



# MONTANA PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CONFERENCE



**MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2020**

**HILTON GARDEN INN | MISSOULA MONTANA**



## SPEAKERS Susan Harness, MA, Bart Klika, PhD

- 10:30 - 12:00 Dignitary Speakers (Marti Vining, CFSD Division Administrator, and Honored Guests)  
Awards Presentations (Child and Family Services Division, CASA of Montana, Children's Trust Fund)
- 12:00 - 1:30 Served Luncheon (must register for luncheon by March 20th)
- 1:30 - 3:00 Keynote: Susan Harness, MA: **Fostering or Adopting a Child of a Different Race? We Need to Talk**
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15- 4:45 Keynote: Bart Klika, PhD: Assessing Our History to Plan for the Future: Charting a Course forward for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- 5:00 - 6:30 Nicole Grossberg, Robert Cacace: Families First Prevention Services Act Listening Session



## SUSAN HARNESS, MA

Susan Devan Harness is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Susan's interest in transracial adoption extends well beyond the academic.

Born in Montana to a family living on the Flathead Indian Reservation, she became a transracial adoptee at the age of two when she was removed from her home by a social worker because of "neglect." Her new book *Bitterroot: A Memoir of Transracial Adoption* (University of Nebraska Press), a sweeping examination of her life, explores the uneasy intersection of adopted families and first families, identities and race, against the backdrop of history and brutal governmental Indian policies.

Susan received her B.A. in anthropology from the University of Montana, her M.A. in cultural anthropology from Colorado State University in 2006, and her M.A. in creative nonfiction in 2016, also from Colorado State University. She is the author of *Mixing Cultural Identities through Transracial Adoption: After the Indian Adoption Project (1958-1967)*.

Susan currently works as a field director for the Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research at Colorado State University on the project "Using a Media Campaign to Prevent Substance Use Among Middle School Youth".

Susan is still very much involved in the topic of American Indian transracial adoption and continues to write and lecture about this topic as well as about American Indian assimilation policies and practices.

**Fostering or Adopting a Child of a Different Race? We Need to Talk:** With consideration and appreciation of the consequences of the American Indian policies since 1830 as an underpinning, this presentation will provide a definition of transracial and will seek to furnish an understanding of the complexities associated with transracial placements. Exploration and discussion concerning the need for open/customary adoption in such placements will additionally be offered.

## BART KLIKA, PHD

Dr. J. Bart Klika is the chief research and strategy officer with the national organization Prevent Child Abuse America. Prior to joining PCAA, Dr. Klika was an assistant professor in the school 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. On multiple occasions, Dr. Klika 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, he was 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. Dr. Klika is on the national Board of Directors for American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and is the chair of the APSAC publications and prevention committees. Recently, Dr. Klika served as the senior editor for the APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment (4th Ed.).

**Assessing Our History to Plan for the Future: Charting a Course Forward for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:** Early experiences of both risk and protection have a profound influence on life outcomes for all children. Currently, millions of children live in contexts and environments that do not support optimal development, including abject poverty, violent homes, and with parents who, for a multitude of reasons, are experiencing extreme forms of stress. Taking a public health approach to the prevention of trauma and adversity requires a close examination of the community and societal-level factors that support, or detract from, optimal health for children, families, and communities.

Great progress has been made in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention since the early writing of Henry Kempe in the 1960's. We've established state-level systems of surveillance and response, federal funding streams to support child maltreatment prevention and intervention work, and a robust scientific research base. Despite these advances, millions of children are abused and neglected each year.

In this presentation, Dr. Klika will discuss the history of the field, identifying critical research that has informed our strategies in prevention and intervention. He will further explore the current state of child maltreatment prevention research, policy, and intervention, with particular emphasis on the contributions of the ACE's framework. In closing, Dr. Klika will provide a few recommendations for advancing a child maltreatment prevention agenda.



## ROBERT CACACE

Robert has more than 25 years' experience using business and technology skills to solve problems in the private, non-profit and state government sectors. He has held positions as chief information officer, IT director, technology infrastructure director it portfolio manager, and business analyst. He has worked as an independent consultant since 2014. From 2017 to 2019, Robert consulted with the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families on its Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) analysis and planning project. As project leader, he delivered a feasibility study, impact analysis, financial planning document, and product road map. Robert also authored the Wisconsin annual interim advance planning document (IAPD) in 2018. He started the CCWIS Navigator national

discussion group in 2017 to bring together practice and process professionals from across the country to share their CCWIS planning efforts and best child welfare information system practices.

As Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) planning and implementation project manager for the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Child and Families Services Division (CFSD), Robert is managing a project to analyze the FFPSA as it impacts Montana and make the necessary changes to ensure compliance with the act by its October 2021 deadline. He is creating a visual road map for Montana's child welfare practices, and an executable project plan to address the multiple work-streams that will be required to achieve a successful transition to complete Families First Act conformity. The current planning phases will progress through March of 2020 and will lead to implementation projects through October of 2021. His work will include multiple stakeholder planning sessions, extensive documentation, and the delivery of long-term planning process to help guide child and family welfare practice improvements into the future.

Robert lives with his wife Ann, three dogs, one cat, and a blue and gold macaw in Thornton, CO. Ann and Robert have two adult children who live in Colorado and Wisconsin. He loves to cook, garden, hike, read, and is active in animal rescue organizations. He studied political science at Hunter College in New York and is currently working on an environmental engineering degree at Front Range Community College.

