



**September 11 - Day 1 Wednesday**


- 9:00-9:20 Welcome
- 9:20 – 10:20 **Keynote: Jerry Milner**
- 10:20 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 Breakout Session 1
- 12:00 – 2:00 Lunch and **Keynote: Tammi Fleming**
- 2:00 – 3:15 Breakout Session 2
- 3:15 – 3:45 Break
- 3:45 – 5:00 Breakout Session 3

**September 12 - Day 2 Thursday**

- 8:30 – 9:45 Breakout Session 4
- 9:45 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:30 Breakout Session 5
- 11:30 – 1:00 Lunch and Awards
- 1:00 – 2:15 Breakout Session 6
- 2:15 – 2:45 Break
- 2:45 – 3:45 **Keynote: Judge Teske**
- 3:45 – 4:00 Closing Remarks

# Agenda, Day 1

## Wednesday, September 11

| Time/Location   | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)   | Track |
|---|---|-------|
| 8:00am - Lobby  | Registration  |       |
| 9:00am-9:20am   | Welcome and Opening Remarks   |       |
| <b>9:20am-10:20am   Keynote</b>   |   |       |
| <b>Location TBA   Commissioner Jerry Milner</b>                                     |   |       |
| <b>TITLE :</b> To Be Announced  |   |       |
| To be announced   |   |       |
|  | <p>Commissioner Jerry Milner, D.S.W., is the Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, Acting Commissioner for Family and Youth Services Bureau, and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). Before joining the Trump administration at ACYF, he served as the Vice President for Child Welfare Practice at the Center for the Support of Families. At the Center for the Support of Families, he assisted state and local child welfare agencies in evaluating their child welfare programs, and designed and implemented improvements in practice, policy and procedures. His work includes the use of data, implementation science principles, development of practice models, systematic problem solving and the direct provision of technical assistance to achieve organizational changes and practice improvements in child welfare.</p> |       |

| Time/Location  | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)  | Track |
|--|--|-------|
| 10:20am-10:45am  | Break  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm   Breakout Session 1</b>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 1</b><br>10:45am-12:00pm   | <b>Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)/<br/>Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)</b> | ◆     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Emily Kluver and a representative from the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative Team</i>  |       |
| <p>Prenatal substance exposure places this population at risk for negative outcomes. Representatives from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative Team come together to discuss prenatal substance exposure in Nebraska and their effects on infants. The group will explore the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as it pertains to Nebraska. The speakers will provide an overview of the Plan of Safe Care and an explanation of its population parameters. Participants will have an opportunity to see examples of working Plans of Safe Care in Nebraska. Additionally, the session will discuss the successes and challenges when notifying DHHS about substance exposed infants.</p> |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 1</b><br>10:45am-12:00pm   | <b>Nebraska Aggression Replacement (NE ART): An Overview</b>   | ■     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Sara Quiroz</i>   |       |
| <p>Nebraska Aggression Replacement (NE-ART) is a researched-based, comprehensive cognitive behavioral program designed to provide moderate to high risk youth on probation with basic social skills, strategies for self-control, and a framework for moral reasoning. NE-ART assists youth in acquiring and learning to effectively use techniques and tools to handle stressful situations, their emotions, and other's emotions in a positive way through repetition and active practice.</p>   |  |       |

- ◆ Child Welfare
- ▲ Attorney/Legal
- Special Populations
- ⌘ Behavioral Health
- Schools/Education
- ◻ Juvenile Justice
- ✓ Native Youth & Families
- Courts
- ★ Prevention
- ❖ Collaboration

# Agenda, Day 1

## Wednesday, September 11

| Time/Location   | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)  | Track |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm   Breakout Session 1</b>   |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Human Trafficking in Nebraska: The Law, Our State Strategy, and Your Part in It All</b> | ▲     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Glen Parks</i>  |       |
| <p>The session will explore what human trafficking is and how the state is organized to address it. The presentation highlights some of the dynamics within a trafficking situation and some indicators. Hopefully, you will then join the unofficial army of citizens in strategic places across the state, noticing signs of human trafficking and activating the task force to together help the victims/survivors and hold the traffickers accountable.</p>               |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Native Futures and Positive Impact for the Nebraska Panhandle</b>                       | ✓     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Edison Red Nest, Ill</i>  |       |
| <p>In this session, learn about Native Futures, a for profit business, enacting positive social and economic changes in western Nebraska for Native youth.</p>  |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>LGBTQ+ Youth</b>  | ■     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Joni Stacy</i>  |       |
| <p>This presentation will provide an overview of language and best practices in interacting with LGBTQ+ youth and their providers.</p>  |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Engaging Youth in their Court Proceedings: A Benefit for All!</b>                       | ●     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Christine Kiesel</i>  |       |
| <p>Participants will understand the underpinnings of Federal and State laws and policies as they pertain to child voice. Participants will understand the benefit of having children and youth attend permanency hearings. Participants will learn about and demonstrate an understanding of various tools and techniques to support successful engagement of children and youth inside and outside of the courtroom.</p>   |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Having an Ace Up your Sleeve: Childhood Trauma and Brain Development</b>                | ⌘     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Jen McNally</i>   |       |
| <p>Children are 32 times more likely to be labeled with behavioral or cognitive problems, when the underlying causes of these behaviors are related to experiencing a traumatic event. This presentation will address what we can do to offer hope and healing for children exposed to trauma.</p>  |  |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Bring up Nebraska: Community-Based Prevention Collaborative</b>                         | ★     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Jenny Skala</i>   |       |
| <p>Complex issues need collaborative solutions and Bring Up Nebraska partners are working to keep children safe while preventing life's challenges from becoming a crisis for families. With Bring Up Nebraska, we believe local communities are best positioned and most motivated to understand their own needs and strengths in identifying solutions. This community-owned prevention work is being recognized nationally and being used as a model for other states.</p> |  |       |

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| <b>10:45am-12:00pm   Breakout Session 1</b>   |   |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>The Role of the School Resource Officer</b>  | ○     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Greg Gonzalez</i>                            |       |
| <p>Effective school-justice partnerships are essential to keeping at-risk students in school and out of the Court system. To address the trajectory of the “school to prison pipeline,” the Omaha Police Department and Omaha Public Schools have effectively partnered through deliberate planning, collaborative policies and protocols, and cross-systems training on the role of School Resource Officers (SROs). This session highlights how this partnership has significantly reduced school-based arrests, improved communication, and fostered stronger working relationships between schools and law enforcement in the Omaha metro area. Recent legislation (LB 390) will also be discussed as it mirrors much of this work through requirements for statewide training of both SROs and school administrators as well as adoption of inter-agency agreements.</p> |   |       |
| <b>10:45am-12:00pm Breakout Session 1</b>   | <b>Collaborating to Support Crossover Youth</b> | ❖     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>   | <i>Monica DeMent, Amy Latshaw</i>               |       |
| <p>On October 1st, 2018, the staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation and the Department of Health and Human Services- Division of Children and Family Services implemented a collaborative policy to serve youth who cross into both systems. System staff and stakeholders will share lessons learned thus far, highlight successes, and future opportunities as this groundbreaking effort moves forward.</p>  |   |       |

### 12:00pm-2:00pm | Lunch and Keynote

Location TBA | Dr. Tammi Fleming

TITLE: To Be Announced

To be announced



Tammi Fleming, PhD, Senior Associate at Annie E. Casey Foundation, manages the Foundation's investments in reproductive health, pregnancy prevention and parenting support strategies. Prior to her role at the Foundation, Tammi directed the Plain Talk National Replication Center at Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tammi is an expert leader with more than 25 years of experience in program development, design and implementation. Tammi has received numerous awards for her work as a community organizer and program design specialist. Tammi possesses an extensive training and facilitation background. Dr. Fleming holds a dual concentration degree in Maternal Child Health and Health Education and Communication from Tulane University and a doctorate in Public Health from Walden University.

◆ Child Welfare  
□ Juvenile Justice

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# Agenda, Day 1

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|---|---|-------|
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm   Breakout Session 2</b>   |   |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Attorneys in Motion: Principles of Motion Practice</b><br><i>Christine Henningsen</i>  | ▲     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | Juvenile defenders will understand the ethical obligation to file motions to protect the youth's legal rights and preserve the appellate record. They will identify a full range of motions that may be filed at all stages of the delinquency process to advance the strategic goals of the case.  |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Breaking it Down: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and Active Efforts</b><br><i>Misty Frazier, Jill Holt, Amanda Docter, Michelle Paxton</i>  | ✓     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | This presentation will help give you a better understanding of what Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is, why it exists and why it is still necessary. Presenters will also discuss active efforts vs. reasonable efforts.  |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Structured Decision Making 101</b><br><i>Sherri Haber</i>  | ◆     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | Learn more about the Structured Decision Making tools utilized by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Crucial case decisions need to be made with consistency, accuracy, and to make children safer. Learn about the different tools; when they are used; and what decisions they help inform.   |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Baseball and Science: Applying Risk Assessment to Juvenile Justice</b><br><i>Dr. Richard Wiener</i>  | □     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | The basic concepts in the science of risk assessment share a great deal with athletic performance in baseball so that we can understand a lot about the conceptual mechanics of juvenile risk assessment from the vantage point of home plate. This presentation will begin with a discussion of the relationship between baseball and risk assessment and move on to develop a conceptual and then basic (that is –math lite) statistical understanding of the concepts of reliability and validity in measurement. Participants will examine the basic concepts in inter-rater agreement and internal consistency of instruments, which measure reliability of risk assessment and compare them to the notions of effect size and AUC's (areas under the curve) that measure validity of risk assessment. This will all be accomplished at a conceptual rather than mathematical level using the baseball analogy as a backdrop for the discussion. The presentation will discuss the problem of disparate impact in testing, that is what are the problems in using risk assessment developed for one population (i.e., white youth) when applied to other populations (i.e., Black or Latinx youth). The second half of the presentation will apply these concepts to the Youth Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). The full discussion will take an objective evidence based approach to the topic. Knowledge of statistics is not required but some basic understanding of baseball (i.e., the pitcher throws the ball over home plate and the batter tries to hit it and run the bases) would be helpful! |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Human Trafficking</b><br><i>Anna Brewer, Glen Parks, Sarah Forrest</i>   | ■     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | The session will explore what human trafficking is and how the state is organized to address it. The presentation will highlight some of the dynamics within a trafficking situation and some indicators. Hopefully, you will then join the unofficial army of citizens in strategic places across the state, noticing signs of human trafficking and activating the task force to together help the victims/survivors and hold the traffickers accountable.  |       |

