

2016 Keynote Presenters, Guest Speakers, Breakout Sessions & Profiles



Guest Speaker

Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney - Mike Cooney became Montana's 32nd Lieutenant Governor in January 2016 when appointed by Governor Steve Bullock. Mike is a long time public servant and elected official, having served in both houses of the Montana legislative branch and three terms as Secretary of State prior to being selected as Lieutenant Governor. A committed public leader for Montana, Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney is Governor Bullock's trusted partner as they work to advance the administration's agenda of better jobs, better education and a more effective government.



Guest Speaker

Richard Opper - DPHHS Director Richard Opper was appointed by Governor Steve Bullock in December 2012 to oversee the agency's 3,000 employees, 2,500 contracts and 150 major programs. DPHHS is the largest agency of state government, with a biennial budget of about \$4 billion. He is responsible for overall department policy development, management, and coordination of programs. At his previous post at the Department of Environmental Quality, Opper led a division of hundreds of employees and oversaw standards that maintain the health of the state's land and water. He previously held leadership posts at the Missouri River Basin Association and the Northern Lights Institute. In 2012, he was chosen to participate in the Henry Toll Fellowship Program, which selects 40 state leaders around the country for training in state government. He holds a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University and a master's degree from Montana State University. Opper and his wife, Sally Mueller, have one son, Isaac.



Tuesday Keynote Session & Breakouts - Early Child Development and Learning: The Science and the System

Bette Hyde, PhD. - Former Director at Washington State Department of Early Learning. Accomplished professional educator with 30+ years' experience in administration, program development, and working with multiple constituencies to achieve improvements in children's learning. There is physiological, "hard" science and social science research that clearly demonstrates the importance of reducing early stresses and developing safe, stable, nurturing relationships between children birth to five and their caregivers. Doing so leads to success for learners in K-12 and higher education; more productive, responsible, healthy adults; and a sizable return on investment for our country. This session will discuss this One Science; the critical importance of high-quality for children, families, and providers; and the need for innovative powerful partnerships.



Wednesday Keynote Session & Breakouts - Building an Early Childhood System of Care: Do We Have to Call It Mental Health? & Taking Care of Ourselves: How Early Childhood Providers Can Address Their Own Wellness

Neal Horen, Ph.D. - Neal Horen is the Director of the Early Childhood Division at the Center for Child and Human Development, and the Director of the HOYA clinic in the Department of Psychiatry. In that capacity he oversees the Center's efforts in early childhood including work in professional development, technical assistance, research and evaluation and clinical services. Dr. Horen has been a leader in the field of early childhood mental health for the last two decades. He has assisted all states, a number of tribal nations and territories and hundreds of communities in development of systems of care for young children and their families. Dr. Horen has provided technical assistance and is considered one of the country's leading experts in the development of a system of care in early childhood. Dr. Horen is also a licensed child psychologist and continues to provide services to young children and their families.

Wednesday's Keynote will focus on helping participants to understand how an early childhood system is built and where each of them contributes to the development of the system. The presentation will enable participants to understand more fully all of the building blocks that underpin successful delivery of supports and services to young children and their families. The Breakout Session will focus more on strategies to assist providers as they address their own wellness and stress that results from working in early childhood settings. This interactive session will feature both didactic work as well as opportunities to identify specific ways to address unique individual stressors that participants are addressing.

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Thursday Keynote Session - Creating the Context for Child and Family Well-Being Through Social Norms

J. Bart Klika, MSW, PhD. - Bart is currently an assistant professor of social work at the University of Montana. His research examines the causes and consequences associated with child abuse and neglect in an effort to prevent its occurrence. Since 2008, Bart served as a research assistant on the Lehigh Longitudinal Study, one of the longest running national studies examining the long-term effects of child abuse and neglect. During his doctoral studies, Bart served as a research consultant for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) examining issues related to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. In 2011, Bart was also selected for the inaugural cohort of fellows for the Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, a national fellowship providing support and mentorship for doctoral students seeking innovations in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Bart is a member and co-chair of the Prevention Committee for the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

Thursday's Keynote will include theory and research behind social norms and provide practical strategies for assessing social norms within communities, national survey research conducted with Prevent Child Abuse America to understand norms regarding child abuse and neglect and its prevention. Also how to uncover the spirit and essence of their work while developing the skills necessary for identifying, assessing, and cultivating positive community norms.

Break Out Sessions in Order of Appearance



Tuesday Breakouts 12:30-1:30pm & 2:45-3:45pm - Family Support in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Linda Zermeno, Lori Gaustad, Molly Mills, Roger Holt - Parents, Let's Unite for Kids - PLUK has been a presence in Billings' NICUs for over 20 years. A PLUK Family Support Consultant routinely meets with families to provide support and information. We also consult with staff to increase awareness of the practical and emotional needs of families. We assist with referrals to Early Intervention Agencies and to other Family and Children services across the state. The support we provide is as individualized as the families we serve. History, value, importance, and status of peer supports as an integral part of service systems for families. In these sessions we will discuss a variety of NICU family needs and describe how the Family Support Consultant addresses these unique needs.



