

# Many Voices, One Vision: Coming Together for Utah's Children

## 2010 Utah Court Improvement Summit



Tuesday, October 19 - Wednesday, October 20, 2010  
Zermatt Conference Center  
Midway, Utah

# SUMMIT PROGRAM

# Agenda

Tuesday, October 19

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7:00-8:30 **Registration and Breakfast**

*Matterhorn*

8:30- 8:45 **Welcoming Remarks**

*Bernese Events Center*

Misty Butler- Court Improvement Program Coordinator

Katie Gregory- Assistant Juvenile Court Administrator

8:45 -9:15 **Opening Address**

*Bernese Events Center*

***Six things that I have learned in six years as a Juvenile Court Judge***

Honorable Mary T. Noonan- Juvenile Court Judge, Utah's Fourth Judicial District

*We have known for some time now that the collaboration of multiple agencies in child welfare cases shortens the time in which children achieve permanency. With that overall systemic goal, we sometimes forget that organizations themselves don't help children and families in need, rather it is the PEOPLE employed in those organizations. These welcoming remarks by Judge Noonan will include examples of how people who work with child welfare cases achieve the goal of permanency and help children and families one at a time.*

9:15-10:15 **Keynote Address**

*Bernese Events Center*

***Transformation, Sustainability and Success for Court Involved Children and Families***

Honorable Katherine Lucero- Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge, Board of Trustees member for the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges

*The Honorable Katherine Lucero has dedicated her entire career to protecting the victims of child abuse and neglect. She shares her experience and insight to inspire us to reach our fullest potential as we serve the court involved population. She will address the importance of collaboration between child welfare agencies and courts, turning crisis into opportunity, the influence of judicial leadership and the premise that ultimately we are all serving the same children.*

10:15 - 10:30 **Break**

10:30-11:45 **Concurrent Sessions (Session One)**

***(A1) Empowering Youth***

Facilitated by Patti VanWagoner - Statewide Transition to Adult Living Coordinator , DCFS

*A panel of adults previously in foster care will share how they were empowered to succeed as an adult, including: •how they were supported in having some control over what was happening to them in care •how they were involved in planning for their future •how they were involved in the decision making process .*

# Agenda

## Tuesday, October 19- Continued

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### **(A2) A Child's Legal Rights: A Good Thing to Know**

Craig M. Bunnell - Deputy Director, Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem

*There are many adults that interact with each child that enters the child welfare system. Many of the adults, however, may not know or understand the constitutional, statutory, or rule-based rights belonging to these children. For each child's sake, as it is for each adult, it is important that system-players (participants) know and understand these rights.*

### **(A3) Strengthening Kinship Placements**

Jean Marie Morris, LCSW- Northern Region Kinship Specialist, DCFS

Dennis Brooks - Child and Family Services Kinship Specialist, DCFS

*A panel made up of Kinship Specialists and Kinship providers will discuss and answer questions related to their experiences with the child welfare system and raising children in care.*

### **(A4) Educating Youth in State Care**

Laurieann Thorpe - State Education Specialist, Department of Human Services and State Office of Education

*Do you remember who pushed you to succeed in school, looked at your report card, met with the principal when you got in that fight on the playground? Parents play a huge role in the education of their children. But what happens when a child is in state's custody? Who fills that gap? You are the answer. Whatever your capacity, whatever your role, if your work intersects with youth in custody, then you have a role to play in their education. This presentation will focus on what we can do in Utah based on what's working across the nation for youth in state care. We'll also discuss local efforts and how you can get involved.*

### **(A5) Engaging Fathers**

Mike Camp - Trainer, National Family Preservation Network

*The Engaging Fathers Workshop will explain the importance of father involvement in the lives of their children and share research about and strategies for locating, identifying, and engaging fathers; father/child visits; and father involvement in case planning. This workshop will also address how to improve performance in meeting CFSR standards.*

### **(A6) Courts Catalyzing Change: Putting the tools to the test**

Honorable Katherine Lucero - Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

Crystal Soderman, MPA - Model Court Liaison, Permanency Planning for Children Department, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