**Families First Prevention Services Act Listening Session:** CFSD Deputy Administrator Nicole Grossberg, and Families First Project Manager Robert Cacace will present an overview of the State of Montana's plans for compliance with the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), signed into law in February of 2018. A FFPSA project status update on will be provided. Nikki and Robert will then engage the group in a listening and planning session where they will present CFSD's FFPSA compliance activities to-date and solicit comments from the group on several questions:

- What questions do you have about the Families First act, and its impact on foster care?
- What positive changes to foster care are you anticipating as a result of the Families First Act?
- What changes in the Montana foster care system would you like to see?
- What are the greatest challenges facing foster care families and youth?

# DAY TWO

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

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## BREAK OUT SESSIONS

**AM:** 8:30-10:00 and 10:15-11:45

**PM:** 1:30-3:00 and 3:15-4:45

- 8:30 - 10:00 Morning Break Out Sessions
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 Repeat of Morning Break-Out Sessions
- 11:45 AM - 1:15 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 - 3:00 Afternoon Break-Out Sessions
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15 - 4:45 Repeat of Afternoon Break-Out Sessions

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### DAY TWO - MORNING BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: 8:30-10:00 and 10:15-11:45



#### MOLLY MOLLOY

Molly is a native Montanan. She earned her B.A. and M.S.W. from the University of Montana. Molly oversees behavioral health and the Child Evaluation Center (CEC), a nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center. Before taking on this role, Molly has had experience working in politics, a hospital setting, with youth in crisis, in the schools and as a pediatric behavioral health specialist. Molly has worked with Youth Court, Family Drug Court, integrated behavioral health, suicide prevention and more. She is a certified therapist in Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and has been trained in TF-CBT, Theraplay and CF-TSI. She is currently on the leadership committee of the Community Action Team (CAT) in Butte and is working with the CAT to develop a blueprint for a trauma-

informed and resilient community. She has presented on a variety of topics including Adverse childhood experiences, vicarious trauma, adult mental health First Aid and more to a variety of groups including businesses, library staff, law enforcement, family services, first responders, teachers, medical and mental health professionals. Prior to graduate school, Molly spent time living in Washington D.C. and then in Northern Ireland working at a peace and reconciliation center.

**Trauma in the Trenches:** In recent years, we have learned more and heard more about compassion fatigue and vicarious or secondary trauma. In organizations that work with our most vulnerable populations, we are exposed to the traumatic experiences of children, families and our communities. We witness the continued struggle to meet needs when there are strained resources and when we see and hear over and over the struggles and barriers families have to make ends meet. As humans working in the helping profession, we are impacted in often deeply personal ways and this in turn can impact our organizations through absenteeism, illness, turnover and even sometimes conflict. This session will help to identify and develop concrete approaches that will help individuals and organizations be strategic in how we meet the changing and developing needs of our workforce and in turn help us be more trauma informed and empathic in how we engage with each other and the families we work with.



#### DEBBIE B. RILEY, LCMFT

Debbie is the CEO for Center for Adoption Support and Education, Inc. (C.A.S.E.), an independent, nonprofit mental health organization in the Baltimore, MD-Washington, D.C.-Albany, NY area serving the foster and adoption community and the professionals who support them. A nationally recognized adoption expert and dynamic public speaker, Ms. Riley has over 35 years of professional experience, including extensive health care management, administrative expertise, designing and developing nationally acclaimed adoption-competent programs, and direct delivery of specialized counseling services. This has afforded her the broad knowledge and nationally respected expertise needed to promote mental health training, child advocacy and public policy development.

Ms. Riley has created a continuum of innovative, culturally responsive, evidenced-informed programs to improve the mental health of foster and adopted youth and their families. She provides training and consults with national child welfare agencies on complex child welfare issues and systems of care enhancement. For over a decade she has built and implemented a framework for training an adoption competent mental health workforce nationally and is the founder of the TAC (Training for Adoption Competency Curriculum) currently taught in 17 states. TAC is listed on the California Evidenced-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC), a nationally recognized body that applies rigorous standards of review to identify effective programs.

Through a federal five-year grant awarded to C.A.S.E. in 2014 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Debbie has served as the principal investigator to establish a state-of-the-art evidence-informed adoption-competency web-based curricula, the National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative (NTI), created to build the adoption competency capacity of child welfare professionals and mental health practitioners that serve youth moving toward permanency as well as youth living in permanent adoptive or guardianship homes. The NTI was awarded a 2019 Children's Bureau 2019 Adoption Excellence Award.

Ms. Riley is the co-author of *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens*. She is a member of the C.A.S.E. team who produced the companion book, *Beneath the Mask: For Teen Adoptees*, and is a key contributor to professional publications on the subject of adoption competent mental health practice, including *Transracial and Intercountry Adoptions*, *Adoption-Specific Therapy: A Guide to Helping Adopted Children and Their Families Thrive*; *Adoption Competent Clinical Practice: Defining Its Meaning and Development*, *Adoption Quarterly*, November 2013 and *Routledge Adoption Handbook* to be released in early 2020.

**Connections Matter: Communication and Relationship with Birth Family:** Maintaining connections with birth family is important but complex. Adoptive parents' attitudes regarding the importance of their children's birth families greatly influences children's self-concept and identity. This workshop helps participants explore the many ways adoptive parents can navigate these relationships from sharing birth family history with their children, including addressing difficult information; honoring birth parents in both open and closed adoptions; as well as how to handle the potential challenges involved in search and reunion, especially in the age of social media. For families involved in open adoptions, participants learn both the benefits and challenges involved in these unique relationships, as well as how to successfully navigate the common challenges to promote positive relationships.



