnesota's Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP): A Statewide Child Maltreatment Prevention and Early Intervention Program**

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Charlotte McDonald**, MN Department of Human Services; **Ryan Borowicz**, MN Department of Human Services

Minnesota's Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) provides voluntary support for families in and at-risk of child maltreatment. Families are identified through community and self-referrals and screened-out child maltreatment reports. PSOP eligibility includes a family having at least one child under age 10 (or pregnant) and 2 identified maltreatment risk factors. In 2017, PSOP served nearly 3,000 families and 6,000 children. In 2018, Minnesota embarked on a strategic PSOP redesign using a data-driven continuous improvement model to improve the program. This session provides information about the PSOP program, history, data, outcomes, and Minnesota's hope for the future.

### **QIC-WD Research: Levels of Secondary Traumatic Stress Among Front-line Child Welfare Workers in Thirteen Jurisdictions Across the Nation**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Anita Barbee**, Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development and University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work; **Lisa Purdy**, Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development and Maryhurst; **Courtney Harrison**, Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development and CLH Strategies & Solutions, LLC; **Sharon Kruse**, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



The Quality Improvement Center on Workforce Development (QIC-WD), reviewed the literature and found that child welfare workers are experiencing high levels of secondary traumatic stress (STS). A total of 1,113 front-line child welfare workers in 13 jurisdictions completed the Bride (2007) Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) Scale as part of a workforce needs assessment. An average of 54% of participants reported clinical levels of STS. When these elevated numbers are compared to the original Bride research of social workers, they far exceed the 15% found. Representatives from one state site focus on implications and potential solutions.

### **Blueprint for Change: Education Success for Children in Foster Care**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Kathleen McNaught**, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law/Legal Center for Foster Care and Education

Education is one of the most critical aspects of a child's life and critical to future success; child welfare caseworkers, administrators, and other staff to focus on improving educational outcomes of youth in foster care to ensure that they have the best opportunity to succeed in school, in a career, and in life. Throughout the session, hear from co-presenters from child welfare agencies around the country who have prioritized the well-being of children in foster care and improved outcomes.

## **SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS – 40 MINUTES**

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### **Building Community Resilience: Connecting Sectors to Strengthen Families**

**Room:** Washington 4

**Presenters:** **Wendy Ellis**, George Washington University; **Robert Shapiro**, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; **Jeff Hild**, George Washington University

The Building Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative brings together cross-sector partners to address the "Pair of ACEs"—adverse childhood experiences in the context of adverse community environments. Across five regional sites, BCR supports diverse partnerships, learning, and community-based solutions to address child abuse and neglect risk factors. Within the greater Cincinnati region, Joining Forces for Children's "Healthcare Channel" is using the BCR process to ensure that child health systems are a key nexus for supporting families. Programs such as Parent Connex provide protective supports to buffer families from the adverse environments and strengthen family resilience, reducing neglect and possible abuse.

### **Strengthening Families, Programs, and Communities Through Wee Cuddle and Grow**

**Room:** Washington 5

**Presenters:** **Sarah Kaye**, Kaye Implementation & Evaluation, LLC; **Kim Cosgrove**, PACT for Children with Special Needs; **Carole Norris-Shortle**, University of Maryland Center for Infant Studies; **Nii Sowah**, Bon Secours Family Support Center

This session offers a comprehensive approach for building community capacity to prevent child maltreatment and focus on well-being by: (1) building parents' capacity to nurture healthy attachment and positive relationships with their children; (2) building program's capacity to provide relationship-based services to families and community-partners; and (3) leveraging community-based partnerships to strengthen the capacity of entire communities. The presenters draw from their work developing and replicating the trauma-informed and attachment-based Wee Cuddle and Grow model for parents and children from birth to age 3 in Baltimore, Maryland.



## POLICY FORUM – 90 MINUTES

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### Taking Legislative and Policy Actions to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse: An Update on Efforts in the States

**Room:** Virginia B

**Presenters:** **Jetta Bernier**, MassKids; **Rush Russell**, Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey; **Claudia Remington**, Maryland State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Preventing child sexual abuse requires multiple strategies, including building coalitions, educating citizens, training professionals, promoting community-wide prevention policies, and advocating for legislation to prevent sexual abuse from ever occurring. Leaders of the Enough Abuse Campaign, a multi-state community engagement and citizen education initiative developed under a 5-year CDC grant, will present the latest on efforts in the states. These efforts include: 1) addressing educator sexual misconduct and abuse through laws mandating education of school personnel about child sexual abuse prevention; 2) prohibiting the practice of some schools known as “passing the trash”; and 3) adopting safe-child policies for state and private organizations serving youth.

## WORKSHOPS – 90 MINUTES

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### Kinship Navigator Model Development and Implications: Lessons Learned from Four Demonstration Projects

**Room:** Wilson A

**Presenters:** **Michelle Rosenthal**, Data With Purpose LLC; **Kerry Littlewood**, AAJ Research & Evaluation, Inc.; **Abhishek Pandey**, University of Arizona Medical Center

With an increase in child welfare policies supporting relatives raising children, kinship navigator programs are an important program intervention to strengthen kinship families with supportive resources. Few studies have examined the development and efficacy of a kinship navigator model. This study recruited program managers and evaluators from the U.S.D.H.H.S. Children’s Bureau’s 2012 Fostering Family Connections Kinship Navigator Grantee Cluster to examine the essential components of a kinship navigator model and provide guidance on implementation for new and existing programs. Results include the identification and conceptualization of direct service and organizational components of kinship navigator programs.