Tuesday Breakouts 1:30pm-2:30pm & 3:45-4:45pm - Touching the Brain: Emotional Regulation through Somatosensory and Tactile Interventions

Deanna McCulloch, LCPC - Deanna McCulloch is a Licensed Professional Counselor currently serving as a supervisor for a youth crisis program in Great Falls. She is two years into a doctorate program through Adams State University, pursuing her PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision. Throughout her career, Deanna has specialized in children and families, holding various positions including Foster Home Supervisor, Therapist, Family Preservation Specialist, and Director of Trauma Informed Care. Her research and experience has been specialized in the treatment of severe and complex trauma, as well as best practices in the training of individuals and teams to support these youth. There is a burgeoning of research around the neurodevelopmental implications of trauma. This presentation amasses the research and reflects upon the integration of this knowledge into practice. A hands on approach to emotional regulation will be experienced, and we will discuss application of the intervention to increase resiliency and mental health outcomes in youth. The tools presented can be used across disciplines and by families themselves.



Tuesday Breakout 12:30pm-2:30pm & Wednesday Breakout 12:30-2:30pm - Tools for Early Identification to Evaluation for Autism

Jackie Mohler, M.Ed., BCBA - Family Outreach, Helena & Glenda J Truesdell - Board Certified Behavior Analyst

The first signs of autism, such as sleep disturbance and feeding problems, may go unnoticed. However, parents and caregivers may become concerned that they have difficulty comforting a child, who is not as drawn toward social activities, other people, and does not point to objects. Instead relates more to objects in the environment. This Symposium will help community member know what red flags to look for, know what community resources are available for screening and evaluation and give evidence based resources for intervention across the lifespan.

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Tuesday Breakout 12:30pm-2:30pm & Wednesday Breakout 2:45-4:45pm - Paper Tigers Movie

Special Screening of "Paper Tigers," a film by James Redford -'Paper Tigers' chronicles a year in the life of Lincoln High School in the community of Walla Walla, Washington. The kids who come to Lincoln have a history of truancy, behavioral problems and substance abuse. After Lincoln's principal is exposed to research about the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), he decides to radically change the school's approach to discipline. With the aid of diary camera footage, the film follows six students. From getting into fights, grappling with traumatic events in their lives, and on the cusp of dropping out, they find healing, support and academic promise

at Lincoln High. 1h 42min 28 May 2015 (USA) Paper Tiger Trailer Link - <https://vimeo.com/110821029>



Tuesday Breakout 2:45pm-4:45pm - Playing Monopoly with God & Other True Stories - A Nonfiction Postpartum Storytelling Performance & Wednesday Breakout 10:30am-11:30am Follow-Up Talks on Performance

Melissa Bangs - Writer, Director, Performer - In September 2012, at 40 years old, Melissa Bangs gave birth to her beautiful daughter Adelaide. A month later, dramatically hormone depleted and sleep deprived, Melissa is admitted to the Providence Psychiatric Facilities in a complete manic state. After nearly a month, she is sent home with a bipolar diagnosis and on lithium. What comes next is an extraordinary journey back to wholeness, back to love. This performance is not only meant to inspire people to bring what they have hidden in the dark corners of themselves

into the light, it is also intentionally crafted to deepen the audience's awareness and understanding about the prevalence of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMADs), the vast array of PMADs and the promise of treatment and full recovery. Join Melissa for a series of true stories full of bewilderment, chaos and hilarity. Bangs has a knack for telling true stories that cut to the bone of our shared, vulnerable human condition. Her true gift, however, comes in the moments in which she's able to strip away the shame or agony of an experience and transform the room into an uproar of laughter.



Tuesday Breakout 2:45pm-4:45pm - Preschool Matters: How Montana Communities are Working Together to Support Kindergarten Readiness Through Collective Impact

Deb Halliday - Deb serves as senior policy advisor to State Superintendent Denise Juneau at the Montana Office of Public Instruction, where she launched Graduation Matters Montana and Montana Schools of Promise, which works with the state's most struggling schools, all of which are on Indian Reservations. She writes infrequently but happily on her website, www.debhalliday.com. Expanding opportunities for early learning is something that communities across Montana are striving to do, as research shows how important the early years are for learning and growth. Come learn and share how Montana communities are expanding the conversation to include unusual community partners, looking at their data, sharing effective practices and celebrating their successes at this hands-on presentation. Recent research and practice on collective impact will be explored. Examples will be drawn from the Preschool Matters communities of Anaconda, Great Falls, Hardin and Crow Agency.