### JOHN SOMMERS-FLANAGAN, PHD

John is a clinical psychologist, professor of counseling at the University of Montana, and author or coauthor of over 100 publications, including eight books, numerous professional video trainings with Psychotherapy.net, Alexander Street Press, and John Wiley & Sons, and over 50 professional journal articles. Some of his books, co-written with his wife Rita, include *Tough Kids*, *Cool Counseling*, *How to Listen so Parents will Talk and Talk so Parents will Listen*, *Clinical Interviewing*, and *Counseling and Psychotherapy Theories in Context and Practice*. John is a sought-out keynote speaker and professional workshop trainer in the areas of counseling youth, working with parents, and suicide assessment. He has published many newspaper columns, op-ed pieces, and an article in *Slate*

*Magazine*. John's resource and opinion blog at [johnsommersflanagan.com](http://johnsommersflanagan.com) receives approximately 13,000 hits per month. He is also co-host of the national *Practically Perfect Parenting Podcast*. In his wild and precious spare time, John loves to run (slowly), dance (poorly), laugh (loudly) and produce home-made family music videos.

**Understanding and Preventing Suicide: What You Should Know and What You Can Do:** Since 2001, suicide rates in general and suicide rates in Montana have steadily risen. Suicide rates are now at 30+ year highs, and Montana continues to have the highest rates in the nation. This presentation will focus on emotional, psychological, social, physical, spiritual, behavioral, and contextual/cultural factors that contribute to suicide risk in youth and adults. Specific strategies for helping yourself, helping your friends and coworkers, and helping youth will be described and demonstrated.



### JULIEN NOLEN, PHD

Dr. Julien Nolen is a licensed psychologist who divides his time between private clinical practice and a faculty position at Carrol College. Dr. Nolen has accumulated more than 15 years of experience specializing in child/adolescent counseling and intervention - with a particular focus on providing services to victims of severe psychological trauma and environmental misfortune.

Throughout this time, Dr. Nolen has worked in setting ranging from maximum security corrections to small-town public schools. He is a proponent of strengths-based, compassionate intervention for even the most challenging populations, and finds equal joy working with hardened gang members and motivated kindergartners alike. Dr. Nolen incorporates multisensory, interactive participation

into each of his presentations and has shared his unique philosophy with a wide variety of organizations and school districts throughout the Western United States.

**Innovative Approaches to Trauma-Focused Therapy:** In this presentation Dr. Nolen will incorporate real-life case examples and evidence-based principals to present cutting-edge experiential interventions for trauma-exposed youth. With a combined focus on encouraging client investment, maintaining emotional safety, and facilitating life-long growth, this training demonstrates techniques ranging from therapeutic songwriting to the development of trauma-focused board games. This training is ideal for the mental health providers seeking to better circumvent client resistance, develop positive relationships, and facilitate therapeutic growth via creative and effective techniques.



### PAIGE BEARD

Paige Beard is the senior state development officer of National CASA/GAL Association. Paige is a professional with 29 years of experience working in non-profit management at the local, state and national levels. Local and state experience included senior level strategy and implementation.

Paige's professional affiliations include serving as chair for the Nebraska Child Abuse Task Force, board president of the Jefferson House - Emergency Children's Shelter and Dodge County Big Brothers/Big Sister, and work with the Nebraska Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children. Paige is also a former CASA volunteer of CASA for Lancaster County in Lincoln, NE.



### APRIL SOMMERS

April Sommers is the executive director of The Montana CASA/GAL Association supporting and advocating for 15 Montana local programs. After receiving her education at the University of Montana and Montana State University, she has dedicated 20 years of her professional life to serving nonprofits and youth as a director of nonprofits and as an educator. Along with her passion for improving the lives of Montana's children, Ms. Sommers utilizes her expertise in nonprofit development and creating positive working partnerships to guide and support Montana Local CASA/GAL programs. Ms. Sommers is fourth generation Montanan currently living in Missoula, Montana.

**CASA/GAL- Changing Children's Stories:** Learn about the role of Court Appointed Special Advocates and Guardians ad Litem in dependent and neglect (DN) cases, with focus on how CASA volunteers and GALs act as the voice of the child and provide unbiased vital information to judges to support best decisions based on the needs of the child. The presentation will also share information regarding the roles of National CASA/GAL, Montana CASA/GAL and the Montana local CASA/GAL programs. Find out how CASA/GAL works with Montana DN stakeholders/partners, and families in and outside the courtroom. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.



### RHONDA SAFFORD

Rhonda is programs manager for Reach Higher Montana's (RHM) Foundation Activities Division. She is responsible for administration of Reach Higher Montana scholarships and foster care programs. Ms. Safford received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Carroll College in Helena, MT. Ms. Safford was employed by the Montana Higher Education Student Assistance Corporation (MHESAC) for five years until she transferred with the rest of MHESAC's employees to Student Assistance Foundation (SAF). She has worked for MHESAC/SAF/RHM for 24 years in various roles, including her current employment as programs manager.

### MIKE LINCOLN

Mike Lincoln is an outreach advisor for Reach Higher Montana. He works in schools in Northwest Montana helping students with career exploration, college exploration and searching for financial aid opportunities to help students further their education and training. He is a certified career service provider. Mike received his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Montana, and his Master of Science in Education from Montana State University - Billings. He previously worked in the Montana public school system as a business teacher, coach, school counselor and school administrator.

### SYNDA SAVAGE

Synda Savage has worked for CFSD as the Chafee foster care independence program manager for the past year. She was a provider for Chafee services three years prior to working for the State. Synda has been working with youth and families for the past 20 years as a case manager, in home supports, visitations specialist, and many more. She received her Bachelor of Psychology from the University of Great Falls.