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| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm   Breakout Session 2</b>   |   |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>How Natural Environments Promote Positive Outcomes for Children</b><br><i>Dr. Anne Schutte</i>   | ⌘     |
|   | Many aspects of a child's environment have been found to be important for positive developmental outcomes. Recent research has found that exposure to natural environments can decrease stress, increase happiness, improve mood, and restore attention. This presentation will cover research from my lab and others that examines how time in nature influences child well-being for typically developing children and those with disabilities such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).   |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>The Impact of Youth Mobile Crisis Response</b><br><i>Bernie Hascall, Nathan Busch, Kyle Kinney, Beth Baxter, and Karla Bennetts</i>  | ★     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | This presentation will cover the inception and implementation of the Youth Mobile Crisis Response (YMCR) in Nebraska. Outcomes will be highlighted and a localized system of care will share how YMCR is part of the larger system of care for children.  |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>School-Based Mental Health Services</b><br><i>Michele Borg, Tamara Gavin, Dr. Katherine Carrizales, Jennifer Jackson, Dr. Susan Lindblad, Jen McNally</i>  | ○     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         | The challenge of addressing the needs of Nebraska's children and youth through a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services being available statewide has come to the forefront in recent years. This is evident in our schools as well as throughout the child welfare and juvenile/criminal justice systems. Schools are meeting this challenge through partnerships with those systems as well as the state's Behavioral Health Regions, Educational Service Units, local service providers, community coalitions and affected families. During this session, local and statewide initiatives focusing on school-based mental health programs in rural areas will be highlighted, with panelists from the Beatrice area and Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education State Education Agency Project (AWARE-SEA) sites in Chadron, South Sioux City and Hastings sharing their experiences in program development and expansion. |       |
| <b>2:00pm-3:15pm<br/>Breakout Session 2</b> | <b>Support for Pregnant and Parenting Young People</b><br><i>Tammi Fleming</i>  | ❖     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>                         |   |       |
| To be announced                             |   |       |
| 3:30pm-3:45pm Break                         |   |       |

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# Agenda, Day 1

## Wednesday, September 11

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|---|--|-------|
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm   Breakout Session 3</b>   |  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Introducing Safety Organized Practice</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Katie Harvey</i>  | ◆     |
|   | Safety Organized Practice is designed to help all key stakeholders involved with a child - parents, extended family, child welfare workers, supervisors and managers, lawyers, judges and other court officials, and even the child him/herself - keep a clear focus on assessing and enhancing child safety at all points in the case process.  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Planning and Intervening with Youth who Have Sexually Harmed</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Mike Nehe, Julie Smith</i>   | □     |
|   | Youth with sexually harmful behaviors pose a complex challenge for our communities. Cultural and ethical norms often lead to overestimated risk, resulting in over-supervision that increases rather than decreases their future risk. Using case studies, this session will focus on understanding risk factors identified by the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) and developing meaningful interventions.  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Holistic Advocacy for Children: Incorporating Educational Counsel into Representation Decisions and Decrees</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Elizabeth Eynin-Kokrda, Amy Bonn</i>  | ▲     |
|   | We all have learned that children do not lose their constitutional rights when they walk through the school house door, but we often fail to remember that children retain specific education rights even when they are in the juvenile justice system. A significant number of juveniles have one or more disabilities, often interwoven with their need for representation or their encounters with the courts, but which are left unaddressed during and after adjudication. Assuring juveniles are represented in school discipline proceedings and are being provided access to special educational services guaranteed under state & federal law is critical to every child's long-term success. |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Native Americans and Historical Trauma as it is Seen Today</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Grace Johnson</i>  | ✓     |
|   | In this session, learn about Native American Tribes and historical trauma, and how the disruption in traditional healthy family systems came about. Learn the effects of the boarding school systems, and what can be done today by addressing inter-generational trauma with clients and families by seeing them as extended families.  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Responding to Human Trafficking: Emerging Trends in Policy and Best Practices</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Sarah Forrest</i>   | ■     |
|   | This session will help attendees understand the scope and forms of trafficking and exploitation that impact youth in Nebraska and challenges in identifying and serving victims of trafficking. Presenters will review recent policy changes at the state and federal level that impact minor trafficking victims, as well as best practices on agency response and various types of services victims often need. Attendees will be provided information about local resources and experts both agencies and workers can access.   |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Examining Quality legal representation in Child Welfare Proceedings</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Christine Kiesel</i>  | ●     |
|   | Participants will be able to describe the Federal and National context for quality legal representation in child welfare cases. Participants will think about the translation of indicators of quality legal representation into current case practice. Participants will become familiar with NE's case law regarding quality legal representation including exploring ethical issues.  |       |

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| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm   Breakout Session 3</b>   |  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Culture as a Protective Factor</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Greg Donovan, Lucinda Mesteth</i>  | ⌘     |
|   | Traditional culture provides Native American relatives with a layer of "medicine" that provides both strength and healing. Colonization almost lost these ways for relatives, so support is needed to forge the path back to cultural practices that advance prevention. Learn about how the Society of Care complements evidence-based methodologies with cultural elements in a complex and multi-layered approach that is often difficult to understand for those who do not have to live between two cultures.   |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Understanding Program Outcomes</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Dr. Anne Hobbs, Dr. Lindsey Wylie</i>  | ★     |
|   | Juvenile reform efforts have led to increased awareness in the importance programs can have on interrupting criminal pathways. Programs can also have a negative impact, if youth are exposed to unnecessary juvenile justice involvement. Best practices requires providers find the perfect balance and intentionally create programs that match the needs of the youth to the intervention. Program staff must also provide the correct dosage, and effective administration of a program, for it to have the desired effect. To this end, juvenile programs that receive monies through the Nebraska Community-based Aid fund will be evaluated using specific criteria in 2019-2020. In this presentation, we will walk participants through specific processes and outcomes associated with each 14 different program types. |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Reflective Practice: Looking at Your Work from the Inside Out</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Jamie Bahm, Jennie Cole-Mossman</i>   | ❖     |
|   | The human service workforce is engaged in work that is both rewarding and taxing. The emotionally intrusive nature of the work often leads to high rates of stress and burnout, which affect the quality of services provided by an organization. Reflective Practice assists in mitigating these effects by helping individuals examine their current and past actions, emotions, experiences, and responses in order to evaluate their work performance and learn to improve in the future. Learn about what reflective practice is and why it is important. Gain awareness about the Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) model for reflective practice. Understand the impact of reflective practice for those who provide it and receive it  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm   Breakout Session 3</b>   |  |       |
| <b>3:45pm-5:00pm<br/>Breakout Session 3</b> | <b>Nebraska's Connected Youth Initiative</b><br><i>Location TBD</i> <i>Jason Feldhaus, Sara Riffel</i>   | ❖     |
|   | Through valuable systems- and community-level partnerships, Nebraska's Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) aims to promote and enhance evidence-informed programming so that unconnected youth and young adults have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their children to thrive. This breakout session will provide an in-depth discussion about what makes Nebraska CYI unique and explore recent evaluative results of model implementation over the past three years. Presenters will also look towards the future of CYI, and discuss ways in which providers, systems- and community-level partners, policy makers, community leaders, and young people co-create an environment that values and actively supports prevention for unconnected youth in Nebraska.                      |       |

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# Agenda, Day 2

## Thursday, September 12

| Time/Location   | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)   | Track |
|---|---|-------|
| <b>8:30am-9:45am   Breakout Session 4</b>   |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) 101 and Overview</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Judge Karen Howze, Jamie Kramer</i> | ◆     |
| Participants will understand the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), to include practice changes, requirements of evidence-based services, efforts to support children in the home, and a qualified residential treatment program. The state of Nebraska is joining 12 states in implementing Family First Prevention Services Act provisions October 1, 2019.  |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>LB 112/JDAI</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Monica Miles-Steffens, Michele Leuders</i>  | □     |
| To be announced   |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>Guardian ad Litem Advocacy</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Michelle Paxton</i>  | ▲     |
| Zealous advocacy is the responsibility of every Guardian ad Litem. Learn how to enhance your advocacy by conducting an independent investigation, enhance the GAL report, build relationships with parents, and break down communication barriers with vulnerable youth and children  |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>Strengthening ICWA Compliance through Coalition Development</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Misty Frazier, Jill Holt</i>          | ✓     |
| This presentation will provide an overview of how the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition, Inc. (NICWC) got started, some accomplishments of NICWC, and what programs and services we are able to provide. Presenters will also discuss ways that we can improve services to Native children and families.  |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>Case Management Strategies with Youth in Trafficking</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Jessyca Vandercoy</i>                        | ■     |
| To be announced   |   |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am  | <b>What's New in IV-E?</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Neleigh Boyer, Manuel Escamilla, Mary Ann Harvey, Jordan Hernandez</i>        | ●     |
| This session will be a collaborative presentation by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), JUSTICE, and the Court Improvement Project (CIP). With updated technical assistance from the Administration on Children and Families, presenters will discuss how to ensure the correct IV-E findings are made on Docket or in an order for removal and permanency hearings. Presenters will also delve into more complicated questions surrounding IV-E findings necessary for disrupted adoptions and guardianships, youth who crossover from probation to DHHS, and constructive removals. |   |       |