### Conducting a Comprehensive Needs Assessment to Drive Workforce Intervention Decisions

**Room:** Maryland C

**Presenters:** **Megan Paul**, UNL Center on Children, Families, and the Law; **Sarah Meyer**, Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families; **Tequilla Washington**, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; **Michelle Graef**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families and the Law

To help child welfare agencies address staff recruitment and retention challenges, the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) developed a Continuous Workforce Development Process to select, implement, and evaluate workforce interventions. In this session, the QIC-WD explains the initial steps of the process, and representatives from two partner agencies share their challenges, successes, and lessons learned in conducting a needs assessment and selecting a workforce intervention. Participants are invited to share their experiences and seek advice on implementing the process in their own agencies. They also receive detailed written guidance and examples for each step.



## Implementing Modernization and Reducing Child Welfare Workforce Turnover Through Technological Advances

**Room:** Wilson B

**Presenters:** **Dana Hollinshead**, Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect, University of Colorado; **Elizabeth Lee**, Virginia Department of Social Services; **Mark Ells**, Center on Children Families and the Law, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

As one of the eight sites selected by the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development to examine the relationship between child welfare workforce interventions and turnover, Virginia is focusing on the implementation of technological supports including transcription services and mobility technology. The interventions' goals are to reduce turnover by changing the practice of casework by reducing administrative paperwork burdens, adding efficiencies, and freeing staff to devote more time to families. We present lessons learned and outcomes from the transcription rollout and engage the audience in thinking through how technological advances may enhance or detract from worker/client and worker/supervisor relationships.

## Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Tribal Child Welfare Agencies: The Significance of Place in Protecting Our Children

**Room:** McKinley

**Presenters:** **Kathryn Kulbicki**, Capacity Building Center for Tribes/Westat; **Jhon Goes In Center**, Capacity Building Center for Tribes/Westat; **Ann Baker**, Capacity Building Center for Tribes/Tribal Law & Policy Institute (TLPI); **Summer Lunderman**, Sicangu Child and Family Services

This presentation discusses the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Tribal child welfare agencies and demonstrates how GIS empowers Tribal communities to preserve children's connections to their land and their families. We discuss how the Capacity Building Center for Tribes engages Tribal child welfare programs in utilizing GIS as a new technology and facilitates connections with other Tribal agencies already using GIS in their transportation, environmental sciences, and cultural preservation work. We provide examples of connecting existing GIS users in Tribal agencies and leveraging their skills to assist child welfare agencies.

## Addressing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Among the Child Welfare System: A Collaborative Community Response in Miami-Dade County, Florida

**Room:** Virginia A

**Presenters:** **Melissa Johnson**, University of South Florida; **Yinay Ruiz**, Our Kids of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Inc.; **Kimberly McGrath**, Citrus Health Network, Inc.

This session describes innovative strategies being used in Miami-Dade County, Florida, to address human trafficking among the child welfare population. The Miami CARES Project is a collaborative initiative designed to create a cross-system community response to human trafficking within child welfare, focused on implementing interventions that facilitate the identification, recovery, and treatment of youth survivors. The presentation discusses key components of the Miami CARES Project, including the use of multi-disciplinary interventions, development of a specialized therapeutic treatment program for exploited youth (CHANCE), and current findings from an ongoing evaluation of the project.



## Selecting and Using Child Well-Being Measures: Evidence from Three National Studies of Programs Serving At-Risk Children and Families

**Room:** Delaware A/B

**Presenters:** **Angela D'Angelo**, Mathematica Policy Research; **Yange Xue**, Mathematica Policy Research; **Russell Cole**, Mathematica Policy Research

Given the importance of improving the outcomes of children living in at-risk families, such as those involved with child welfare, the ability to adequately measure child well-being is an essential part of studying interventions designed to support these families. We will use evidence from three national studies to increase participant knowledge in three areas: (1) selecting standardized measures of child well-being from commonly known measures in the field; (2) using standardized measures in an evaluation framework; and (3) exploring whether pre/post changes in selected child outcome measures should be expected given the interventions or services implemented.

## Some Results Are In: How Have They Impacted Family Engagement Practices and Policies in Child Welfare Systems?

**Room:** Maryland B

**Presenters:** **John Fluke**, Kempe Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine; **Marina Lalayants**, Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, The City University of New York; **Robert Friend**, National Institute for Permanent Family Connectedness at Seneca Family of Agencies; **Lisa Merkel-Holguin**, Kempe Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Department of Pediatrics, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Through the Family Connections grants, the Children's Bureau has supported research and evaluation of kinship navigators, family finding, and family group decision making since 2009. Close to a decade later, what was learned from the evaluations of these promising practices? How have various findings been embedded into child welfare systems? In this session, a team of subject matter experts, practitioners, and researchers take stock of some Family Connection Grants' results and analyses, and convene participants in an interpretative and translation discussion around issues of social support, children's participation, parent advocacy, outcomes, referrals, and staff attitudes.

## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### The Impact of Trauma Screening and Other Approaches to Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Youth in Foster Care

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **Alicia Bunger**, The Ohio State University College of Social Work; **Suzanne Kerns**, University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work, Center for Effective Interventions; **Michael D. Pullmann**, University of Washington School of Medicine

Youth in foster care are disproportionately likely to have mental health challenges and symptoms of trauma. If unaddressed, these challenges can needlessly extend time in care and reduce placement stability, returns home, and adoptions. This presentation examines efforts in two Children's Bureau-funded grantee sites, Franklin County, Ohio, and Washington State, to address youth mental health and trauma challenges. Each site describes their unique activities (to include screening, progress monitoring, training of child welfare and mental health staff, co-location of mental health, and child welfare staff) and highly similar outcomes (rates of mental health need, service receipt, stability, and permanency).



## Agency and University Partnerships to Support Knowledge Production in Child Welfare

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Bridgette Lery**, San Francisco Human Services Agency; **Joe Roscoe**, University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare; **Julie Lenhardt**, San Francisco Human Services Agency

San Francisco's Public Child Welfare Agency has engaged for the past five years in a meaningful partnership with U.C. Berkeley to increase its workforce capacity to produce evidence from data; to train doctoral students in the use of administrative data to understand child welfare trends and to identify individuals at risk; and to support development of interventions that work to improve their lives. The partnership offers mutual benefits including an extension of the agency's workforce capacity, and university access to powerful data. The presentation describes the partnership and offers practical strategies that are transferrable to other jurisdictions.

## Research Toward Precision Home Visiting: Making Programs More Efficient and Effective for Families

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Kay O'Neill**, Johns Hopkins University; **Anne Lilly**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

While the overall effectiveness of home visiting programs for vulnerable families has been demonstrated, average effects are small and we have a poor understanding of what works best for which families. Precision home visiting aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of home visiting programs by tailoring services to different sub-populations of families. This session presents an overview of precision home visiting and two examples of studies that are using innovative research methods to advance precision home visiting.

## Workforce Development Through a Data-Informed Agency Change Initiative

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Barrett Johnson**, San Francisco Human Service Agency, Family and Children's Service Services Division; **Robin Leake**, Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver; **Jessica Mateu-Newsome**, San Francisco Human Service Agency, Family and Children's Service Services Division

San Francisco County's child welfare agency has engaged in a commitment to change its agency culture to be data-informed, performance-oriented, and team focused to improve services for children and families. Under an initiative sponsored by the National Child Welfare Workforce Initiative, this presentation focuses on these large-scale organizational change efforts. Presenters will describe their use of a data-informed organizational assessment to focus their initial change efforts; how they supported supervisors and managers to embrace change; and how they ultimately used the results to target a long-term plan for change. The approach has implications for workforce development in other jurisdictions.



## SHOWCASE WORKSHOPS – 40 MINUTES

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### **Building Bridges Between Mandatory and Voluntary Services: Lessons Learned From Mandated Referral from Child Welfare to Early Intervention**

**Room:** Washington 1

**Presenters:** **April Allen**, Heller School for Social Policy, Brandeis University/Resilient Futures LLC; **Carlomagno Panlilio**, Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education, The Pennsylvania State University

Policymakers increasingly require child welfare systems to coordinate with voluntary prevention and early intervention services to jointly address family safety risks and child development and well-being. This session illustrates the successes and challenges of this approach through an in-depth examination of 2003 legislation requiring states to create policies ensuring that maltreated children were referred to Part C Early Intervention services. Referral and engagement patterns, interagency coordination practices, and promising methods for engaging child welfare-involved families in voluntary services are discussed in light of recent proposals to build a comprehensive framework connecting primary prevention and child welfare services.

### **Housing and Services Partnerships to Strengthen Family Stability: Lessons Learned from ACYF's Child Welfare and Supportive Housing Demonstration**

**Room:** Roosevelt 5

**Presenters:** **Kellie Cole**, Community Alliance for the Homeless; **Leah Lindstrom Rhea**, Corporation for Supportive Housing

This session describes Keeping Families Together models implemented thru the five year demonstration funded via the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children Youth and Families which tested supportive housing to keep families safely together. These supportive housing partnerships were designed to keep families safely together, reduce child welfare system involvement, achieve housing stability and improve family functioning. Lessons learned and evaluation findings will be shared.

### **Groundbreaking National Work: What We Know About LGBTQ2S+ Youth in Foster Care and How We are Addressing the Need**

**Room:** Washington 2

**Presenters:** **Angela Weeks**, The Institute for Innovation and Implementation

Research shows that LGBTQ2S+ youth experience more placements than their non-LGBTQ2S+ peers, are less likely to achieve permanency, and report more mistreatment while in foster care. Our National Quality Improvement Center for LGBTQ2S+ Children and Youth in Foster Care is looking to change that. Over the next several years, we will be implementing and evaluating over 10 programs focused on improving well-being, permanency, and stability. During our presentation participants hear about the problems facing this population, our innovative work, how it will benefit the field, and what the data shows so far about the programs' effectiveness.



## Pier to Pier: How Two Coastal States Developed Technical Assistance Approaches

**Room:** Washington 6

**Presenters:** **Julianna Ormsby**, Capacity Building Center for States; **Julie Breedlove**, Capacity Building Center for States

CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) embarked on intensive projects with the Capacity Building Center for States (Center) in 2018 to develop a collaborative approach to technical assistance and support to counties. As state-supervised, county-administered child welfare systems, both states were looking for a way to provide enhanced technical assistance to meet the varying, evolving and often complex needs of counties. This session will share the journey for each state as well as share how both states connected with each other for support.