**Reach Higher Montana (RHM): Summit Changes and New Foster Care Programs:** This session will include the new format to our annual Summit, new application process and other exciting updates. RHM will cover our two new programs, the education training voucher check-in program and the state-wide career training sessions for our Montana foster youths. DPHHS will present on the independent living program. We will also have a couple foster care students share their experiences with the Montana Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and foster club all star programs and why foster care youths should consider applying for these great opportunities.

## MISTY LAPLANT

Misty is the newly appointed missing person specialist under the Montana Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation. Misty has previously served as a police officer on the Blackfeet Reservation and as a deputy sheriff of Glacier County. In addition to her law enforcement experience, Misty has an educational background in social work, addiction studies, and behavioral health. Misty has served on DUI task forces, sexual assault multi-disciplinary teams, and is currently a member of the missing indigenous person task force. Misty is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation and is proud to serve the great state of Montana. In her spare time, Misty, enjoys spending time with her family at their country home on the Blackfeet Reservation.

## BRIAN FROST

Brian graduated Capital High School in Helena, MT and attended the University of Montana Missoula. After college, Brian began a career with the Montana Highway Patrol as a communications system operator and held that position for seven years. Brian thrived in the law enforcement support field and loved the fast-paced multi-tasking environment. Brian left MHP in January of 2017 to join the Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN) and utilize his knowledge and experience in teaching others. Brian is currently a training officer for the CJIN and the Montana Missing Person Clearinghouse. Brian grew up in Helena but lives in scenic Townsend with his wife Michelle and their pets. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, bird hunting, and reading. His other full-time job is ensuring that his wife does not adopt any more animals!

## JEN VIETS

Jen has worked for the Montana Department of Justice for 25 years. She is the program manager for Montana's Criminal Justice Information Network (CJIN), has been the Montana Missing Person Clearinghouse manager since 2008 and the state AMBER Alert coordinator since 2012. Jen was honored to work with the State Tribal Relations Committee on several bills addressing missing person issues at the last legislative session. Jen is a wife, mother, and grandmother of four amazing grandsons.

**Amber Alert Training:** This presentation will review the importance of the new Missing Youth in Care protocol, identify what actions are to be taken when the Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) notifies MT Department of Justice (DOJ) of a missing youth, and will review federal legislation on responding to missing foster children and mandatory reports to the National Center for Mission and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Additionally, the role of the new missing person specialist position will be reviewed along with a look at the missing person website, where to find a current list of missing juveniles, and missing person legislation. Criteria for a Montana AMBER Alert will be defined along with resources activated and regulations that oversee the AMBER Alert process. The presentation will include a review of 4 2019 AMBER Alert case studies, review of the Washington State Child Abduction Homicide Study and 2018/2019 AMBER Alert reports, and discussion of national trends and characteristics of common offender and victim profiles. Finally, discussion will include the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) missing person file and the data required for an effective missing person record.

## LEE RYAN COSTON

Lee was born in the beautiful state of Montana, where she began her media career at the age of 18, working as a camera operator and then floor director for a live talk show and the local news.

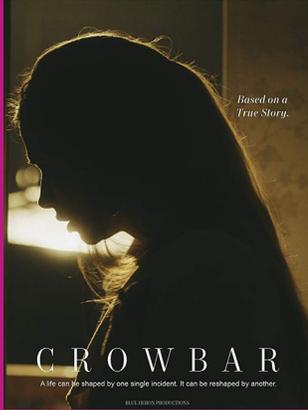
She moved on to work in radio as a copywriter, disc jockey and then accepted the position of production director. Lee won several regional awards, before she ended up in front of the camera as a television talk show host and local news anchor. This new venture garnered her several awards as "Announcer of the Year" and "Broadcaster of the Year".

Looking to broaden and expand her career in the media, Lee moved to Seattle, where she worked at various radio stations as an announcer, copywriter, talk show producer and promotions manager. When the opportunity arose, Lee accepted a position at Boeing Motion Picture and Television. She functioned as writer, producer, director, news reporter, voice talent and actress. For her efforts, she won an ITVA Silver Telly Award for an eight-part series she wrote, produced and directed. It was one of Boeing's first video productions using actors and story-lines to train and motivate.

Upon leaving Boeing, Lee formed Blue Heron Productions, where she wrote, produced and directed myriad of stage plays, taught acting at the University of Washington and Burien Community Center, all the while continuing her career as a voice talent and actor. After a short break, she set off in a different direction and produced films for Microsoft and other Seattle companies.

In 2012, she angled Blue Heron Productions towards Indie films and has written dozens of short, directed several films and continues acting and recording voice overs and commercials.

## Crowbar: Film Screening and Q/A with Director



Lee Ryan Coston is the writer/director of the film short "CROWBAR" and has this to say, "Everyone needs what I call a Crowbar Moment, where someone stands between you and physical or emotional harm. At that instant, you come to believe that you are safe, valued and loved."

In far too many incidents, children are not given the love and attention that they deserve, so they go searching to fulfill that life-sustaining need. Predators can spot that hungry hollow look from a mile away. 'If a child feels no value, he or she will become a victim. Statistics prove it to be true'. Sexual molestation and trafficking have reached astronomical numbers: in every little town, in every big city and in every country. The numbers are growing.

In CROWBAR, a lonely young girl stumbles around her neighborhood, hoping to find a friend. Friendship is not what she is offered. Still hungry, as a teenager, she allows abuse in exchange for cheap friendships and counterfeit love, until an unexpected heroine steps forward and offers that 'Crowbar Moment' and changes her life forever. Why "Crowbar"? You'll find out in the film.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS HALF-DAY SESSION WILL RUN FROM 8:30 TO 11:45 AM.