*This workshop will provide background information on the Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care initiative (CCC) of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This workshop will present the first tool, a Preliminary Protective Hearing Benchcard, that judges are using to reduce disproportionality and disparate treatment. Early results from pilot research conducted on the use of the Benchcard show that it is having a positive impact on the hearing process as well as outcomes for children and families.*

# Agenda

## Tuesday, October 19 — Continued

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**12:00 – 1:15 Lunch**

*Bernese Events Center*

Report on District Achievements and Projects

*Participants will hear from a variety of judicial districts on projects that have been successful since the last CIP Summit.*

**1:15-2:30 Concurrent Sessions (Session Two)**

***(B1) Working Effectively with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth in Child Welfare***

Jennifer R. Arm, Ph.D. - Training Coordinator and Research Associate, Utah Pride Center

*This Workshop is designed to provide professionals with relevant, up-to-date information about LGBTQ youth and practical tools to assist in everyday practice. Trainers will present scholarly research findings on LGBTQ youth, discuss specific paths that bring LGBTQ youth into delinquency courts, review scenarios that often come up for LGBTQ youth as they navigate the juvenile court system, address safety considerations for LGBTQ youth in secure facilities, and share “best practices” and other tools to improve outcomes for LGBTQ youth in Utah’s Juvenile Court System. Workshop participants will receive handouts and resources to bring back to their courts and communities.*

***(B2) Child Welfare Case Walk Through***

Craig M. Bunnell - Deputy Director, Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem

*Panel members will take the group through a complicated child welfare case scenario from beginning to end, demonstrating a collaborative decision making process.*

***(B3) What Are You Really Trying To Tell Me?: Communication Tools to Help You Tap Into their Real Story***

Velvet Rodriguez - Poston JD, Rodriguez-Poston Mediation Services

Megan Mclean Stein - Mclean Stein Mediation Services

*When we are working with situations of abuse, our ability to extract an accurate story of what happened in the event (s) in question is essential. We listen to the same story from many different perspectives; the child’s perspective; the parent’s perspective; the victim’s perspective; the perpetrator’s perspective; the attorney’s perspective, just to name a few. Stories, or individual narratives, allow us to gather the facts necessary to make various determinations on the case. From stories we analyze the procedural, emotional, and legal status of the case. During this break out we will watch videos of people telling conflict stories and we will analyze their stories from various verbal preferences. We will discuss how our own verbal preferences influence how we listen to others and we will learn how to implement new verbal techniques and tools that will help us communicate with others more effectively.*

# Agenda

## Tuesday, October 19 — Continued

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### ***(B4) Dually Adjudicated Minor/Youth: Caught Between Two Systems***

Charri Brummer - Deputy Director, DCFS

Greg Johnson - Chief Probation Officer, Third District Juvenile Court

*Traditionally the courts have one system for abuse-neglect-dependency and one system for delinquency. However children are unique individuals who do not always fit neatly into a bureaucratic box. What happens when minors need help from both systems? Discover ideas to bring the Division of Child and Family Services and Juvenile Probation together to see one child, not two rolls of red tape.*

### ***(B5) Sugar & Spice..... Everything Nice???***

Nanon Talley, LPC- Program Manager, Juvenile Justice Services

*Relational Aggression. . . . We hear it referenced on a regular basis, but what is it? This presentation will give an overview of female relational aggression and treatment implications for both the aggressors and the victims of teenage relational aggression.*

### ***(B6) Partnering with Health Care Professionals***

Christine Chytraus R.N., BSN, CPM - Program Manager, Fostering Healthy Children, Utah Department of Health Children with Special Health Care Needs Bureau

*This workshop will discuss the required examinations a child receives when entering Utah's Foster Care System including a well child exam, dental exam, mental health assessment or developmental testing and what needs to be recorded for judges, medical staff, DCFS staff and foster care providers. Ms. Chytraus will present an overview of the Fostering Healthy Children Program and the resources it provide to the courts and medical providers when children have health issues. Information will also be presented on Medicaid covered services for those in foster care and the process to get procedures, treatment or durable medical equipment approved for Medicaid eligible children.*

2:30- 2:45 **Break (with snacks)**

2:45- 4:00 **Concurrent Sessions (Session Three)**

### ***(C1) Traumatic Brain Injury and Children***

Nita G. Smith - Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer, Phoenix Services Corporation