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| <b>8:30am-9:45am   Breakout Session 4</b>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am   | <b>Medication for Addiction Treatment</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Dr. Kenneth Zoucha</i>  | ⌘     |
| 1 in 12 Americans have a substance use disorder. There were higher rates of cigarette use, alcohol initiation, alcohol use disorder, heroin-related opioid use disorder, cocaine use, methamphetamine use, and LSD use among the 18 to 25-year-old population than their younger and older counterparts. Although the number of people receiving treatment increased in 2017, only 13% of people living with a substance use disorder did receive treatment. The presentation will cover the available medication treatments for addiction with a special focus on medications for treatment of opioid use disorders.  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am   | <b>Medicaid Expansion in Nebraska and Prevention</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Sarah Helvey, Sarah Maresh</i>   | ★     |
| This session will explore the status of Medicaid expansion in Nebraska and the potential impacts of expanded coverage for parents and adults on prevention.  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am   | <b>School Re-Entry for Students in Nebraska's Juvenile Justice System</b><br><br><i>Location TBD Michele Borg, Julie Smith, Robert Kercher</i>                             | ○     |
| Students involved in Nebraska's juvenile justice system who are returning to the community from a residential program often face unique academic challenges – school re-entry being paramount among them. The importance of a well-planned and seamlessly coordinated school-to-school transition cannot be understated - it is critical that the student's re-enrollment in school be immediate and welcoming. During this session, a variety of resources, developed through Nebraska's "Fostering Connections in Education" Initiative, to assist with this transition will be shared. The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center's recently expanded furlough program will also be highlighted. It provides a series of structured opportunities for students and their parents to pre-plan and initiate school re-entry, supported by West Kearney High School, Probation, Vocational Rehabilitation and the receiving school.   |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 4</b><br>8:30am-9:45am   | <b>Justice for African Americans and Juveniles of Color: Paradigms &amp; Challenges in Douglas County Judicial System</b><br><br><i>Location TBD A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon</i> | ❖     |
| This session will outline action steps to reverse the paradigm of duality in 2019, and explore the challenges of developing a Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)/Racial Equity Disparity (RED) program in the largest county in Nebraska. It is the contention that data is essential to the transformation. The other overriding factors are White Fragility, Implicit Bias, Classism and the inability of practitioners to name and claim it. Presenters will review the impediments and factors that can deconstruct a move toward racial equity and real justice by bringing independent community voices who are aware of the codification of the legal and dual justice system that is prevalent in an apartheid system. People of color constitute a disproportionality number of participants in the criminal justice system. Participants in the session will be given an opportunity to suggest best practices that might assist in this reversal of Racial Equity Disparities (RED) in Douglas County. |  |       |
| <b>9:45am-10:15am</b>  | <b>Break</b>   |       |

◆ Child Welfare  
□ Juvenile Justice

▲ Attorney/Legal  
✓ Native Youth & Families

■ Special Populations  
● Courts

⌘ Behavioral Health  
★ Prevention

○ Schools/Education  
❖ Collaboration

# Agenda, Day 2

## Thursday, September 12

| Time/Location  | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)  | Track |
|--|--|-------|
| <b>10:15am-11:30am   Breakout Session 5</b>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Barriers to Permanency and Active Case Management for Children with Extended Stays in Foster Care</b>   | ◆     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Dr. Katherine Bass, Lori Harder, Kim Hawekotte</i>  |       |
| <p>This session brings together the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Child and Family Services (CFS) to discuss the barriers to permanency for children with extended stays in foster care. The FCRO will outline the findings from longitudinal data that identify key indicators for extended periods in foster care and critical turning points in cases that require intensive case management and advocacy. Attendees can expect to hear specific examples of the case management services provided to children with extended stays in foster care and a discussion on how data can be used both internally and externally to improve system response to children in care.</p> |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Utilizing Graduated Responses for Youth on Probation through a Positive Youth Development Framework</b> | □     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Amoreena Brady</i>  |       |
| <p>The graduated response approach within Probation provides empirically-based strategies for responding effectively to behaviors. Within this framework, incremental, proportionate, and predictable responses are delivered so that youths' positive behavior choices are encouraged and reinforced, while poor behavior choices are discouraged and met with actions that provide structure, expectations and skill building opportunities. A graduated response system in juvenile probation encourages positive behavior change to help youth successfully complete probation and become productive, law-abiding members of the community, while also preventing the unnecessary use of detention and residential placement.</p>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Coming to the Table: How to Promote Supportive and Effective Family Team Meetings</b>                   | ▲     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Claire Bazata, Lisa Jorgenson, R. Hayley Huyser, Brennon Malcom</i>                                     |       |
| <p>This session will consist of a panel style discussion about a common tool in juvenile cases - the family team meeting. The content, facilitation and flow of a family team meeting has an undeniable impact on the outcomes of our cases. Join us to explore how we can get the most out of these meetings and create supportive and effective teams for children and families.</p>   |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Strengthening our Families to Care for our Children - Foster Parent Education Programs</b>              | ✓     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Misty Frazier, Chiara Cournoyer, Gwen Vargas-Porter</i>   |       |
| <p>Learn about 3 model program for foster parenting education that are culturally compassionate to help prospective adoptive/foster parents understand the difference between the desire to help and making the commitment to bring children into their home. Presenters will share about the Trauma Informed Partnering for Safety and Permanence-Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting, Deciding Together, and Caring for our Own model programs.</p>  |  |       |

| Time/Location  | Title/ Topic and Speaker(s)  | Track |
|--|--|-------|
| <b>10:15am-11:30am   Breakout Session 5</b>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Homeless Youth Demonstration Project</b>  | ■     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Jason Feldhaus, Jeff Chambers</i>   |       |
| <p>Nebraska received an amazing opportunity to serve homeless youth in our rural communities through the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (HYDP) by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will provide \$3.28 million in new homeless funded programs for the next 2 years. This grant aligns the work of the Balance of State coordinated access and homeless providers with the older youth system of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (CYI). This partnership aims to promote and enhance evidence-informed programming so that homeless youth and young adults have the relationships, resources, and equitable opportunities for themselves and their children to thrive. This breakout session will provide an in-depth discussion about what makes the YHDP grant and the collaboration between the Balance of State and CYI as a unique holistic approach to addressing youth homelessness in rural Nebraska. Presenters will also look towards the future of older youth services in Nebraska, and discuss ways in which providers, systems- and community-level partners, policy makers, community leaders, and young people co-create an environment that values and actively supports prevention for youth homelessness in Nebraska.</p> |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) - What courts need to know: Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRT) requirements and timelines</b> | ●     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Judge Karen Howze, Stacy Scholten</i>   |       |
| <p>Judicial leaders and court stakeholders will understand their role in Family First Prevention Services Act to include, specific judicial findings for the placement at a Qualified Residential Treatment Program, reasonable efforts for preventing removal and reunification, and the role of the court in prevention.</p>   |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>Understanding the Behavioral Health Service Continuum: Nebraska's Landscape</b>   | ⌘     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Tamara Gavin, Lisa Neeman</i>   |       |
| <p>In this breakout, participants will gain an understanding of the current Nebraska public behavioral health continuum including the foundational aspects supporting successful operation and will be provided information about the clinical assessment and evaluation profiles used to determine level of care and treatment options within the service continuum. Participants will also learn to identify the landscape of treatment and support services currently available across the public behavioral health service continuum.</p>  |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>A South Dakota Lesson: Strategies to Increase Juvenile Diversion</b>  | ★     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Greg Sattizahn, Sadie Stevens</i>   |       |
| <p>This session will discuss ways South Dakota has attempted to increase the use of Juvenile Diversions and build diversion opportunities across a very rural state.</p>   |  |       |
| <b>Breakout Session 5</b><br>10:15am-11:30am   | <b>School Justice Partnership</b>  | ○     |
| <b>Location TBD</b>  | <i>Judge Steven Teske</i>  |       |
| To be announced  |  |       |

◆ Child Welfare  
□ Juvenile Justice

▲ Attorney/Legal  
✓ Native Youth & Families

■ Special Populations  
● Courts

⌘ Behavioral Health  
★ Prevention

○ Schools/Education  
❖ Collaboration

# Agenda, Day 2

## Thursday, September 12

### Time/Location Title/ Topic and Speaker(s) Track

#### 10:15am-11:30am | Breakout Session 5

**Breakout Session 5** 10:15am-11:30am **Coordinating across Disciplines for Kids and Families: How Local Communities Can Make the Most of Their Local Multidisciplinary/1184 Teams** ❖

**Location TBD** Ivy Svoboda

Protecting children and assisting families in the child welfare system requires many different agencies and professionals to come together and effectively coordinate. Since 1992, multidisciplinary or “1184” teams have been operating in Nebraska to fulfill this purpose. This panel presentation provides: an overview of multidisciplinary teams; innovative ways communities these teams are used to benefit children and families across the state; and, emerging best practices and resources available to teams to improve how they work together.

### Time/Location Title/ Topic and Speaker(s) Track

#### 1:00pm-2:15pm | Breakout Session 6

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Bridge to Independence Program: The Why, the History and the Future** ◆

**Location TBD** Brandy Gustoff, Sarah Helvey, Camas Steuter

This presentation will talk about why the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Program was implemented. Presenters will share information about the legislation, history and creation of the program, as well as what the future looks like for B2i. Our panel will include people from the legislation committee, people involved from Day 1, Department of Health and Human Services and young people in the program.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Project Restore: Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline. A Lancaster County Restorative Justice Process** □

**Location TBD** Casey Karges, Clare Nelson, Chris Turner, Becky Steiner, Leslie Ahrens

Project Restore is a collaboration between Lincoln Public Schools, Lancaster County, Lancaster County Attorney’s Office and The Mediation Center. It is a restorative justice process created to infuse restorative practices into our county system. This process is developed to work youth back into the school system instead of pushing them away. Youth plans often include an opportunity for an apology, plans on making it right with those who have been harmed, and a time to reflect on what they would do differently the next time.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Forensic Interviews of Children and Youth: Everything You’ve Wanted to Know, But Were Afraid to Ask** ▲

**Location TBD** Sara Stauffer

What exactly are forensic interviews and how do they work? What’s the evidence behind them and why are they important? When, how and for which children should forensic interviews be used? Find out the answers to these questions and more from experts in forensic interviewing and learn strategies local teams and professionals can use to maximize the effectiveness of forensic interviews in their communities.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Immigration Forms of Relief that May (Or May Not) Be Available to Juveniles** ■

**Location TBD** Mindy Rush Chipman

Unfortunately, many abused, abandoned and/or neglected children in Nebraska who are undocumented are aging out of the juvenile court’s jurisdiction without applying for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), which creates a path to U.S. citizenship for vulnerable youth. It is an immigration legal option that is not widely known about. It is important to know about the SIJS form of immigration relief, along with other forms of immigration relief that may be available to children involved in juvenile court. This session will cover the different types of immigration statuses, as well as the forms of immigration relief currently available to children who are not U.S. citizens. Examples of the complexity of the U.S. immigration legal system will be shared and immigration legal terms will be defined.