DAY TWO - AFTERNOON BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: 1:30-3:00 AND 3:15-4:45

## DEBBIE B. RILEY, LCMFT

**We are Still Family: Supporting Relationships Between Separated Siblings:** In foster care and adoption, one of the deeply sad and harsh realities is that biological siblings are often unable to live and grow up together for a variety of reasons. This workshop explores the importance of sibling relationships; children's experience of sibling relationships when separated; and what parents and professionals can do to create, sustain and promote healthy sibling relationships within the challenge of separation.

## JOHN SOMMERS-FLANNAGAN, PHD

**Engaging and Working Effectively with Parents:** Engaging and working with parents can be particularly challenging. Because parents are picky consumers and often the targets of criticism, they can be naturally defensive to outside input on how to parent. What this means is that even when you're trying your best to be helpful, sometimes parents will resist your excellent advice. In this presentation, we will review general principles for engaging parents. Specific strategies for how to talk so parents will listen will be emphasized.

## JULIEN NOLEN, PHD

**Seeing the Strength: Identifying and Fostering Resilience in Trauma-Exposed Youth:** In this presentation, Dr. Nolen engages participants in practicing strength-based assessment and intervention strategies in order to better understand and support trauma-exposed youth. Drawing upon his own experience working in maximum security corrections, Dr. Nolen describes how to maintain compassion for even the most challenging clients - as well as how to encourage their efforts toward a positive future. This is an engaging and interactive presentation which is ideal for those wishing to strengthen their skills, better understand challenging clients, and overcome burnout or compassion fatigue.

## SYNDA SAVAGE (with Student Foster Youth Panel Members)

**Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Policy of Rights Presentation: Know your Rights as a Foster Youth:** The Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will present the Policy of Rights workshop that they created in 2019 addressing the Rights of Foster Youth in Montana. The YAB proposed changes to the Policy of Rights for foster youth and were able to implement their thoughts and ideas to update the current Policy of Rights for foster youth. Making these changes created the Workshop that the YAB will be presenting. The YAB wants to educate others about foster youth rights and to advocate for other foster youth that are in foster care or that have aged out of care. The public will learn why youth's rights are important to them based on their foster care life experience.



## BARB CLARK

Barb Clark attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a B.I.S. in Youth Studies, Sociology and English. She has spent over 25 years working with at-risk youth in public schools and the non-profit sector. Barb and her husband are the parents of four adopted children, the oldest of whom is diagnosed with a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Barb works at the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and provides training around the continent on trauma-informed parenting, post adoption support, parent support groups and various topics. She also provides training and consulting with schools, agencies and families to improve the education and lives of young people who were prenatally exposed to drugs and alcohol and are either

diagnosed or suspected of having an FASD.



## JEFF AND EMMY ORT

Jeff and Emmy direct Camp Promise, a summer camp and various outreaches, for people with special needs. With over 25 years of experience serving children, youth and adults with a variety of special needs, they have been blessed to serve this often overlooked but valuable part of our communities. They have been parents for 20 years, of which the last 10 have included fostering and adopting. The seven "Ortlings" who have become a permanent part of their family range in age from seven to 20. Their children's needs have prompted them to become better aware of several issues faced by many foster and adopted children, including Native American cross-cultural adoption and FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). As they navigate the services available for their son

with significant physical needs, resulting from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in infancy, they have gained experience in advocating within and coordinating with multiple state agencies. They continue to seek ways to come alongside other foster, kinship and adoptive families to share encouragement to those who are standing in the gap for vulnerable children. To that end, they received certification from the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) in parent leader training and exploring solutions in adoption and foster care. They are part of the team seeking to improve support for foster and post-adoptive families in northwest Montana.

### **Got Support? Parenting Children with Trauma Histories is Hard Work and Parents Need to Lean on Each Other:**

Foster, adoptive and kinship parents can often feel very isolated and struggle with understanding their children's behaviors and how to respond to them. Support groups can help parents find new tools to deal with behaviors, alleviate isolation, bring hope and allow parents to find humor in some of the challenging moments. Parents and professionals are invited to learn effective ways to provide adoptive, foster, and kinship families with information and support through in-person groups. Friends and family cannot understand some of the unique situations you will find yourself in while raising children with a trauma history (including in-utero trauma). One of the most important tools to help you succeed and thrive, is to find support from people with lived experience. Come learn some of the basics on how to start up support groups, how to keep them going and how to find and give support on this journey. Support groups are a great form of self-care which is crucial to successful parenting.



## ERIC ARZUBI, MD

Eric Arzubi, MD, a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, considers himself an advocate first and a physician second. He is an assistant clinical professor at the Yale Child Study Center, where he completed his training in 2013. He has been in Montana since then, leading the Department of Psychiatry at the Billings Clinic for nearly five years where he pushed for the launch of the state's first psychiatry residency training program and of the state's first emergency psychiatry observation unit. In that time, he also served as president of the Big Sky Regional Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, sat on the board of the Childwise Institute, and worked as part of the Governor's Healthcare Innovation Council.

In November of last year, Dr. Arzubi left Billings Clinic to better focus on his purpose: accelerating access to high quality psychiatric care for all Montanans. To that end, he started a consulting practice, launched a telepsychiatry service, and joined the board of Prevent Child Abuse Montana. Over the last six months, he uncovered a passion for expert witness and forensic work related to legal cases that involve child abuse and neglect. He is committed to fighting for the best interests of Montana's children.

**Best Interests of the Child: Why it Always Has to be About the Child:** "Beyond the Best Interests of the Child", the first in a trilogy of books, was published 47 years ago. This seminal collection, which includes "Before the Best Interests of the Child" and "In the Best Interests of the Child", has become the foundation for countless child placement decisions across this country. The original works were updated and consolidated into one book in 1996 by three of the four surviving authors, namely Joseph Goldstein, Albert J. Solnit, and Sonja Goldstein. Anna Freud, the fourth original author, was the youngest daughter of Sigmund Freud.