## PLENARY AND MASTER SESSION SPEAKER BIOS

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### Katie Albright

Katie Albright, JD, joined Safe & Sound in 2007, when it was named the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center. Her prior experiences include SF Deputy City Attorney representing our public schools; SF Education Fund Policy Director leading a campaign to improve teacher quality and increase student retention; and, Preschool California Co-Director of Policy & Outreach campaigning statewide for universal preschool. Prior to serving as an associate at Latham & Watkins and clerking for the U.S. District Court in Maryland, she co-founded and taught in the Kayole-Gitau Nursery School & Community Center in Nairobi, Kenya. Ms. Albright graduated with honors from Georgetown University Law Center and Williams College. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two children. When not working, she loves hiking with her family.



### Supajee Arnau

Supajee Arnau was born and raised in Lakewood, New Jersey. She was the middle child of three. Supajee always dreamed of achieving greatness, but when her father went to prison when she was only 16 years old, the life of hurt altered her destiny. Despite the hardships she went through, she has moved forward and has overcome those things that meant to stop her. She is the mother of three amazing little boys and is currently working as a dental assistant in Toms River, New Jersey.



### Hannah Barber

Hannah Barber is a project manager at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, where she is currently working in the Frontiers of Innovation Transition to Scalability team. In her role, she is developing a suite of strategies to support the design of policies and practices using the science of early childhood development. Ms. Barber has previously worked across a number of areas of early childhood education in Australia, both as an early childhood teacher and in adult learning, with a particular focus on improving the quality of early learning experiences. Ms. Barber holds a B.A. in Politics and International Studies and a Master of Teaching from the University of Melbourne, as well as a Master of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



## Marc Cherna

Marc Cherna has served as Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) for 22 years. Under his direction, the DHS has received numerous awards and national recognition for their work. He has also received many personal awards including the American Public Human Services Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Casey Family Program's first Lifetime Achievement in Child Welfare Leadership Award. Mr. Cherna began his career in human services as a youth worker over 45 years ago. His extensive experience in the field includes 13 years as an Assistant Director with the New Jersey Department of Human Services. He received his B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton and an M.S.W. from the Hunter College School of Social Work. He has three children and six grandchildren who take up most of his time outside of work.



## Irene Clements

Irene and her husband fostered 127 children and adopted 4 children during their 27-year tenure as foster parents. Irene is the Executive Director of the National Foster Parent Association; chair of the Board of EveryChild, Inc.; Content Expert for the Texas Foster Care Association; Public Policy Chair for the Texas Council on Adoptable Children; Vice President for Project Foster Care; Board member for Creating A Family; and member of the Collaborative Council for the Texas Supreme Court Permanent Commission on Children and Families. Ms. Clements worked with children and adults with intellectual and development needs for 15 years, then built a therapeutic foster care program for a large child-placing agency in Texas, serving as its Vice President for Advocacy for 15 years. Ms. Clements has been an active member of the National Foster Parent Association for over 40 years. She enjoys spending time with her children, 19 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, numerous former foster children and their families and cruising with her husband of 52 years.



## Susan Esquilin

Susan Esquilin is a licensed psychologist, trained in developmental and clinical psychology at the University of Chicago, with a diplomate in clinical psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. She has served on the faculties of Montclair State, Rutgers, and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Dr. Esquilin has testified as an expert in criminal and family court and civil matters. She was part of a faculty that developed and taught a decade-long course sponsored by Rutgers School of Social Work and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families that trained psychologists and psychiatrists as expert evaluators in child protection matters. Dr. Esquilin serves on the Model Court Committee in Essex County and the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion for the New Jersey Psychological Association. She is the co-chair of the Immigration Emergency Action Group, President of the Essex-Union County Association of Psychologists, and was named New Jersey Psychologist of the Year for 2017.



## Julie Fliss

Julie Fliss is a Child Welfare Program Specialist with the Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect. She has over 15 years of experience in the field of child welfare at the local, state, and federal levels, specifically in the areas of community-based prevention, child protection, continuous quality improvement, and family-centered practice. Her current portfolio includes oversight of and support to initiatives related to community-based child abuse prevention, children and families involved with child welfare and experiencing domestic violence, adverse childhood experiences, and support for Native American/Alaskan Native populations impacted by violence.



## Rosie Gomez

Rosie Gomez is a Child Welfare Program Specialist at the Children's Bureau. She has over 15 years of experience working in the field of child welfare and social services. Her work at CB includes managing a range of grant programs and contracts related to child abuse prevention and human trafficking. Prior to joining the federal government in 2007, she worked at a city and county child welfare agency as a social caseworker. She also has experience working in nonprofit agencies.





### Julia Jean-Francois

Julia Jean-François oversees Center for Family Life's (CFL's) family counseling and foster care programs, community resource center, employment services, and cooperative business development. Before joining CFL in 2003, she was Director of Operations at the Puerto Rican Family Institute. Dr. Jean-Francois has extensive experience in child welfare and mental health services, and she teaches research methods and ethno-cultural methods in social work practice at the New York University School of Social Work and Rutgers School of Social Work. She has taught statistics and sociology at the University of the People. She received her M.S.W. from New York University and Ph.D. from the Columbia University School of Social Work.