Wednesday Breakout 10:30am-11:30am - Meeting Educational Needs of Teen Parents - FCCHD

Holly Jordt, RN, Program Coordinator/ Ashley Peters, RN, CLC, Public Health Nurse, Flathead City-County Health Department - Holly Jordt, is a Bachelor's prepared Registered Nurse with the Flathead City-County Health Department. She coordinates home visiting services with the Healthy Montana Teen Parents Program, the Maternal Child Health Block Grant, and the Montana Asthma Program. Holly has worked in Public Health for twelve years. She has worked closely with the schools and is committed to the Public Health needs of the adolescent population. Ashley Peters, is a Bachelor's prepared Registered Nurse and is a Certified Lactation Consultant. She has worked in Public Health Nursing for four years in various roles but has a true passion for working with and advocating for the expectant and parenting teen population. This workshop will include: development of a curriculum to provide relevant education to teen parents; collaboration between partners (schools, Public Health, and pertinent community partners); meeting the health needs of teen parents and their children; nurturing, parenting, and life skills education; encouragement of post-secondary education





Parents as Teachers
Creating the Next Generation

Wednesday Breakouts 10:30am-11:30am & 12:30pm-1:30pm - Fatherhood: The Movement - PAT

Christopher Chambers and Randall Hinton, Parent Educators - Parents as Teachers (PAT) - Together Christopher and Randall have over 22 years experience working with children and families. Currently Christopher and Randall are employees of Parents as Teachers National Center as Parent Educators in the Normandy School district. Both men have a strong belief in the role of men in children's lives and are working on building the male involvement number in Normandy which is an underperforming school district. Competent fatherhood is one of the most powerful renewable resources in the life of a family, generation after generation. The idea that parent involvement in children's lives is an exclusively female domain is a misperception that hurts thousands of American children and haunts educational and social efforts to help them.



Wednesday Breakouts 10:30am-11:30am & 12:30pm-1:30pm - Sandcastles & Soggy Spots: The Science Behind Why a Kid "Doesn't Act Their Age."

Crystal Amundson, MS, LCPC, RPT-S Child & Family Therapist - As a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor & Registered Play Therapist, Crystal's clinical & educational experiences provide the foundation for her courses. She received her Master's Degree in Applied Psychology at Eastern Washington University and is a member of the Association for Play Therapy and American Counseling Association. She specializes in Childhood Mental Health, working with children ages 2-12, alongside their caregivers.

Tantrums are difficult to manage in a two year old, but they're difficult AND confusing when they occur in a nine year old. This workshop will explore the stages of emotional development for children birth-12 years. We'll use this information to explore what happens when this development is interrupted, and how to support children in "growing up" into the best versions of themselves!



Wednesday Breakout 10:30am-11:30am - Strengthening Families Through Cardiac Readiness

Janet Trethewey, EdD - Janet is the Cardiac Ready Communities program director. She has been traveling the State of Montana helping communities become more Cardiac Ready. Janet recently retired after teaching for 25 years at MSU-Northern in Havre, MT. At MSU-Northern, she developed the Health Promotion program and taught courses in health, exercise science and education. She also served as the employee wellness program director for 18 years at the university. Janet is a retired athletic trainer and former EMT. Janet's passion is her family, especially her grandson. Her pastimes include camping, hiking, reading and all sorts of creative activities. Nothing affects a family more than the death of a family member from sudden cardiac arrest which can strike at any age. Participation in the Cardiac Ready Communities program increases the chances of an individual surviving and returning to their family after such an event. Learn about the Cardiac Chain of Survival and how every person can have an influence on cardiac survival. Practice Hands-only CPR and learn how to facilitate this American Heart Association training.



Wednesday Breakout 12:30pm-2:30pm - Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI): Supporting Infant-Toddler Development Through Parent-Child Interactions & 2:45pm-4:45pm - An Introduction to the Pyramid Model and Challenging Behavior

Kristin Tenney-Blackwell, M.A., LLP, IMH-E - Kristin has over 16 years of experience in infant and early childhood mental health and early childhood education. She is passionate about promoting young children's social and emotional development in an effort to support resiliency. In addition to her private practice, Kristin has been active in providing consultation and guidance for organizations such as Vanderbilt University, Pyramid Model Consortium, Erikson Institute, ZERO TO THREE, the Devereux Center for Resilient Children, Early Head Start, Head Start and other early childhood programs on issues related to early childhood mental health and school readiness. Her portfolio includes work in early childhood education and mental health initiatives, national- and state-level training, resource development, research, and evaluation of early childhood projects.



Wednesday Breakout 2:45pm-4:45pm - Family Engagement: Building Capacity for Partnerships - Thrive

Steve Wellington LCSW Parent Liaison Projects Coordinator, Thrive - Steve grew up in New England and has worked for the past 13 years throughout the country in a variety of education and health care settings. Steve currently resides in Bozeman MT and works for the innovative Parent Liaison Program, one of Thrive's five signature programs. Family Engagement is a workshop designed to teach administrators, teachers and others how to best communicate with parents utilizing specific engagement strategies. Even though we know that encouraging parental engagement significantly impacts a child's ability to be successful in school, it can be challenging to find strategies that work. This workshop offers a systematic approach to planning, developing and implementing parent engagement strategies. Included in this workshop will be interactive dialogue, group brainstorming, and small group exercises.