### Time/Location Title/ Topic and Speaker(s) Track

#### 1:00pm-2:15pm | Breakout Session 6

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **First Court: A Therapeutic Approach to Juvenile Court** ●

**Location TBD** Jennie Cole-Mossman, Judge Crnkovich

A panel will discuss therapeutic approaches used in the Douglas County First Court. The approaches aid in increasing parental engagement. They also create better relationships amongst the parties to promote better outcomes.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Understanding and Implementing Psychological Evaluations** ⌘

**Location TBD** Dr. Bill Reay, Dr. Mario Scalora

Understanding psychological evaluations is often not easy. Implementing the recommendations from these evaluations can be very confusing and challenging. This presentation will break down important elements of evaluations and focus on how to implement components of the recommendations.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Diversion, What works? Effective Practices in Nebraska Juvenile Diversion Programs** ★

**Location TBD** Amy Hoffman, Dr. Lindsey Wylie

As “gatekeepers” into the juvenile justice system, diversion programs are positioned to prevent future delinquency. The current presentation will discuss recent research conducted by the Juvenile Justice Institute on effective practices in Nebraska juvenile diversion programs, including the use of validated assessment tools, Risk-Needs programming, and youth perceptions of diversion. The presentation will discuss how practice informs research, and how in turn, research may inform practice.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Ensuring School Stability for Children in Foster Care** ○

**Location TBD** Michele Borg, Neleigh Boyer

Research has found every time a child in foster care changes schools, up to 6 months of academic progress may be lost. Federal and state law mandate that a child placed in foster care continue attending the school of origin, unless a determination is made that this is not in that child’s best interest. Knowing when students are placed in foster care, whether a change in schools is in their best interest, and current status in the child welfare system is crucial for all those involved. This session provides an overview of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements on educational stability for foster children as well as a series of associated resources collaboratively developed by the Nebraska Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services. Statistical profiles of state wards’ education outcomes will also be highlighted.

**Breakout Session 6** 1:00pm-2:15pm **Robert F. Kennedy Probation System Review and Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts Panel** ❖

**Location TBD** Amoreena Brady, Lori Griggs, Panel

The panelists will discuss their experiences and the benefits of the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice (RFKNRCJJ) Probation System Review that was conducted in Lancaster County in 2018. The panel will also discuss the continued efforts to implement the recommendations of the system review with 30 months of technical assistance support through the Dennis M. Mondoro Probation and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Project, supported by RFKNRCJJ and funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

### 2:15pm-2:45pm Break

- ◆ Child Welfare
- ▲ Attorney/Legal
- Special Populations
- ⌘ Behavioral Health
- Schools/Education
- Juvenile Justice
- ✓ Native Youth & Families
- Courts
- ★ Prevention
- ❖ Collaboration

# Agenda, Day 2

## Thursday, September 12

**2:45pm-3:45pm | Keynote**  
**Location TBD | Judge Steven Teske**

**TITLE :** To Be Announced

To be announced

Judge Steven Teske, Chief Judge, Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia, serves regularly as a Superior Court Judge by designation. He was appointed juvenile judge in 1999. Teske earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Juris Doctor degrees from Georgia State University. He was a Chief Parole Officer in Atlanta, Deputy Director of Field Services of the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and a trial attorney in the law firm of Boswell & Teske LLP. He also served as a Special Assistant Attorney General prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases and representing state employees and agencies in federal and state court cases. Teske is a past president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and has been appointed by the Governor to the Children & Youth Coordinating Council, DJJ Judicial Advisory Council, Commission on Family Violence, and the Governor's Office for Children and Families. He has written articles on juvenile reform published in Juvenile and Family Law Journal, Juvenile Justice and Family Today, Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, and the Georgia Bar Journal. He serves his community in numerous other capacities including past president of the Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity and is currently on the advisory board.



**3:45pm-4:00pm**

**Closing Remarks**

◆ Child Welfare  
□ Juvenile Justice

▲ Attorney/Legal  
✓ Native Youth & Families

■ Special Populations  
● Courts

⌘ Behavioral Health  
★ Prevention

○ Schools/Education  
❖ Collaboration





# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

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**Leslie Ahrens**      Diversion Case Manager, Lancaster County

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**Jamie Bahm**      Jamie Bahm is a Project Manager with the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children at the University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families, and the Law. She also provides training and consultation for the Children's Justice Clinic at the University of Nebraska College of Law. Prior to her current position, she worked for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services as the Supervisor for the Family Treatment Drug Court program, as well as specializing in casework with adjudicated youth with high behavioral health needs. Jamie earned her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees, both in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Nebraska.

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**Dr. Katherine Bass**      Katherine Bass, PhD, is the Research Director for the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office (FCRO), an independent state agency responsible for the oversight of all children in out-of-home care. She is responsible for the publication of FCRO Quarterly and Annual reports, collaborative research efforts with state child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders, and improving the data collection and reporting capabilities of the FCRO. Prior to her tenure at the FCRO, she served as the Research & Evaluation Specialist for the Nebraska Court Improvement Project. Katherine received her B.A. in Sociology, International Studies, and Spanish from Hastings College. She earned her M.A. and PhD in Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she specialized in gender and criminology. She spent several years teaching and researching social inequality and criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Eastern Illinois University.

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**Beth Baxter**

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**Claire Bazata**      Claire Bazata is a partner at Berreckman, Davis & Bazata, P.C., L.L.O., in Cozad, she received her BS in Social Work from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 2008 and her JD from the University of Nebraska in 2014. Prior to becoming an attorney she worked as a DHHS child protective services caseworker and as the manager of a group home for developmentally disabled youth. She currently practices as an attorney in criminal court and in juvenile court representing parents in juvenile court cases and children and as guardian ad litem. She lives in Cozad with her husband, Bryan and their three sons.

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**Karla Bennetts**      Karla Bennetts is the Executive Director for Families CARE, a family run organization providing resources, education and parent peer support for families who have children with mental or behavioral health challenges in the central Nebraska area. She and her husband have seven children, the youngest four adopted from the foster care system. They have also been foster parents to over forty children. Her passion for life and belief that all people have strengths helps her in her work for positive outcomes with families facing challenges.

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**Amy Bonn**      Amy Bonn holds a B.A. in English from Oglethorpe University, an M.A. in English from the University of Pittsburgh, and a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law. She is the parent of children with developmental disabilities and completed a ten-month trainee-ship in disability advocacy and leadership at the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is a contract attorney for the Education Rights Counsel, advocating for children in special education and student discipline matters.

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**Michele Borg**

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# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

### **Neleigh Boyer**

Neleigh Boyer, an attorney for the Department of Health and Human Services who serves as a Special Assistant Attorney General in juvenile cases, has been engaged in the practice of law in both private and government capacities, serving as Deputy Keith County Attorney from 2004-2011, and later as County Attorney for Kearney County. She has been legal counsel for the Children and Family Services Division since 2012, providing guidance regarding on-going court cases and administrative matters, including Title IV-E court order review, the Indian Child Welfare Act, the abuse and neglect central registry, the implementation of legislation, and has been involved in the implementation of both the Bridge to Independence Program and Alternative Response.

### **Amoreena Brady**

Amoreena Brady is the Juvenile Justice Reform Specialist in the Juvenile Service Division in the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. She began serving in this capacity in April 2019, prior to that she was the Case Management Juvenile Justice Specialist for six years. In 1996, Ms. Brady began her career with the Orange County Probation Department in California. While at the Orange County Probation Department, Ms. Brady worked as a juvenile probation officer. In her capacity, Ms. Brady worked in various institutional and field settings conducting case management with several special population programs. In 2006, she began her career with in Nebraska and worked in the District 2 Probation Office (Sarpy, Cass and Otoe Counties) as a high risk juvenile probation. In 2009, Ms. Brady was assigned to the supervision of high risk felony drug and DUI adult probationers in a prison alternative program called SSAS, Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision. In Ms. Brady's current role, she is working along side national partners with The Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice to implement juvenile justice best-practices in Lancaster County and statewide. In June of 1996, Ms. Brady earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Chapman University, Orange, CA. In June 2014, Ms. Brady completed a certificate program and is a fellow of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform.

### **Anna Brewer**

### **Nathan Busch**

Nathan is the Associate Vice President of Childhood Mental Health Systems of Care and has been with the organization since June 2016. Nathan is responsible for co-leading implementation of Nebraska's state plan for improving the system of care for children's mental health services in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health.

### **A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon**

A'Jamal-Rashad Byndon is a lifelong resident of Nebraska. He was born in Hasting NE and is the DMC/RED Coordinator for Douglas County NE. He taught at Nebraska Methodist College, Metropolitan Community College and University of Nebraska in Omaha both in the Social Work and Black Studies Department. He has B.S. in Political Science from UNL, MS in Urban Education and Educational Specialist from UNO. He also has a Certificate in Gerontology from UNO. He spent two years in the Peace Corps in Botswana over 40 years ago. He worked for 25 years for Catholic Charities and 4 years for PromiseShip, a child welfare agency. He was one of the seven founders of Omaha Table Talk a program that seeks interracial conversations and dialogues between the various racial and ethnic groups. His major emphasis is addressing the segregated conditions and racial discourse within contentious Nebraska organizations, institutions and communities. He is a board member of Policy, Research & Innovation, and Nebraskans for Peace, ACLU, and American Financial Literacy Council.

### **Dr. Katherine Carrizales**

### **Jeff Chambers**

Jeff M. Chambers is the Community Services Director at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law (UNL-CCFL). Jeff's background is in rural sociology and community planning. His interests and work include rural community organization, community systems, and homelessness, and service system planning. Jeff leads the UNL-CCFL Community Services Division which includes among other efforts the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the Homeless Coordinated Entry System, Homeless System Planning, and the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project.

### **Jennie Cole-Mossman**

Jennie Cole-Mossman is Co-Director of the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children. She was the Coordinator of the Nebraska Infant and Toddler Court Improvement Project, which was part of the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, where she provided technical assistance and training to overcome system barriers for infants and toddlers in the child welfare system. Prior to that time, she was the Young Child Services Coordinator of Project Safe Start Nebraska, a SAMHSA-funded project providing technical assistance and Child-Parent Psychotherapy to Family Drug Courts in Omaha and Lincoln. She is a licensed independent mental health practitioner with extensive training and experience in early childhood trauma, Child Parent Psychotherapy, and Parent Child Relationship Assessments. She is currently one of only four trainers for Child Parent Psychotherapy in Nebraska and a trainer for the FAN model of reflective practice. In her current role, she provides system and case level consultation on issues related to early childhood trauma and the infusion of early childhood well-being into court systems, provides reflective consultation to various groups, and trains on a number of early childhood topics.