## JEFF FOLSOM

Jeff cares about kids and families. He is recognized for his solution-focused approach in leadership roles shaping state policy, reducing systemic barriers to delivering behavioral health care, improving access and promoting the quality of care for Montana’s children and families.

His work advocating for family well-being and social justice has touched every level of our systems. Jeff has spent over a decade on the front lines providing direct care services in a variety of treatment settings. From night shifts to family therapist to leading through supervisory roles and executive management success for Jeff means providing quality care by identifying deficiencies, meeting needs and cultivating systems. His dual qualifications in law and clinical social work foster

leadership in operations, policy and advocacy.

Jeff is currently the policy and special projects director for the Center for Children, Families and Workforce Development at the University of Montana, promoting the use of education, research and data in evidence-based policy making. In addition, as president of Folsom Strategies, LLC, Jeff provides consultation and strategic leadership as a catalyst for organizational growth and improvement.

## ROBERT CACACE

Robert has more than 25 years’ experience using business and technology skills to solve problems in the private, non-profit and state government sectors. He has held positions as chief information officer, IT director, technology infrastructure director it portfolio manager, and business analyst. He has worked as an independent consultant since 2014. From 2017 to 2019, Robert consulted with the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families on its Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) analysis and planning project. As project leader, he delivered a feasibility study, impact analysis, financial planning document, and product road map. Robert also authored the Wisconsin annual interim advance planning document (IAPD) in 2018. He started the CCWIS Navigator national discussion group in 2017 to bring together practice and process professionals from across the country to share their CCWIS planning efforts and best child welfare information system practices.

As Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) planning and implementation project manager for the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Child and Families Services Division (CFSD), Robert is managing a project to analyze the FFPSA as it impacts Montana and make the necessary changes to ensure compliance with the act by its October 2021 deadline. He is creating a visual road map for Montana’s child welfare practices, and an executable project plan to address the multiple work-streams that will be required to achieve a successful transition to complete Families First Act conformity. The current planning phases will progress through March of 2020 and will lead to implementation projects through October of 2021. His work will include multiple stakeholder planning sessions, extensive documentation, and the delivery of long-term planning process to help guide child and family welfare practice improvements into the future.

Robert lives with his wife Ann, three dogs, one cat, and a blue and gold macaw in Thornton, CO. Ann and Robert have two adult children who live in Colorado and Wisconsin. He loves to cook, garden, hike, read, and is active in animal rescue organizations. He studied political science at Hunter College in New York and is currently working on an environmental engineering degree at Front Range Community College.



## HEIDI LESTER

Heidi is the program manager for the MT Kinship Navigator Program (previously known as Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project). Heidi joined the Navigator Program after 2 years in the Bozeman school district as an early childhood curriculum specialist and social emotional development coach. Born and raised in Montana, she has spent the past 20 years serving the needs of Montana’s children and families in a variety of capacities, including public school teacher, small business owner, and a multitude of non-profit organizations focusing on mental health, early childhood education, family support, social justice, and overall well-being of our beautiful communities. When not working or advocating for children and families of every kind – Heidi loves to

paint, hike, strum on the guitar, and hang out with her husband, Peter, children Jeremy and Erika, and four feline family members. Heidi is excited to be a part of this exciting and innovative program expansion – families are our future!

### **Families First Prevention Services Act: Opportunities for Children and Families in Montana:**

CFSD Deputy Administrator Nicole Grossberg, Director of Policy and Special Projects, Center for Children Families and Workforce Development Jeff Folsom, Kinship Navigator Program Manager Heidi Lester, and Families First Project Manager Robert Cacace will present an overview of the State of Montana’s plans for compliance with the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), signed into law in February of 2018. They will explain the Montana Department of Public Health, Child & Family Services Division’s (CFSD) overall approach towards compliance with the FFPSA and the integration of FFPSA requirements into CFSD’s practice planning. Pertinent aspects of the Kinship Navigator Program will be shared, a practice road map will be discussed, and the timeline of CFSD’s Families First Planning

& Implementation Project will be presented. A status update on FFPSA compliance activities will be provided. The presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer session.



## TURQUOISE DEVEREAUX

Turquoise is part of the Salish and Blackfeet tribes of Montana. She was born and raised on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Western Montana and now resides in Phoenix, Arizona. Turquoise works with students, organizations, and institutions on resiliency, diversity, equity, inclusion, and trauma-informed approaches to support Native American, low-income, and first-generation achievement in rural and urban settings. Turquoise works at the intersections of direct support to students, conducting organizational process consulting, program evaluation, and training for school staff, teachers/faculty, administrators, and community members in tribal and non-tribal educational and community settings. Turquoise has worked in many different capacities to ensure culturally safe spaces for Native American communities in all settings at local, state and regional levels. Turquoise was the Montana Indian Education Association's American Indian Support Staff of the Year Award in 2017. She earned her Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Montana and her Master of Social Work at Arizona State University.