### Lynn Johnson

Lynn Johnson is Assistant Secretary for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In that capacity, she oversees programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities with funding, strategic partnerships, guidance, training, and technical assistance. She previously served as the executive director of Jefferson County Human Services in Colorado, overseeing the county's Head Start program, as well as programs on the workforce, career and family services, child welfare, justice services, and community assistance. Prior to this position, Mrs. Johnson ran her own consulting firm, which dealt with mental health, high risk youth, developmental disabilities, child welfare, and early childhood education.



### Marcus Jordan

Marcus Jordan is Youth Advisory Committee Coordinator at the Good Samaritan Community Service Center in San Antonio, Texas. He has eight years' experience in working with youth and building relationships to instill positive behavior and change. His goal is to continuously give youth a voice and remind them that they have the power to change the world. He notes that it is their passion and commitment that keeps him optimistic about the future.





## David P. Kelly

David P. Kelly, J.D., M.A., is Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner of the Children’s Bureau. He oversees the Children’s Bureau’s work with courts and the legal community, including the State and Tribal Court Improvement Programs and the National Child Welfare Capacity Building Center for Courts. Prior to joining the federal government, Mr. Kelly was an Assistant Staff Director at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law. Earlier in his career, he was a Senior Assistant Child Advocate at the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate where he investigated state agency responses to allegations of child maltreatment, monitored juvenile justice practices and conditions of confinement, and conducted fatality and near fatality reviews. Mr. Kelly began his career as a staff attorney at the Youth Advocacy Center of Covenant House New Jersey where he represented homeless, runaway and at-risk youth on a variety of legal issues and led the organization’s policy initiatives; he later became the Center’s Director of Legal and Clinical services.



## Justine Larson

Justine Larson, M.D., M.P.H., M.H.S, is the Senior Medical Advisor to the Center for Mental Health Services and the Office of the Chief Medical Officer at the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration. She is board certified in adult psychiatry, and in child and adolescent psychiatry and neurology. Dr. Larson has experience in services research as a faculty member at Johns Hopkins, and administrative experience as former medical director for Arlington County Community Services Board. Most recently, Dr. Larson served as a consulting psychiatrist for an integrated behavioral health program at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Montgomery County and Prince Georges County, Maryland. In that role, she provided education to the primary care providers, curbside consultations, and direct clinical care. Dr. Larson has committed her career to improving access to behavioral health care in underserved populations, to promoting principles of recovery in diverse populations, and to understanding barriers to evidence-based treatment provision in serious emotional disturbances and serious mental illness.



## Jeremy Long

Jeremy Long serves as a Child Welfare Policy Adviser to the Associate Commissioner of the Children’s Bureau. In this role, Mr. Long utilizes his personal and professional experiences on child welfare-related issues to heighten the importance of youth and family voice in systems improvement. Prior to joining the Children’s Bureau, Mr. Long spent a majority of his professional career managing and coordinating youth engagement and leadership programs in both the child welfare and children’s mental health systems in the government and nonprofit sectors. Mr. Long attributes much of his professional career to his time spent in the Colorado foster care system. Unlike so many, his story is one of positivity and a realization that success can be achieved, however it is defined.



## Edwina G. Mendelson

Edwina G. Mendelson was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives for the New York State Unified Court System in July 2017. Judge Mendelson heads the newly expanded Office for Justice Initiatives (OJI), which is tasked with ensuring meaningful access to justice for all New Yorkers in civil, criminal and family courts, regardless of income, background, or special needs. Judge Mendelson holds a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, and has been an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Hofstra Law School.



## James A. Mercy

James A. Mercy is the Director of the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) in the Injury Center at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, he provides leadership to innovative research and science-based programs to prevent violence and reduce its consequences. Dr. Mercy has worked to develop the public health approach to violence prevention for more than 30 years. Prior to his current appointment, he oversaw global activities in DVP and implemented surveys on violence against children in developing countries as part of a global partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and others. As a researcher, Dr. Mercy has authored more than 200 publications that span the areas of child maltreatment, youth and intimate partner violence, homicide, suicide, and firearm injuries.



### Melissa T. Merrick

Melissa T. Merrick is a Senior Epidemiologist with the Surveillance Branch in the Division of Violence Prevention at CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Her major research interests focus on the etiology, surveillance, course, and prevention of child maltreatment. Much of her work examines safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments, as they relate to child maltreatment prevention, and examining the effects of adverse childhood experiences, particularly maltreatment, throughout the lifespan. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Merrick was an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellow with the University of Miami Child Protection Team (CPT), involved in a multisite program of research that examined child maltreatment risk and protective factors in families evaluated by CPTs across the state of Florida. Dr. Merrick received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and her master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology from the San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology.



### Amelia Franck Meyer

Amelia Franck Meyer is Founder and CEO of Alia, a national nonprofit focused on transforming how child welfare is done in this country. Alia is convening change-makers across the country—including sustained work with 14 child welfare jurisdictions—to use UnSystem Guiding Principles as a vision for child welfare system transformation. As the former CEO of Anu Family Services, she spear-headed a cultural and practice transformation that is producing nationally recognized child permanence and placement stability outcomes for children in out-of-home care and is on the leading-edge of promoting and measuring well-being. Under her leadership, Anu won the prestigious Bush Innovation Prize (2013), received a Youth Thrive Award for Exemplary Programs (2014) from the Center for the Study for Social Policy, and the Eureka! Innovation Award (2014) from the Twin Cities Business Journal. In 2018, Dr. Franck Meyer was named one of *People* magazine's 25 Women Changing the World.