### **Chiara Cournoyer**

Chiara Cournoyer is a member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota is currently serves as the Human Services Director for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Chiara has a BSW from Briar Cliff University. Chiara has been the Principal Investigator of the Native Families for Native Children (NF4NC) grant and has a wealth of experience in implementation of child welfare and other social services programs for tribes.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

### **Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich**

Honorable Elizabeth Crnkovich Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court, Douglas County, Omaha NE Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich has been a judge of the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County, Nebraska for more than twenty years. She was appointed by Governor Ben Nelson in November, 1994. Prior to that, Judge Crnkovich served as a Deputy County Attorney in Douglas County, prosecuting cases in the Juvenile Court for nine years. During her term on the Juvenile Bench, Judge Crnkovich has addressed matters involving parental abuse and neglect, youth crime, truancy, and other matters. In addition to her regular duties, Judge Crnkovich presided over a Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court for twelve years and a Family Drug Court for almost ten years. Both “specialty” courts addressed youth and adult addictions and services in a unique, more intensive way. Judge Crnkovich established a truancy diversion project in 2010. This was an effort to stem the tide of an overwhelming number of truancy matter filed in the court. As part of a community effort, the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services (GOALS) Center as established in collaboration with various Superintendents of Schools in the Omaha area. Over the years, Judge Crnkovich has served on numerous boards and committees relating to issues of juvenile justice and child welfare.

### **Monica DeMent**

Monica has 20 years of experience in child welfare through her work at a private child placing agency and in her time with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Monica currently serves as a Child and Family Service Administrator for the Department of Child and Family Services for the State of Nebraska in the Lincoln office. She is part of the Statewide Crossover Youth initiative and is an active member of the Lancaster County Crossover Youth team.

### **Amanda Docter**

Amanda Docter has Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Sociology focusing on Family Policy, and is the ICWA Program Specialist for NE DHHS. She has previously served as a Foster Care Specialist with KVC and as the Tribal Youth Reconnection Coordinator at the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. She has been an active participant with the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition for two years.

### **Greg Donovan**

Mr. Donovan is the director of the Santee Sioux Nation Society of Care. The Society of Care provides behavioral health services, support, and outreach to Native American young people, caregivers, and communities across Nebraska while advocating for systemic change. Previously he held leadership positions advancing service delivery and community involvement within national service, non-profits, community action agencies, the Nebraska legislature, and the United Way. Mr. Donovan is a member of the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition Board of Directors, the Nebraska System of Care Leadership Board, the Region VII Health Equity Council (RHEC 7), and numerous other entities advancing health equity.

### **Manuel Escamilla**

Manuel Escamilla has been employed with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services since 1979 and began working with the food stamp, Aid to Dependent Children, and Aid to the Aged Blind and Disabled programs before moving to Children and Families Services as an Income Maintenance Foster Care (IM-FC) worker in 1985. He worked in the IM-FC position determining title IV-E eligibility for Nebraska state wards, subsidized guardianships and subsidized adoptions. He participated in a number of federal and state audits for title IV-E eligibility, over a period of twenty-seven years. In January 2012 he began employment as a Children and Families Services Program Specialist, specializing in title IV-E policy and in December 2017 began supervision of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services IM-FC staff as a Program Manager II. His current duties include title IV-E policy guidance for Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services staff, and maintaining audit ready case records for title IV-E eligible state wards, subsidized guardianships, subsidized adoptions and Bridge to Independence participants.

### **Elizabeth Eynon- Kokrda**

Elizabeth has been serving business, education and non-profit clients for 20 years. She has garnered national respect from her peers across the country, and has been elected by her peers every year since 2007 for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America® for her work in Education. A former lobbyist, she also has extensive legislative experience, working with state and federal Senators and Members of Congress. Elizabeth is licensed in Nebraska, Iowa and to practice before the United States Supreme Court. She is a frequent presenter, author of many articles, and a former adjunct at Creighton University School of Law and the University of Nebraska, Omaha. A Past Chair of the National Council of School Attorneys, Elizabeth served on the Council for 11 years. She has also served on the board of the National School Boards Association, as a member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, and on the editorial board of NACUANotes. She is also past President of the Nebraska Council of School Attorneys. She is on the Editorial Board of The Nebraska Lawyer, and serves on the Nebraska State Bar’s Education Committee. A Cum Laude graduate of Creighton University School of Law, Elizabeth is fluent in French, has a Master’s Degree in Foreign Language and Literature, and a Diploma from La Sorbonne University, Paris, France.

### **Jason Feldhaus**

Jason brings a rich history of youth service to his position. Prior to taking on the statewide expansion of older youth work through the Connected Youth Initiative, he served as a Project Everlast Youth Advisor (Leadership Development and Employment Navigation) and the Omaha program officer. Thanks to a federal Social Innovation Fund grant and a substantial investment from private and community partners, Nebraska Children is expanding into rural communities the older youth system of care model. His previous work experience includes various positions at Uta Halee Girls Village & Cooper Village and time as a Social Services Worker for the Department of Health and Human Services. Jason graduated from Creighton University with degrees in Organizational Communication and History.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

### Tammi Fleming

Tammi Fleming, PhD, Senior Associate at Annie E. Casey Foundation - Tammi manages the Foundation's investments in reproductive health, pregnancy prevention and parenting support strategies. Prior to her role at the Foundation, Tammi directed the Plain Talk National Replication Center at Public Health Management Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Tammi is an expert leader with more than 25 years of experience in program development, design and implementation. Tammi has received numerous awards for her work as a community organizer and program design specialist. Tammi possesses an extensive training and facilitation background. Dr. Fleming holds a dual concentration degree in Maternal Child Health and Health Education and Communication from Tulane University and a doctorate in Public Health from Walden University.

### Sarah Forrest

Sarah Forrest is the Special Projects Coordinator with the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers. In her role, she focuses on improving the response to the commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking, of Nebraska's children and youth. Sarah has over eight years of experience researching, identifying, and advocating for improvements to Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Prior to joining the Nebraska Alliance, Sarah held positions at the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare and Voices for Children in Nebraska. She is a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

### Misty Frazier

Misty Frazier is a member of the Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska and a descendant of the Tingit of Alaska. Misty has served as Executive Director of NICWC, Inc. since July, 2018. She previously served for 12 years as the Director of the Dakota Tiwahe Service Unit, the Social Services Department for the Santee Sioux Nation. Misty is a master trainer for the TIPS MAPP programs. Misty was recognized by the Obama White House as a Champion for Change in 2011 and is excited to educate, advocate and bring people together so that Indian children in Nebraska are culturally connected, rights protected.

### Tamara Gavin

Tamara Gavin, LCSW, is the Deputy Director of Community Based Services for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Behavioral Health. In her current capacity, she oversees the community based service system for the Division of Behavioral Health. In addition, Tamara serves as project director for numerous federal discretionary grants including the System of Care, State Targeted Response and State Opioid Response grants through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She has over 15 years' experience working in the Nebraska service system, having worked in child welfare, juvenile services, and in direct clinical practice serving Nebraska youth and families. Prior to joining the Division of Behavioral Health in December 2015, Tamara served as the Clinical Director for Magellan Behavioral Health in Nebraska.

### Greg Gonzalez

### Lori Griggs

### Brandy Gustoff

Brandy Gustoff is the VP of Self-Sufficiency Programs for the Omaha Home for Boys, formerly the Innovative Growth Leader and prior to that the Program Manager of Transition Services. Brandy has nearly 25 years of experience working in her passion to help opportunity youth from detention to group homes to residential to transitional living. She holds Master's Degrees in Human Services and Public Administration. Brandy is an advocate in the community serving as a Chair of the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH) Youth Task Force since 2013. She is also a current member of the following committees and collaborative efforts: Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee, Opportunity Youth Alliance, MACCH Provider Council, MACCH Youth Systems Implementation Team, Operation Youth Success Prevention Workgroup, and Strengthening Families Act Committee. On a national level Brandy was the NE State Captain for Capitol Hill Day in Washington at the Ending Homelessness National Conference from 2014-2018. In her efforts to help end poverty and suicide Brandy is a certified trainer in Transition to Success (TTS), QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) and Postvention training others throughout our community. Brandy recently became a certified trainer in The PersonBrain Model to train her staff in best trauma informed care practice. She is a Council on Accreditation (COA) Peer Reviewer. In this volunteer role Brandy goes to different agencies/programs in the US to aide in program accreditation. Brandy has presented on transitional living, TTS and Homelessness for the: Alliance Senior Leadership Conference, Housing Innovation Market Place Conference, IA/NE Homelessness Summit, NE Investment Finance Authority Conference and was on the panel for the community showing of the "Time Out of Mind" film. Brandy was recognized as the MACCH volunteer of the year in 2018 for her efforts in Washington, DC, as well as in our community.

### Sherri Haber

Sherri Haber is a CFS Administrator with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She has had positions within DHHS over the 30 years. She has significant knowledge and experience in the child welfare system. She started her career in 1985 with DHHS working in Hastings, NE and surrounding areas as a Protection and Safety Worker investigating child abuse and neglect and carrying an ongoing case load. In 1997, she took a position as a Business Analyst with DHHS and worked on data systems for child welfare. In 2002, her career led to a CFS Administrator position. This part of her journey focused on establishing the foundation for the Quality Assurance System; managing the Business Analysts regarding the data systems; managing the federal and state reporting requirements; working on legislation and the development of regulations and field guidance documents. In 2012, a personal need to get closer to work being done directly with children and families was identified, so a move to oversee the Safety Team in Central Office occurred. This team focuses on providing technical assistance, development of policy and procedure, development of regulations and researching best practices regarding child safety & risk and the safety of vulnerable adults. Sherri was part of using various safety models in investigating child abuse and neglect throughout her time at CFS. As a Protection and Safety Worker, the Child At-Risk Field (CARF) tool was utilized as the tool to assess for child safety and risk. In 2007 a move to the Nebraska Safety Intervention System (NSIS) was utilized and in 2012 the change to implement the research based/evidence informed tools of Structured Decision Making was implemented. Sherri is now part of the training team and early adopters of Safety Organized Practice, which is currently being trained and implemented in Nebraska. Safety Organized Practice is great support selection of tools and processes that support information used in SDM.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

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**Lori Harder** Deputy Director Protection and Safety, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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**Katie Harvey** Katie Harvey is a Child and Family Services Specialist Supervisor with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Katie has been with the Department for nearly 7 years and has been actively involved with Safety Organized Practice (SOP) in Nebraska since the beginning. Katie traveled to San Diego along with other Department staff to learn about and observe SOP being utilized by San Diego child welfare workers and continues to be actively involved in the implementation team for SOP in Nebraska.