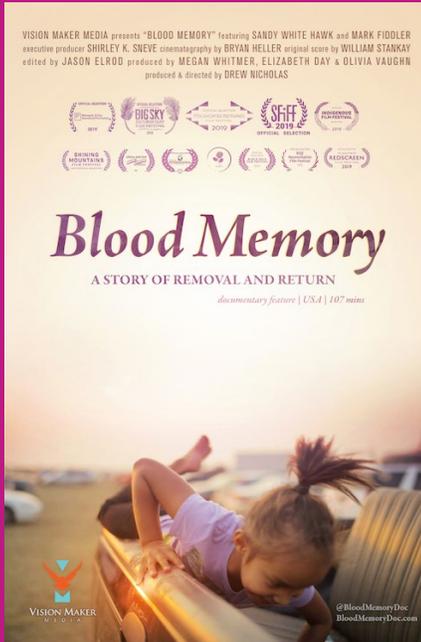


## DREW NICHOLAS

Drew is a filmmaker who works at the intersection of community and cinema. As a co-founder of the film collective In Medias Res, he produced video content that helped raise over \$420,000 to preserve the Pittsburgh community landmark Kraynick's Bike Shop. With the support of Vision Maker Media, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Pittsburgh Foundation/Heinz Endowments, Drew directed/produced his feature documentary debut, BLOOD MEMORY, which won the Audience Choice Award at Kansas International Film Festival and was an official selection of Big Sky Documentary Film Fest, Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Fest, and Santa Fe Independent Film Fest, among others. BLOOD MEMORY will have its broadcast premiere on the World Channel's America ReFramed in 2020. In addition to independent filmmaking, Drew also works as a location scout/manager on industry productions such as the Netflix original series "Mindhunter" and Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight Rises". He earned a B.A. in Cinema and Digital Arts from Point Park University and studied creative writing/poetry at Naropa University.

## SUSAN DEVAN HARNESS, MA

Susan is the author of *Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption*, released by University of Nebraska Press October 1, 2018, is a member of the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes as well as an American Indian transracial adoptee. Ms. Harness has written and presented extensively about American Indian assimilation policies, including child placement, both nationally and internationally. Her research in cultural anthropology at Colorado State University resulted in her first book, *Mixing Cultural Identities through Transracial Adoption: Outcomes of the Indian Adoption Project (1958-1967)*, which examined issues and outcomes of American Indian children who had been placed into Euro-American homes. Ms. Harness holds an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology as well as an M.A. in Creative Nonfiction Writing, both from Colorado State University. Ms. Harness is an affiliate with the Department of Anthropology at Colorado State University.



### Blood Memory: Film Screening and Panel:

Battles over blood quantum and 'best interests' resurface the untold history of America's Indian Adoption Era - a time when nearly one-third of children were removed from tribal communities nationwide. As political scrutiny over Indian child welfare intensifies, an adoption survivor helps others find their way home through song and ceremony.

For Sandy White Hawk, the story of America's Indian Adoption Era is not one of saving children but of destroying tribes and families. At 18 months, Sandy was removed from her Sicangu Lakota relatives and taken to live with a Christian missionary couple 400 miles away, where her skin color and cultural heritage were rejected. She grew up void of kinship and familial support, feeling ugly, alone and unworthy of love. Her adoption, which she later found to be part of a nationwide assimilative movement that targeted American Indian children, defined her and took much of her adult life to overcome. Reconnection with her Lakota community empowered Sandy to help other Adoption Era survivors restore their cultural identity through song and ceremony.

While Sandy works to address this intergenerational wound, a buzz begins to form around Mark Fiddler - a private adoption attorney and member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Mark was catapulted to national recognition for his involvement in the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*, which challenged modern implications of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) - a law passed in 1978 to halt the removals of Sandy's generation and keep Indian children in Indian homes whenever possible. Despite being a former proponent of the Act, Mark now finds himself positioned to strike ICWA from the books.

In this struggle to shape the future of tribal child welfare, Mark puts heritage on trial as Sandy helps organize the first annual Welcome Home Ceremony for adopted and foster relatives of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe - the community from which she was removed over 60 years ago.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS HALF-DAY SESSION WILL RUN FROM 1:30 TO 4:45 PM.*

## DAY THREE Thursday, April 2, 2020

**SPEAKERS** Daniella Rin Hover, Dan Siegel, MD

Breakfast (own your own)

8:30 - 10:00 Keynote: Daniella Rin Hover: Cultivating Self-Esteem Amid Adversity and Trauma

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:45 Keynote: Dan Siegel, MD: An Interpersonal Neurobiology Perspective on Trauma, Child Development and Well-Being Integrating "Me" with "We"

1:00-3:00 Break-out Session: Dan Siegel, MD: An Interpersonal Neurobiology Perspective on Trauma, Child Development and Well-Being Integrating "Me" with "We"



## DANIELLA RIN HOVER

In spite of the many difficulties throughout her life journey, Daniella has kept striving. She navigated teenage parenthood, achieved legal immigration status and citizenship, and continues to pursue her educational goals. She actively takes part in advocating for changes in the foster care system, sharing her story as an advocate for foster care reform. As a participant in the 2019 “Broken Places” documentary film and 2004 “Aging Out” documentary film, she has presented keynote addresses at national outreach events, public broadcasting stations and youth/independent living events.

She recently began independently consulting to share these facilitation and public speaking skills. Additionally, she volunteers in the environmental justice movement, works to support medical care for immigrant communities and is involved in NYC Medical Reserve Corps as a volunteer leader and CERT Emergency Preparedness programs for New York City communities.

Daniella lives and works in metro New York City and continues to attend Hunter College studying Cultural Anthropology. Currently, facilitating conversations and presentations on topics covered in and as outreach for the films, she continues to be available for foster care reform/advocacy campaigns and has plans for a book of memoirs. Legally separated, she is co-parenting two teenagers: Elijah, 17, who is attending college in Indiana and Skye, 15, a high school sophomore at a prestigious specialized high school in New York City.

**Cultivating Self-Esteem Amid Adversity and Trauma:** Arguably, a healthy sense of self and worth are crucial in the proverbial toolbox of life.