## Jerry Milner

Jerry Milner is the Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Dr. Milner began his career as a case-carrying social worker, served as the state child welfare agency director in Alabama, and previously worked for the Children's Bureau designing and implementing the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR). Immediately prior to his appointment, he served as the Vice President for Child Welfare Practice at the Center for the Support of Families. He received his undergraduate degree in political science from Auburn University and graduate degrees in social work from the University of Alabama. Dr. Milner brings 43 years of practice, management and technical assistance experience in child welfare at the local, state and federal levels.



## Darius Pietrocola

Darius Pietrocola is a man who believes faith in Christ should be the motivation for everything one does. He is a husband for over 30 years and the father of two adult children. He is the owner of Solid Rock, Inc., an adaptive aid integration and training company, which helps empower the disabled community. Fostering was a decision made with his entire family as a response to a family friend in need. Through fostering, Darius believes that positive change can be made in his community by pointing families in trauma toward the road to recovery, stability and reunification. He believes in the fundamental premise that people should be treated with competent and patient assistance, allowing the individual a chance to thrive within their learning experience, while becoming whole.



## Linda Pietrocola

Linda Pietrocola has been married to her husband Darius for over 30 years. She has loved being a homeschooling mom to their now-adult daughter Amanda and son Joshua. In 2014, an opportunity presented itself for them to become a resource home for the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P). They accepted the challenge, and it has turned out to be one of the most rewarding journeys of their lives. Linda feels extremely blessed to have been a part of every life that has come through their home and plans to continue being a resource mom in years to come. Linda believes working with DCP&P has allowed her to help change the world, one family at a time.



## Al Race

Al Race is Deputy Director and Chief Knowledge Officer at The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Mr. Race provides overall thought leadership for the Center's knowledge translation, communication, and public engagement portfolios, including the development and execution of strategic communications plans for the Center and its initiatives, the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child and Frontiers of Innovation. He directs the Center's communications research agenda and the development of publications and new media products, and helps scientists, researchers, students, the media, and other thought leaders to improve their communication of the science of child development and science-based innovation. Prior to joining the Center, Mr. Race provided leadership in editorial development for a range of print and multimedia publishing ventures in education, entertainment, and media literacy. He received his B.A. in English literature from Middlebury College.



## Jeyanthi Rajaraman

Jeyanthi Rajaraman, Esq., is the Chief Council and a supervising attorney of Legal Services of New Jersey's Family Representation Project (FRP). The FRP provides parents in child abuse or neglect and termination of parental rights litigation with information, advice and representation. Additionally, the FRP provides advice and representation to youth in DCPD's care, both those who have become parent defendants themselves and those who are seeking aging-out services from the Division. The FRP participates in many child welfare committees, including the statewide Children in Court Committee along with the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee. Ms. Rajaraman serves as a member of the National Alliance for Parent Representation. She has been a presenter at the ABA national child welfare conference and at other state child welfare training conferences. In addition, Ms. Rajaraman is the coordinator and primary trainer at Legal Services of New Jersey's annual seminar on New Jersey child welfare litigation.



## Sasha Rasco

Sasha Rasco is associate commissioner for prevention and early intervention at the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Ms. Rasco's career began in early childhood education as an infant caregiver in an accredited child care center. After completing graduate school and a Governor's Policy Fellowship with the Governor of Maryland's Office of Children, Youth and Families, she worked for 14 years in the Child Care Licensing division of DFPS, the last two years as assistant commissioner. In 2009, the Texas Licensed Child Care Association recognized Ms. Rasco as an early care and education champion, and in 2010 the Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services honored Sasha as DFPS employee of the year. Ms. Rasco also worked for two years developing programs and projects at Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services' Early Childhood Intervention program. She has a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin's Humanities Honors Program and a Masters of Public Affairs from UT's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.



## David Sanders

David Sanders is Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement at Casey Family Programs. He oversees the foundation's work with child welfare systems to improve practice, with an emphasis on ensuring safe and permanent families for children. Dr. Sanders also oversees the foundation's public policy work. Prior to joining Casey Family Programs, he directed all operations for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.



## Vivek Sankaran

Vivek Sankaran is a clinical professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School and directs both the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, through which law students represent children and parents in trial and appellate proceedings. Professor Sankaran has written numerous articles focused on improving the child welfare system and has litigated cases before the Michigan Supreme Court. In addition, he conducts state and national trainings and works on child welfare initiatives with various national groups, including the American Bar Association, Casey Family Programs, and the National Center for State Courts.



### Shrounda Selivanoff

Shrounda Selivanoff is a strong and passionate advocate for parents involved with the child welfare system. She, herself, was previously involved with the system due to a severe drug and alcohol addiction that lasted about 8 years. In 2007, when she gave birth to her third child, child protective services got involved and removed her daughter from her. Ms. Selivanoff was able to successfully turn her life around and she reunified with her daughter 10 years ago. Currently, she is contracted as a Social Services Worker with the Washington State Office of Public Defense's Parent Representation Program in King County. She is also a member of the Washington State Parent Ally Committee, a founding member of the Birth Parent National Network, a committee member of the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee and the Parent Stakeholder Representative of the Department of Children, Youth and Families Oversight Board.