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**Mary Ann Harvey** Mary Ann is one of two Project Specialists for the Nebraska Court Improvement Project. Mary Ann received her Bachelor of Arts in French with minors in English and Art History from UNL. While a student and after graduation, she worked as a direct care staff at Cedars in their program for pregnant and parenting teens. Mary Ann spent a year in Paris teaching English conversation at a high school and then went to law school at Hofstra in Long Island, New York. While at Hofstra, she focused on child advocacy, participating in a clinic where she represented child clients in abuse and neglect cases. After law school, Mary Ann worked for three years as an attorney for children and youth at New York City Legal Aid in the Juvenile Rights Practice. There, she represented young people in all aspects of their cases, including abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, custody and visitation actions, status offenses, and juvenile delinquency proceedings for crossover youth. Mary Ann returned to Nebraska in 2014. She worked most recently as the Economic Justice Staff Attorney at Nebraska Appleseed, focusing on ensuring low-income Nebraskans have access to sustainable pathways out of poverty. Mary Ann is admitted to practice law in Nebraska and New York and is on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition.

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**Bernie Hascall** Bernie is the Nebraska System of Care Administrator for the Division of Behavioral Health. He has been with DBH since December 2016. During the past 20 years, Bernie has worked across systems and draws experience from both the private and public sectors having worked in juvenile justice, child welfare, developmental disabilities, behavioral health and domestic violence.

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**Kim Hawekotte** Kim's professional background includes working in the field of child welfare and juvenile services for over 25 years. As a private practice trial attorney for over 14 years, she was extensively involved in juvenile court as a parent's attorney, a defense attorney and as a GAL. As the Deputy Chief of the Juvenile Division of the Douglas County Attorney's Office, she prosecuted abuse/neglect, status offense and delinquency cases. As the Governor appointed Administrator for the Office of Juvenile Services, she was responsible for all aspects of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System including the YRTC's. She also has served as the President and General Counsel for KVC Behavioral Healthcare Nebraska, a foster care and in-home service provider. Kim is currently the Executive Director for the Foster Care Review Office, an independent State agency responsible for the oversight of all children placed in out-of-home care. Kim obtained her B.A. in Sociology from Creighton University and her Juris Doctorate from Creighton University. Kim is extensively involved in various State commissions and committees impacting Nebraska children and families. This includes the Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children, the Supreme Court Commission for Children, the Nebraska Children's Commission, and the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee for the Nebraska Children's Commission.

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**Sarah Helvey** Sarah Helvey is a Staff Attorney and Director of the Child Welfare Program at Nebraska Appleseed. Since joining Appleseed in 2006, Sarah has authored or co-authored several amicus briefs before the Nebraska Supreme Court in cases addressing the Indian Child Welfare Act, sibling placement, and the authority of juvenile courts in Nebraska. She has also litigated several precedent-setting cases related to Medicaid access on behalf of children and youth in foster care and with behavioral health needs. In partnership with Project Everlast, Sarah has had the great honor of working with young people with foster care experience to improve the system for older youth, including advocating for the passage of state legislation in 2013 to extend foster care services and support to age 21 and establish the Bridge to Independence (B2I) program. She is a member of the B2I Advisory Committee and co-chairs the Strengthening Families Act Taskforce under the Nebraska Children's Commission. Sarah is also a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts. She previously co-chaired the Nebraska State Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services Committee, currently and was a recipient of the Omaha Jaycee's Ten Outstanding Young Omahans (TOYO) award. Nationally, she served as the first chair of the State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center (SPARC) Leadership Council and currently serves as co-chair of the Medicaid to 26 workgroup. Sarah received her undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her master's degree and law degree, cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She previously practiced juvenile and family law at Community Justice Inc. in Madison, Wisconsin.

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**Christine Henningsen** Christine Henningsen is the Project Director of Nebraska Youth Advocates (NYA) a program at UNL's Center on Children, Families and the Law (CCFL). NYA serves as a resource center for juvenile defense attorneys in Nebraska. Prior to launching NYA, Christine worked as a staff attorney for the Court Improvement Project and as an Assistant Public Defender in Douglas County where she practiced primarily in juvenile court. She is a certified trainer through the National Juvenile Defender Center and graduated summa cum laude from Creighton Law in 2003.

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# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

**Jordan Hernandez** Jordan is a Justice Business Systems Analyst for the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. Jordan worked at Lancaster County Court for five years, starting as a cashier before becoming an accounting clerk and later a supervisor. Her experiences in the court working with the JUSTICE system led her to apply for the Justice Business Analyst Position, which she has been enjoying since June 2017. Jordan and her husband have a 3 year old son, Guillermo, and an 18 month old daughter, Evelyn. Jordan enjoys photography and being outdoors in her spare time.

**Dr. Anne Hobbs** Dr. Anne Hobbs is a licensed attorney, research faculty, as well as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Hobbs has served on a variety of juvenile advisory groups including the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association, the Nebraska Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and the Nebraska Brain Injury Task Force. Anne is most passionate about translating research into practice, and figuring out what works to keep kids out of the system. She believes that genuine implementation of best practices will help improve services that youth receive, and will change outcomes for youth and families for the better.

**Amy Hoffman** Juvenile Diversion Administrator, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

**Jill Holt** Jill Holt has Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Social Work, Master's Degree in Public Administration, and is the newest employee of Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition, Inc. (NICWC) as the Assistant Director. She has served as the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program Coordinator for Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and was the ICWA Specialist for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. She has been an active participant with the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition since inception.

**Judge Karen Howze** District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Karen Aileen Howze (Ret.) serves as Judge-in-Residence for the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges (NCJFCJ). As the NCJFCJ's Judge-in-Residence, Howze works extensively on curriculum development across judicial engagement and education projects including comprehensive technical assistance to judges, justice for families, judicial engagement network, and elder abuse while enabling the collaboration of family violence and domestic relations professionals on a national level. Howze's professional expertise spans the gamut of juvenile and family law including domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse and neglect, juvenile justice, civil protection orders, adoption and foster care, adolescent health, and diversity issues. Howze was appointed to the Superior Court's Family Court in October 2002 after practicing law as a solo practitioner following a 20-year career as a newspaper reporter, editor and news executive in Detroit, San Francisco, Long Island, N.Y., Rochester, N.Y., and Washington, D.C. During her time on the bench, Howze presided over more than 400 abuse and neglect cases in Family Court, criminal and civil cases in the Domestic Violence Unit, and arraignments and District offenses in the Criminal Division.

**R. Hayley Huyser** R. Hayley Huyser is a partner with Hart & Huyser, PC, L.L.O, in Cozad, Nebraska, pursuing a broad rural practice focusing primarily in the areas of juvenile law as a guardian ad litem, estate planning and probate, tax and business planning, municipal law, agricultural law and real estate. She earned her B.S. degree from Texas A&M University in 2008 and her J.D. from Texas Tech School of Law in 2011. Hayley lives in Elwood, Nebraska with her husband, Daron, and their two sons.

**Jennifer Jackson**

**Grace Johnson** Married with two children, Mrs. Johnson is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux and grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation in South Dakota. She attended Creighton University in Omaha graduating with a degree in Psychology. She has worked in the Omaha Public Schools office of Native American Indian Education. Also as a Family Support Worker. Received her Master's Degree in Counseling at Bellevue University. Worked for Society of Care as a dual-licensed Mental Health Therapist and Drug and Alcohol Counselor. Was Director of Behavioral Health and The Umonho Nation Alcohol and Drug Program and the Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska in Macy, NE. Recently left the Omaha Tribe to open her own practice, Red Nation Healing which works in the Native community in Omaha and focuses on children in the foster care system. Focus is on trauma and historical trauma issues facing Native American Families and communities.

**Lisa Jorgenson** Private attorney practicing in Gothenburg, Nebraska

**Casey Karges** Executive Director, The Mediation Center

**Robert Kercher**

**Christine Kiesel** Christine Sabino Kiesel is an Attorney and Independent Contractor and works as a Child Welfare Specialist for JBS International where she provides support to the Federal Children's Bureau supporting legal and judicial integration into child welfare policy. Previously, Christine was the Coordinator of the New York State Child Welfare Court Improvement Project. Christine came to that position after presiding over a best practice permanency part in Oneida County Family Court as a Court Attorney Referee; and serving as a Principal Court Attorney to Hon. Frank S. Cook, Oneida County Family Court Judge and Hon. W. Dennis Duggan, Albany County Family Court Judge. Prior to her government service, Christine's practice focused primarily as a Family Law Attorney serving as the First Assistant Public Defender for the Oneida County Public Defender's Office - Civil Division, as well as representing many Oneida County children. Christine provides training on child welfare topics and supports child welfare system change work across the country.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

**Kyle Kinney** Kyle Kinney, LMHP is the Program Manager of the Nebraska Family Helpline, a 24/7 crisis line providing parenting support, referrals for services, and centralized access to Mobile Crisis Response.

**Emily Kluver** Nebraska DHHS CFS Prevention Administrator

**Jamie Kramer** Jamie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Relations from Doane College and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. Jamie worked for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services in various capacities from 2010 to 2018, served as an Assistant Inspector General for Child Welfare in 2018, and has been in her most recent role as a Child and Family Services Administrator with DHHS since 2018.

**Michele Leuders** Nebraska Probation Administration, Juvenile Intake and Detention Alternatives Specialist

**Dr. Susan Lindblad**

**Amy Latshaw** Throughout her 27 year career, Amy has had the opportunity to work within many facets of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System. Amy's position with the Office of Probation Administration focuses on providing early access to rehabilitative services, evaluation, and quality investigative reports during initial stages of the juvenile court system.

**Brennon Malcom** Brennon Malcom is an attorney with Malcom, Nelsen & Windrum, LLC with offices in Cozad and Gothenburg, Nebraska. A native of Eustis, Brennon attended college at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and obtained his Juris Doctorate with High Distinction from the University of Nebraska in 2014. Brennon's diverse practice includes family, juvenile and criminal law. He currently resides in Gothenburg with his wife, Kylee, a special education teacher and their son and daughter.