*Information about Traumatic Brain Injury risks and outcomes in children, with data from Utah Violence and Injury Prevention.*

# Agenda

## Tuesday, October 19 – Continued

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### **(C2) Creating Permanency Through Adoption**

Marty Shannon - State Adoption Program Administrator. DCFS

*A look at adoption practice: what works and what doesn't in creating permanency for youth through adoption. This is a comparison of cases, with a focus on kinship placements.*

### **(C3) The Strengthening Families Program**

Cassie Beck, LCSW - Strengthening Families Coordinator/Division of Child and Family Services

Catherine M. Johnson, LCSW - Division Director of Child and Family Services/Wasatch Mental Health

Ceceilia Tso (Navajo) - American Indian Trainer for Strengthening Families Program, University of Utah

*An introduction and overview of The Strengthening Families Program (SFP). SFP is a 14-week family based intervention developed by Dr. Karol Kumpfer of the University of Utah. The Western Region of the Division of Child and Family Services has implemented this service with families involved in the child welfare system in order to facilitate reunification, prevent removal, and improve family functioning. The application of SFP in tribal communities will also be explored.*

### **(C4) Psychological Ties: Parental Rights May be Terminated, But Emotional Ties Often Endure**

F. Richards Smith - Director, Office of Guardian ad Litem

Alex J.Y. Smith

*Eight years later a former foster/adoptive young man walks you through his experiences as an orphan, foster child, three-times adopted child and how he grapples with the emotional ties still felt to his biological and former adoptive families. You will also hear from the adoptive father who brings additional insight and understanding.*

### **(C5) Anyone You Want Me To Be**

Sariah Donnahoo - Behavioral Analyst/Education Specialist

*Participants will discuss current technology used by teens and offenders; teen sexual behaviors; media influences; teen definitions, terminology and trends of sexual behavior and how the use of technology has impacted the scope of sex crimes. Also discussed: how current behaviors are influencing increasingly younger aged children."*

# Agenda

Tuesday, October 19 — Continued

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*C6) TBD- Repeat of most requested session*

**5:00-7:00 Dinner (brief award presentation)**

*Bernese Events Center*

**“Just Humor Me”**

Robert Kirby, Salt Lake Tribune Columnist

*Robert Kirby entertains us with his thoughts on the importance of humor in our lives.*

**8:00 Game Night**

*Bernese Events Center*

# Agenda

Wednesday, October 20

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**6:00-7:00** **Yoga**

**7:30- 8:30** **Breakfast**

***Matterhorn***

**8:30-9:00** **A Child's Day in Court**

***Bernese Events Center***

Honorable Mary Manley- Juvenile Court Judge, Utah's Seventh Judicial District

Brent Platt- Director, Division of Child and Family Services

*This presentation is designed to familiarize the participants with the applicable child welfare statutes, definitions and policy determining when a child shall be present at a child welfare hearing and circumstances that excuse mandatory appearance. Participants will explore the obstacles that children and agencies face in adhering to the statutory requirements with a focus on discussing creative strategies to reduce the burdens and enhance the benefits associated with children attending their court proceedings.*

**9:00-10:00** **Planning for My Future Success: My Experience in Foster Care**

Youth Panel facilitated by Patti VanWagoner -Statewide Transition to Adult Living Coordinator, DCFS

*Youth will talk about how they participated in their team, the decision making process, and how they were empowered by members of their team. They will talk about ways their caseworker and team engaged them in the plan for their future and how that translated into success once they left care.*

**10:00-10:15** **Break**

**10:15- 11:00** **The State of Utah's Children in Care: What the Data Tells Us**

Dr. David Corwin MD - Child Psychiatrist, Primary Children Medical Center

*Each of us works in some capacity with a child who has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Our involvement provides valuable insight into the needs of these children, but what does the data tell us? What are we doing well? Where can we improve? How can we use this data to guide our work? Dr. Corwin will provide current data on Utah's children in care and insight on how we can work together to improve outcomes.*

**11:00 -11:30** **Call to Action**

Honorable Christine Durham - Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court

**12:15- 2:30** **Lunch and District Breakout Sessions**

*Participants will breakout into Judicial Districts. Performance data will be provided on a District level and groups will brainstorm opportunities to improve performance as a team.*