

# Agenda



- 8:30 – 8:40** Welcome and Introductions
- 8:40 – 9** Tiny Chat #4 Digital Divide
- 9 – 10** Rising Leaders Panel
- 10 – 10:15** Break
- 10:15 – 10:30** Tiny Chat #40 Lawyer Cat
- 10:30 – 11:30** Teri Deal, M.Ed., National Center for State Courts, Virtual Hearing Study
- 11:30 – 12:30** Family Panel
- 12:30 – 1:15** Lunch
- 1:15 – 1:30** Tiny Chat #63 On Camera Tips
- 1:30 – 3:15** Cynthia Burnson, Ph.D. - Science-Driven Strategies for Successful Virtual Interaction With Children
- 3:15 – 3:30** Wrap up

Seizing Opportunity  
Leveraging Technology  
Improving Outcomes

## 2021 CIP Conference

September 28

Ogallala ♦ Quality Inn Conference Center

September 30

Omaha ♦ Scott Conference Center  
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JUDICIAL BRANCH

Court Improvement  
Project

# Keynote



## Cynthia Burnson, PhD

Cynthia Burnson, PhD, has served as a senior researcher at Evident Change since 2018. Evident Change is a nonprofit that uses data and research to improve child welfare, juvenile and adult justice, and adult protective services systems. At Evident Change, Dr. Burnson works with child welfare systems to improve decision making, use data for systems improvement, and evaluate interventions.

Prior to Evident Change, Dr. Burnson was with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied postpartum depression treatment in Wisconsin home visiting programs, infant and family mental health, and the assessment of parent-child relationships. She received her PhD in human development and family studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she studied resilience processes in young children of incarcerated parents and quantitative methods. Before receiving her PhD, she taught preschool for 10 years.

Dr. Burnson has worked on a wide range of research and outreach projects, including studying self-regulation in children born preterm, a compassionate and mindful parenting intervention, the efficacy of Sesame Street toolkit materials in promoting positive jail visitation between young children and their parent, marital quality in families with a child with autism, postpartum depression treatment programs, young children experiencing homelessness, and reading programs geared toward low-income preschoolers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has recently provided information for the field about virtual interaction with children, a topic area that brings together her expertise in child development and video visitation at jails and in the child welfare context.

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## Teri Deal, M.Ed.

Teri Deal, M.Ed. joined the National Center for State Courts as a Principal Court Management Consultant in 2019 after several years of experience working both in juvenile and family court research settings and in direct service to system-involved youth and families. Her work at NCSC focuses on child, youth, and family justice with a specific emphasis on implementing and evaluating court practices, continuous quality improvement, and systems change efforts. She recently completed a study of virtual child welfare hearings across 5 states and 17 jurisdictions and leads the Racial Justice Data Change Collaborative, a learning collaborative focused on supporting state and local child welfare systems to view data through an equity lens. Prior to joining NCSC, Ms. Deal spent nearly a decade as a researcher at the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the research arm of the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Her work there primarily focused on supporting juvenile justice systems, courts, agencies and programs to collect and use data to improve outcomes for youth and families. Ms. Deal studied University of Pittsburgh and the University of Virginia. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Community Engagement at Point Park University researching school-justice partnerships.