**Sarah Maresh** Sarah Maresh, J.D. is the Health Care Access Program Staff Attorney from Nebraska Appleseed, where she works on legal and policy issues related to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Sarah graduated with highest distinction from the University of Nebraska College of Law and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Jen McNally** Jen McNally is a mental health coordinator, psychotherapist and national speaker who has been providing mental health services, psychoeducation, and administration for more than 18 years to children and families in a variety of settings, including: residential treatment facilities, outpatient treatment, and schools. Jen previously served on the Nebraska's Children's Commission (LB821) and was appointed as Nebraska's Psychotropic Medication Committee's chairperson. She currently works as a mental health coordinator and psychotherapist for the Educational Service Unit #5 (ESU-5), which supports 10 school districts in Nebraska, employing trauma-focused cognitive-behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) and CBT, among other modalities. She also provides training for school districts on suicide awareness as a QPR Institute instructor. Jen presents across the country on trauma-informed care, mental health, self-care strategies, and empowerment for public and private institutions.

**Monica Miles-Steffens** Nebraska Probation Administration, Director of Placement - Court Services

**Jerry Milner** Jerry is the Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, Acting Commissioner for Family and Youth Services Bureau, and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Before joining the Trump administration at ACF, he served as the Vice President for Child Welfare Practice at the Center for the Support of Families. At the Center for the Support of Families, he assisted state and local child welfare agencies in evaluating their child welfare programs, and designed and implemented improvements in practice, policy and procedures. His work includes the use of data, implementation science principles, development of practice models, systematic problem solving and the direct provision of technical assistance to achieve organizational changes and practice improvements in child welfare.

**Lucinda Mesteth** Ms. Mesteth is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe. With a strong background in cultural practices, data management, quality assurance, and marketing, Ms. Mesteth serves as the Assistant Director of the Society of Care. Previously she held leadership positions delivering human services to urban Native Americans; served as an AmeriCorps member; and served with distinction in the United States Army. She brings strong cultural understanding, sensitivity, and passion to her role.

**Lisa Neeman** Lisa Neeman, LCSW, is an Administrator for the Health Services Policy team in the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Medicaid and Long term Care. The Health Services Policy team is responsible for development and oversight of all Medicaid benefits, including behavioral health and substance use services. A Nebraska native, Lisa has worked across the country and overseas providing clinical social work care to military members and their families, seniors, people with behavioral health conditions, those experiencing intimate partner violence, and people needing complex medical and end of life care. Prior to joining MLTC in 2016, Lisa was the Vice President of Clinical Services for Chautauqua Healthcare Services in Florida.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

**Mike Nehe** Mike Nehe has been serving as the Domestic Violence Program Services Specialist since 2015. He joined the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation as an Intensive Supervision Probation with District 3A (Lincoln) in 2006 and served as the Specialized Domestic Violence Officer from 2008 - 2015. In addition to his work with Probation involving Juveniles who Sexually harm, Mike's areas of focus also include Domestic Violence, Victim's Issues, and Adult Sex Offenders. He is an active member of the Nebraska State Domestic Violence Coordinated Response Team, the Nebraska State Batterer's Intervention Program Standards Committee, the Lincoln Threat Advisory Team as well as a member of the Great Plains Chapter of the Association of the Threat Assessment Professionals. He also has previous experience as a sworn law enforcement officer.

**Clare Nelson** Coordinator Victim Youth Conferencing, The Mediation Center

**Glen Parks** Glen Parks graduated from UNL-Law in 2001, clerked at the Nebraska Supreme Court for the Honorable John M. Gerrard, and initially worked as a litigator at Rembolt Ludtke, LLP in Lincoln. In 2006 he and his family moved to India to co-found a law-focused, anti-human trafficking organization and to serve as its legal director. Additionally, he helped develop a border monitoring strategy for a group which stops human trafficking across the Nepal-India border. While in India, Glen also gave over 200 guest-lectures to the students at a law school in Bangalore. He and his family spent a total of nine years in India, returning to Nebraska in 2015. He clerked again, this time as the inaugural term clerk for the Honorable Stephanie F. Stacy, and then joined the Nebraska Attorney General's Office in August 2016 to assist in the formation and operation of the human trafficking task force.

**Michelle Paxton** Michelle Paxton joined the College of Law in April, 2017 to create and lead the newest clinical program, the Children's Justice Clinic. Ms. Paxton has served as the Director of Legal Training at University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families and the Law (CCFL). She develops curriculum and trains child welfare workers, probation officers, and mental health professionals on all aspects of juvenile court process and procedure in Nebraska. Ms. Paxton also receives Guardian ad Litem appointments from the Lancaster County Juvenile Court. Through her work at CCFL, she came to realize that effective advocacy in juvenile court requires both an understanding of the law and appreciation of the complex dynamics of children, families, and stakeholders comprising the child welfare system. Ms. Paxton initiated the University of Nebraska College of Law and CCFL's partnership to create a new clinical program wherein law students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively advocate for young children utilizing the training, support, and consultation from experts at CCFL.

**Sara Quiroz** Sara Quiroz has been working with system involved youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems for over 20 years. In 2008, she branched into the development of prevention curriculum for high risk youth and families, successfully launching programs for youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, as well as child abuse prevention and teen parenting programs. Prior to joining to Probation Administration, Sara served as a public school special education administrator overseeing services coordination, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as well as Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver. Sara specializes in the areas of trauma throughout the lifespan, family centered practices, strength-based service delivery, youth resiliency, protective factors, and family engagement. Additionally, she has spent a significant portion of her career working with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Sara earned degrees in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, as well as is a nationally certified facilitator of Love and Logic and Circle of Security.

**Dr. Bill Reay** William (Bill) Reay has been a national leader in mental health services and behavioral health services research for more than 30 years. As one of the original Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) developers, Bill was associated with both child and family research centers in Portland, Oregon and Tampa, Florida. As one of the founding members of the National Federation for Children's Mental Health, he has been central to organizing parents across the United States to improve mental health care for children. Bill is one of the original leaders in the System-of-Care development and movement, and served as a professional research member of the United States Department of Education's Evaluation Team for the Research and Training Centers. Bill received his Master of Arts degree in Quantitative Psychology from the University of Nebraska, Department of Psychology, at Omaha. He received his Ph.D. in Psychology and Law from the University of Nebraska, combined Department of Law and Psychology, College of Law, Lincoln, Nebraska. Bill has written numerous professional articles on a variety of subjects associated with public health and behavioral health services. Bill is a past Professor of Psychology, School of Psychology and Director of Academic Program Development for Northcentral University, Scottsdale, Arizona, where he designed and developed international graduate programs. In addition, he is the President of The Coalition for Behavioral Health Research to Practice, a multi-university research initiative aimed at improving behavioral health care and improving the quality of life for individuals and families that suffer from behavioral health problems. Bill is a past visiting scientist at Vanderbilt University and held a past additional academic appointment at Springfield College, Tampa, Florida.

**Edison Red Nest, III** Edison Red Nest III emacyapi lo! My name is Edison Red Nest III. I am the owner of Native Futures in Alliance, NE. We are a for profit business, operating in Western Nebraska. We hold various contracts with different entities in Nebraska. In 2008 I was released from NDCCS. I was sentenced in 2005, for distribution of cocaine, in Box Butte County. Since my release I have been doing all I can to give back to the communities that I affected. We have made major changes in the pan-handle and are setting our sights on bigger social change for everyone.



# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

**Sara Riffel** Sara is the Associate Vice President of the Connected Youth Initiative and has been with Nebraska Children since November 2014. Sara supports all older youth work statewide via Connected Youth Initiative with a focus and passion for strategies related to education and career pathways, dual-generation and pregnant/parenting youth, international cross-border learning, technology development, human trafficking, and Youth Thrive™. Prior to joining Nebraska Children, Sara managed aftercare and independent living services for the Eastern Service Area at PromiseShip (formally Nebraska Families Collaborative). Sara's previous experience includes over 15 years of work in the areas of behavioral health, substance abuse prevention and education, child welfare services, and nonprofit management in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. Sara is a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP) and previously provided outpatient behavioral health services to children, teens, and families. Sara is also a certified Youth Thrive™ trainer. Sara is a graduate of Creighton University with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology. She also holds a Master of Science (MS) degree in Human Services & Counseling and a Masters of Public Administration (MPA). At home, Sara enjoys spending time with her husband, Blair, and their very spoiled labradoodle, Taxi.

**Mindy Rush Chipman** Mindy Rush Chipman is the Director of Equity and Diversity for the City of Lincoln, serving as Director of Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) and also as the City's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer. She previously practiced at the Immigrant Legal Center (formerly Justice for Our Neighbors-Nebraska) and Legal Aid of Nebraska, and was instrumental in the launch of the Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline (NILAH). Mindy received her JD from Nebraska College of Law and her MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Greg Sattizahn** Greg Sattizahn was appointed State Court Administrator and General Counsel for the South Dakota Unified Judicial System on September 9, 2013. Greg has chaired South Dakota's Juvenile Justice Oversight Council since its inception in 2015 and also chairs the Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System Oversight Council. He served on the adult justice reform Oversight Council until its expiration in 2018. Prior to his appointment by the Supreme Court, Greg first began work with the Unified Judicial System as a Supreme Court Law Clerk for the Honorable Justice Richard W. Sabers. Following his clerkship, Greg practiced law for a private law firm and then returned to the Unified Judicial System as a Staff Attorney for the South Dakota Supreme Court. Greg subsequently served as the UJS Legal and Legislative Counsel and then the Director of Policy and Legal Services. He is a Sterling Honor Society graduate of the University of South Dakota School of Law and prior to law school obtained his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University. He is admitted to practice law in South Dakota state and federal courts, Minnesota state and federal courts and the United States Supreme Court.

**Dr. Mario Scalora** Dr. Mario Scalora is the director of the Public Policy Center and professor of psychology with the Clinical Training and Law-Psychology Programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as coordinating an active academic research program engaging in collaborative research in targeted violence. He received his B.S. in psychology from St. Joseph's University and his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research interests address various types of targeted violence issues including threats to public institutions and infrastructure/threat assessment, sexual offending, stalking, and workplace violence. This research continues to involve collaboration with state and federal agencies dealing with threat management and counter-terrorism issues. Dr. Scalora has extensive relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies related to threat assessment research and consultation assessing predictive risk factors and management strategies concerning targeted threatening, and violent activity. In addition to his role as director, Dr. Scalora also serves as a consulting psychologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police regarding campus safety, threat management, and emergency preparedness.