### Arvind Singhal

Arvind Singhal is a recognized expert in the diffusion of innovation and the positive deviance approach to organizing for social change. His work spans diverse fields from public health to education to social justice. Dr. Singhal is currently on faculty and serves as Director of the Social Justice Initiative at The University of Texas at El Paso. He has authored or edited more than 14 books and has received multiple awards.



### Benjamin Soriano

Ben Soriano is currently a senior at Lanier High School in San Antonio, Texas. This fall, he will be attending The University of Texas at San Antonio. Ben shares that, "Over the years, I've come to learn the importance of making a difference. I consider myself to be an advocate for my community. My hopes are to empower others to help change my community on the West Side of San Antonio."



### Elaine Voces Stedt

Elaine Stedt is Director of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), where she oversees and manages OCAN activities and provides leadership in the area of child abuse and neglect prevention and systems improvement at the Federal level; supporting staff in their work on a large discretionary grant portfolios; maintaining Federal interagency communication regarding child abuse and neglect issues. Ms. Stedt also leads the Children's Bureau effort to bring national attention to the need for improving collaborative practice and policy among the substance use disorder treatment, child welfare, and family judicial systems.



### Tien Ung

Tien Ung is Director of Leadership Programs and Initiatives at The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Dr. Ung sets the strategic direction of a leadership platform that will build and perpetuate intentional stewardship toward science-based innovation in service of breakthrough outcomes for children facing adversity. Dr. Ung has close to 25 years of experience as a practitioner-scholar and has worked across several industries, including higher education, government, and nonprofit organizations. She has a Ph.D. in social work from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work (BCGSSW), a Masters of Social Work also from BCGSSW, and a B.A. in psychology from Brandeis University.



### Ellen-Marie Whelan

Ellen-Marie Whelan is the Chief Population Health Officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and a Senior Advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). Before CMS, Dr. Whelan was the Associate Director of Health Policy at the Center for American Progress. She started her policy career in the U.S. Senate as a health policy advisor for Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle and the staff director on the Senate HELP Committee. Before coming to Capitol Hill, Dr. Whelan was a health services researcher and faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins University and practiced as nurse practitioner for over a decade. Dr. Whelan holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in primary care policy at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.





## Corey Zimmerman

Corey Zimmerman is Director of Policy and Scaling Strategies at The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. She provides strategic leadership to the development of the innovation pipeline for the early childhood field, focusing on how to support intervention teams to transition to scalability. She also directs the Center's strategy for using science to drive new ideas in policy and systems. Ms. Zimmerman brings to this work extensive experience advocating and shaping social policy on behalf of young children and families from her prior work at United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, the MA Dept. of Early Education and Care, and at Nurture, Inc. She holds an Ed.M. in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## EXHIBITORS

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### **ACTION for Child Protection**

[action4cp.org](http://action4cp.org)

**Booth 5**

### **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (ASPAC)**

[apsac.org](http://apsac.org)

**Booth 2**

### **National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination Center (CANTASD)**

[cantasd.org](http://cantasd.org)

**Booth 1**

### **Casebook PBC**

[casebook.net](http://casebook.net)

**Booth 22**

### **Center for the Support of Families (CSF), Division of SLI Government Solutions**

[sligov.com](http://sligov.com)

**Booth 28**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

[cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html)

**Booth 7**

### **Child Welfare Information Gateway**

[childwelfare.gov](http://childwelfare.gov)

**Booth 8**

### **Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)**

[cwla.org](http://cwla.org)

**Booth 4**

### **Childhelp**

[childhelp.org/childhelp-hotline](http://childhelp.org/childhelp-hotline)

**Booth 11**

### **Childhelp Virginia / The Village**

[childhelp.org/virginia/the-village](http://childhelp.org/virginia/the-village)

**Booth 12**

### **Children and Family Futures / NCSACW**

[cffutures.org](http://cffutures.org)

**Booth 3**

### **Council on Accreditation**

[coanet.org](http://coanet.org)

**Booth 13**

### **FosterClub**

[fosterclub.org](http://fosterclub.org)

**Booth 32**

### **FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP**

[friendsnrc.org](http://friendsnrc.org)

**Booth 9**

### **National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)**

[NACCchildlaw.org](http://NACCchildlaw.org)

**Booth 14**

### **National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI) / C.A.S.E.**

[adoptionssupport.org/nti](http://adoptionssupport.org/nti)

**Booth 20**

### **National Children's Advocacy Center**

[nationalcac.org](http://nationalcac.org)

**Booth 15**

### **National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families (NCHYF)**

[rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov](http://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov)

**Booth 36**



### **National Family Support Network**

[nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org](http://nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org)

**Booth 16**

### **National Fatherhood Initiative**

[fatherhood.org](http://fatherhood.org) and [store.fatherhood.org](http://store.fatherhood.org)

**Booth 17**

### **National Foster Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council**

[nationalpolicycouncil.org](http://nationalpolicycouncil.org)

**Booth 31**

### **National Runaway Safeline**

[1800runaway.org](http://1800runaway.org)