Trauma can corrode one’s sense of self. Healthy self-esteem creates a barrier, aiding in compartmentalizations versus internalizing the experience or becoming a victim of it through internalization, replication or institutionalization. Through positive childhood experience, other grounding experiences in day to day interactions with others and via formal organizations that foster group involvement and congregation, an individual has the ability to cultivate self-esteem.

Daniella will share her own journey including insights from within the immigration and foster care systems and as part of a military family, along with commentary on public policy that has been effective and where there are areas of opportunity.



## DAN SIEGEL, MD

Daniel J. Siegel received his medical degree from Harvard University and completed his postgraduate medical education at UCLA with training in pediatrics and child, adolescent and adult psychiatry. He served as a National Institute of Mental Health Research Fellow at UCLA, studying family interactions with an emphasis on how attachment experiences influence emotions, behavior, autobiographical memory and narrative.

Dr. Siegel is a clinical professor of psychiatry at the UCLA School of Medicine and the founding co-director of the Mindful Awareness Research Center at UCLA. An award-winning educator, he is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and recipient of several honorary fellowships. Dr. Siegel is also the executive director of the Mindsight Institute, an educational organization, which offers online learning and in-person seminars that focus on how the development of mindsight in individuals, families and communities can be enhanced by examining the interface of human relationships and basic biological processes. His psychotherapy practice includes children, adolescents,

adults, couples, and families. He serves as the medical director of the LifeSpan Learning Institute and on the Advisory Board of the Blue School in New York City, which has built its curriculum around Dr. Siegel’s Mindsight approach.

Dr. Siegel has published extensively for the professional audience. He is the author of numerous articles, chapters, and the internationally acclaimed text, *The Developing Mind: How Relationships and the Brain Interact to Shape Who We Are* (2nd. Ed., Guilford, 2012). This book introduces the field of interpersonal neurobiology and has been utilized by a number of clinical and research organizations worldwide. Dr. Siegel serves as the founding editor for the Norton Professional Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology which contains nearly 70 textbooks. *The Mindful Brain: Reflection and Attunement in the Cultivation of Well-Being* (Norton, 2007) explores the nature of mindful awareness as a process that harnesses the social circuitry of the brain as it promotes mental, physical, and relational health. *The Mindful Therapist: A Clinician’s Guide to Mindsight and Neural Integration* (Norton, 2010), explores the application of focusing techniques for the clinician’s own development, as well as their clients’ development of mindsight and neural integration. *Pocket Guide to Interpersonal Neurobiology: An Integrative Handbook of the Mind* (Norton, 2012), explores how to apply the interpersonal neurobiology approach to developing a healthy mind, an integrated brain, and empathic relationships. The

New York Times bestseller *Mind: A Journey to the Heart of Being Human* (Norton, 2016) offers a deep exploration of our mental lives as they emerge from the body and our relations to each other and the world around us. His New York Times bestseller *Aware: The Science and Practice of Presence* (Tarcher/Perigee, 2018) provides practical instruction for mastering the Wheel of Awareness, a life-changing tool for cultivating more focus, presence, and peace in one's day-to-day life. Dr. Siegel's publications for professionals and the public have been translated into over 40 languages.

Dr. Siegel's book, *Mindsight: The New Science of Personal Transformation* (Bantam, 2010), offers the general reader an in-depth exploration of the power of the mind to integrate the brain and promote well-being. He has written five parenting books, including the three New York Times bestsellers *Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain* (Tarcher/Penguin, 2014); *The Whole-Brain Child: 12 Revolutionary Strategies to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind* (Random House, 2011) and *No-Drama Discipline: The Whole-Brain Way to Calm the Chaos and Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind* (Bantam, 2014), both with Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D., *The Yes Brain: How to Cultivate Courage, Curiosity, and Resilience in Your Child* (Bantam, 2018) also with Tina Payne Bryson, Ph.D., and *Parenting from the Inside Out: How a Deeper Self-Understanding Can Help You Raise Children Who Thrive* (Tarcher/Penguin, 2003) with Mary Hartzell, M.Ed.

Dr. Siegel's unique ability to make complicated scientific concepts exciting and accessible has led him to be invited to address diverse local, national and international groups including mental health professionals, neuroscientists, corporate leaders, educators, parents, public administrators, healthcare providers, policy-makers, mediators, judges, and clergy. He has lectured for the King of Thailand, Pope John Paul II, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Google University, and London's Royal Society of Arts (RSA). He lives in Southern California with his family.

**An Interpersonal Neurobiology Perspective on Trauma, Child Development and Well-Being Integrating "Me" with "We":** Interpersonal neurobiology draws on a wide range of scientific, contemplative, and artistic disciplines to provide an interdisciplinary view of the human mind and the development of well-being. By viewing health—within an individual, relationship, or group—as emerging from the process of integration (the linkage of differentiated parts) we will explore how the rigidity and chaos of many mental disorders are examples of impaired integration. From this perspective, the keynote will further explore underlying concepts including: aspects of systems that underpin psychological well-being (secure attachment, mindfulness meditation, and effective psychotherapy); how trauma within families in the form of neglect or abuse can shape the ways in which the brain develops and the mind arises; and ways in which therapeutic interventions can harness the power of neuroplasticity, or how the brain changes in response to experience.

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## DAN SIEGEL, MD

**An Interpersonal Neurobiology Perspective on Trauma, Child Development and Well-Being Integrating "Me" with "We":** This afternoon break-out session will be a follow-up to Dr. Siegel's morning keynote, allowing attendees a notable opportunity for further and in-depth exploration of the topics discussed in the keynote and a more personal interaction with Dr. Siegel.

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### GREEN NOTE

**In an effort to conserve resources, handouts for the 2020 conference will be provided via USB thumb drive only—there will be no hard copy/paper handouts.**