**Dr. Anne Schutte** Dr. Schutte is an associate professor in the Psychology department and Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior at UNL. She received her Ph. D. from the University of Iowa. Her research interests are in the area of cognitive development, with a particular focus on the development of spatial cognition. Her primary research program centers on the development of spatial working memory and executive function, and how environments, broadly defined, influence development. Her research is based on a dynamic systems model of cognition, the Dynamic Field Theory, which is a computational model of spatial cognition that uses dynamic neural fields. She teaches courses in developmental psychology, cognitive development, child behavior and development, and dynamic systems theory.

**Jenny Skala** Jennifer Skala is Senior Vice President at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and brings her previous experience from multiple arenas including non-profit, school, nursing home, daycare, University, local public health department and other organizations to promote community solutions for child well-being. At Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, she is focused on improving collective impact for child well-being working with internal and external partners to develop a collaborative prevention system for Nebraska. She works to align key partners, utilize data and leverage relationships for funding, advocacy, sustainability and system improvements in carrying out the mission of the organization. In addition, ensure that communities have a voice in decisions and opportunities to engage in processes for decisions that are community owned. She has developed a nationally recognized model for community change and built private-public partnerships for policy and practice changes in foster care and prevention. Prior to her current position, she was the Manager of Education and Training at CityMatCH, a national Maternal and Child Health organization (based at the University of Nebraska Medical Center). She holds a Master's degree in Health Education as well as certification as a Health Education Specialist.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

**Julie Smith** Julie Smith has 20 years' experience working with high risk youth and families in the State of Nebraska. She began her career in school-based prevention efforts with at-risk youth and families, has provided family support services, and worked with young mothers in residential group home programs. Julie worked for the Department of Health and Human Services prior to beginning her Probation career in 2013. She has a Bachelor Science degree in Human Development from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and began a Master's program in Education also from UNL before beginning her career with the Department of Health and Human Services. Julie has been the reentry Program Specialist with the Juvenile Division of the Administrative Office of Probation since 2016 focusing on supporting the implementation of best practice around the utilization of out-of-home placements and reentry and transition planning.

**Joni Stacy** Ms. Stacy is an experienced attorney in private practice. Experienced National Professional Speaker in LGBTQ+ education and advocacy. Skilled in Family Law, Adoption, Guardianship/Conservatorship, Estate Planning and Administration, and Professional Speaking. Strong entrepreneurial professional with a Doctor of Law (JD) from Creighton University School of Law.

**Sara Stauffer** Forensic Interview Specialist, Family Advocacy Network

**Becky Steiner** Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Lancaster County

**Camas Steuter** Camas Steuter, is the Service Area Administrator for the Omaha metro area for the Nebraska Division of Children and Family Services. Camas has worked with the DCFS for 18 years, beginning as a front line case manager. As a front line worker, Camas conducted initial investigations, ongoing case management and juvenile services. Camas spent 2 years supervising the Nebraska statewide abuse/neglect reporting hotline before moving into administration. Currently, as the service area administrator, Camas is responsible for all CFS programs in the Omaha metro region, including child abuse/neglect investigations, adult abuse/neglect investigations, contract monitoring, bridge to independence programming (extended foster care up to age 21), and resource development. This scope includes leadership and program implementation, legislative/federal compliance, community partnerships, strategic planning and financial review. Camas has served on many community groups, committees and professional boards. Prevention and family engagement are passions for Camas, as she sees those as the key to changing the scope of child abuse/neglect in our communities and addressing generational trauma. Prior to working for DCFS, Camas worked at an inpatient mental health facility while working on her social work degree. Camas is the mother of 2 teenage sons.

**Sadie Stevens** Sadie Stevens serves as a public policy analyst for the South Dakota Unified Judicial System. Her primary areas of focus relates to criminal justice reform and public policy development. She provides staff and research support for South Dakota's Juvenile Justice Oversight Council, as well as for the Oversight Council for Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System. Before entering the Unified Judicial System in June of 2017, Sadie spent three years in Governor Dennis Daugaard's office working on matters related to the state's juvenile justice reform. She completed her undergraduate degree at American University, and is currently earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration and Policy from the same institution.

**Ivy Svoboda** Ivy Svoboda, MSW is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers that provides statewide leadership in the fight against child abuse alongside its member centers, Nebraska's seven fully accredited Child Advocacy Centers and their satellite Location TBDs. Mrs. Svoboda has been working with the seven Child Advocacy Centers for the past eleven years and has over 25 years of experience in agencies serving children and families. She collaborates with professional partners statewide, regionally and nationally to support the development, growth, and sustainability of child advocacy centers in Nebraska while promoting system improvements for abused and neglected children through advocacy and awareness. Mrs. Svoboda co-chairs the Multi-Disciplinary Team Sub-committee of the Governor's Commission - Commission for the Protection of Children. She serves on the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, the Nebraska Attorney General's Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Advisory Board, the Nebraska State-wide Victims Assistance Academy Steering Committee, the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime Board, several national collaborative work groups, and the Midwest Regional Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board. In 2009, Mrs. Svoboda was appointed as a Child Advocacy Center Site Reviewer for the National Children's Alliance where she provides in-depth reviews of the practices of Child Advocacy Centers across the nation in relation to National Children's Alliance Standards of Accreditation. Networking with other centers around the United States helps her reinforces best practice in Nebraska. She holds her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from the University of Kansas.

**Judge Steven Teske** Judge Steven Teske, Chief Judge, Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia - Judge Teske serves regularly as a Superior Court Judge by designation. He was appointed juvenile judge in 1999. Teske earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Juris Doctor degrees from Georgia State University. He was a Chief Parole Officer in Atlanta, Deputy Director of Field Services of the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles, and a trial attorney in the law firm of Boswell & Teske LLP. He also served as a Special Assistant Attorney General prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases and representing state employees and agencies in federal and state court cases. Teske is a past president of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges and has been appointed by the Governor to the Children & Youth Coordinating Council, DJJ Judicial Advisory Council, Commission on Family Violence, and the Governor's Office for Children and Families. He has written articles on juvenile reform published in Juvenile and Family Law Journal, Juvenile Justice and Family Today, Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing, and the Georgia Bar Journal. He serves his community in numerous other capacities including past president of the Southern Crescent Habitat for Humanity and is currently on the advisory board.

# 2019 Speakers

## Biographies

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**Chris Turner** County Attorney, Lancaster County

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**Jessyca Vandercoy** Jessyca Vandercoy, LCSW has over 18 years experience working with children and families in Nebraska. Her fields of specialty are in the development of trauma-informed infrastructures and programs and providing services to individuals impacted by trauma. Ms. Vandercoy has had the opportunity to work in both public and private organizations. She has extensive experience in developing cross-system collaboration to result in prevention and protective systems of care for young people. As a licensed clinical social worker Jessyca has experience in providing clinical and crisis response services to individuals impacted by violence, youth who have experienced trauma, and families struggling to build healthy attachments with their children. Jessyca is currently the Project Director of Indigo, a program of the Women's Center for Advancement, serving victims of sex trafficking. Jessyca has a mission-driven spirit and a self-directed personality. Her established, trusted relationships have led her to opportunities to assist organizations to reach greater outcomes through implementation of best-practice standards and the tools necessary to reach these standards with each client, each day. Jessyca has a passion for training and education. She has developed an extensive list of training curricula in the areas of evidence-based practice, domestic violence, social work ethics, attachment, adoption, and cultural competency. Ms. Vandercoy earned her Master's degree in Social Work in 2004 from the University of Nebraska. She also received a Bachelors of Arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh in the area of Urban Studies and African Studies. Ms. Vandercoy has served as National Association of Social Workers-Nebraska Chapter board member.

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**Gwen Vargas-Porter** Gwen Vargas – Porter is a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. Gwen has a BSW from Briar Cliff University and a MSW from the University of Iowa. She is a foster/adoptive parent of 11 children. She consults for professional child welfare systems in assisting with the delivery of capacity building. She has the competence to assist stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies to enhance services for children and families.

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**Dr. Richard Wiener** Rich Wiener received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Houston. He studied law at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln (UNL) College of Law where he earned a Master's Degree in Legal Studies. He is currently the Charles Bessey Professor of Psychology and Law at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and for 13 years he served as the director of the Law and Psychology Program. Dr. Wiener is the past editor of Law and Human Behavior, the official journal of the American Psychology/Law Society (Division 41 of the American Psychological Association) and he currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI). Rich has also served SPSSI as a council member, chair of the Court Watch committee and as a member of other committees including the membership and fellows committees. He has served as a research consultant for the National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Nebraska Judiciary, the Nebraska Office of Probation Administration, the Nebraska Crime Commission, and for the Nebraska Parole Board. Wiener studies the application of social and cognitive psychology to problems of legal decision-making. He currently conducts and supervises applied research in the areas of legal decision making, policy and social science, discrimination, and program evaluation. He is the recipient of multiple funding awards from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice. Dr. Wiener has published numerous peer reviewed journal articles, edited volumes, book chapters and law review articles. Professor Wiener teaches courses at the graduate level and in the Law College at UNL.

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**Dr. Lindsey Wylie** Lindsey E. Wylie, J.D., Ph.D. is Research Faculty and Director of Research at the Juvenile Justice Institute, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include understanding the legal system's therapeutic and anti-therapeutic impact on vulnerable populations, including juveniles and older adults. Her current projects include evaluating evidence-based practices in Nebraska juvenile justice programs, studying the (un)intended collateral consequences of juvenile justice involvement, and perceptions of youth in the juvenile justice system.

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**Dr. Kenneth Zoucha** Dr. Kenneth Zoucha serves as Director of Addiction Medicine for the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). Board certified in Pediatrics and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Zoucha has extensive experience and specializes in the treatment of substance use disorders in adolescents, and has served as medical director and health care authority for several youth secure care placement facilities throughout the state. Dr. Zoucha is a clinical educator of medical students, residents, and other health care providers. Responding to the escalating national need, he championed the establishment of an Addiction Medicine fellowship at UNMC. He also led the development of an innovative executive addiction fellowship, featuring one-month immersive experiences for providers already in practice. Through this work, he enjoys lifting up learners to become the best clinicians, educators, and advocates that they can be. In addition to his expertise in treatment of adolescents and young adults, he also has a special interest in the treatment of babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome and their families.

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