**Booth 18**

### **New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics**

[njaap.org](http://njaap.org)

**Booth 19**

### **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

[ojjdp.gov](http://ojjdp.gov)

**Booth 10**

### **Plan to Protect™**

[plantoprotect.com](http://plantoprotect.com)

**Booth 21**

### **Prevent Child Abuse America**

[preventchildabuse.org](http://preventchildabuse.org)

**Booth 25**

### **Prevent Child Abuse Vermont**

[pcavt.org](http://pcavt.org)

**Booth 26**

### **Proven Quality Practices**

[provenqualitypractices.org](http://provenqualitypractices.org)

**Booth 35**

### **RedMane Technology**

[redmane.com](http://redmane.com)

**Booth 34**

### **Safe Shores - The D.C. Children's Advocacy Center**

[safeshores.org](http://safeshores.org)

**Booth 27**

### **STM Learning**

[stmlearning.com](http://stmlearning.com)

**Booth 29**

### **The Center for Child Welfare at University of South Florida**

[centerforchildwelfare.org](http://centerforchildwelfare.org)

**Booth 24**

### **Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative**

[capacity.childwelfare.gov](http://capacity.childwelfare.gov)

**Booth 6**

### **The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds**

[ctfalliance.org](http://ctfalliance.org)

**Booth 30**

### **USCCB / Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services**

[brycs.org](http://brycs.org)

**Booth 33**

### **Westat**

[westat.com](http://westat.com)

**Booth 23**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Peer Reviewers

We wish to thank our Peer Reviewers for their diligent work in reviewing abstracts submitted through the Call for Abstracts. The reviewers provided objective, conscientious, and high-quality reviews that were critical to the selection of an outstanding 21<sup>st</sup> NCCAN Program.

|                     |                    |                     |                         |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Alishia Agee-Cooper | Rosalynn Fliggins  | Mary McCarthy       | Kimberly Rock-Jefferson |
| Nilofer Ahsan       | Shella Fon         | Valerie McDaniels   | Kathleen Roe            |
| Michelle Allen      | Phyllis Fulton     | Sharon McKinley     | Nancy Rolock            |
| Jacqueline Anderson | George Gabel       | Lisa Merkel-Holguin | Lauren Romero           |
| Julie Atkins        | Rachael Garrett    | Susan Meyer         | Janet Rosenzweig        |
| Aaron Banman        | Antoine Ghanem     | Nancy Miller        | Berenice Rushovich      |
| Mary Barber         | Emily Goering      | Lina Millett        | Lisa Schelbe            |
| Phyllis Barkhurst   | Rosie Gomez        | Tanya Montgomery    | Dana Schultz            |
| Vanessa Baronner    | Becky Gonyea       | Kimberly Murphy     | Annette Semanchin Jones |
| Leah Bartley        | Sher Graham        | Felicia Murray      | Katina Semien           |
| Danna Basson        | Siobhan Gruschow   | Julia Neighbors     | Joan Sharp              |
| Andrew Benesh       | Carol Hafford      | Mary Nishioka       | Agnes Shine             |
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| Charmaine Brittain  | Robin Hernandez-   | Barbara Oudekerk    | Gaddie Somerville       |
| Brandynicole Brooks | Mekonnen           | Vincent Palusci     | Elaine Stedt            |
| Shari Brown         | Arona Howard       | Abhishek Pandey     | Leslie Strickler        |
| Julie Bruns         | Lee Ann Huang      | Meryl Paniak        | Barbara Sweatt          |
| Rebecca Camarigg    | Andrea Jacks       | Deedee Pegler       | Jean Swift              |
| Linda Carter        | Shinaz Jindani     | Alfred Perez        | Maggie Thompson         |
| TC Cassidy          | Michelle Johnson-  | Marlo Perry         | Jeff Todahl             |
| Wan-Yi Chen         | Motoyama           | Carol Phillips      | Julie Treinen           |
| Deborah Chosewood   | Amber Joiner-Hill  | Megan Piel          | Ginny Vicini            |
| Ana Cody            | Sarah Kaye         | Lisa Pion-Berlin    | Satomi Wakita           |
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| Catherine Corr      | Jamie Kondis       | Susan Putnins       | Ashley Willcott         |
| Carri Cottengim     | Judy Krysik        | Teresa Rafael       | Rachel Winters          |
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| Mark Ells           | Miriam Landsman    | Sonia Ricketts-     | Susan Yoon              |
| Anne Farrell        | Bridgette Lery     | Hubbard             | Joan Zlotnick           |
| Nadine Finigan-Carr | Katie Maguire-Jack | Kathryn Ridout      |                         |
| Lauren Fischman     | Laura Malzner      |                     |                         |



## 21<sup>ST</sup> NCCAN PLANNING TEAMS

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The Children's Bureau wishes to thank the planning teams at IMPAQ International for their support in developing the content of the conference and all aspects of its planning and implementation.

Helene Lippe, Conference Manager  
Annie Chinnici Oliver, Senior Project Director  
Jessica Cruttenden, Meeting Planner  
Emily Bzdega, Meeting Planner  
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Stephanie Barros, Editor  
Joan Sharp, Consultant

Jean Swift, Project Director  
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Mary Nishioka, Senior Communications Specialist  
Jennifer Bishop, Production Manager

