

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Tuesday March 7, 2023
Opening Session
9:30 am-10:30 am
Welcome & Meet 'n Greet
Morning Snack

Tuesday March 7, 2023
Workshop A
10:40 am -12:40 pm

A-1 Honoring you: How to Handle the Difficulties Caregivers Face While Raising Traumatized Children

Presenter: **Helene Timpone LCSW**

Let's take a couple of hours to care for you! As a therapist and an adoptive parent, I truly do understand taking care of others and its importance. When I forget the most important person - me -- life seems to provide reminders. Our immune system goes under attack and we fall ill; emotionally we feel taxed and drained; we lose sleep; and/or we can feel angst, frustrated or flat. Mostly, you lose your JOY!

Let's figure out the why: Why this happens and what prevents us from taking care of the most important person -- ourselves! Then let's spend some time obtaining the tools to release stress and negative emotions. Let's move into our Joy!

A-2 ABC's of Parenting Teens

Presenter: **Debbie Jenson-Davis, MA**

This workshop will explore what teens in out of home care may need and want from positive caring adults. Teen brain development is impacted by trauma that they have experienced, they think and act the way they do for many reasons, it's important to remember they are still kids and learning/yearning to become independent. Discussion on how resource parents and other adults in the lives of teens must pay attention to building their self-esteem, confidence, and decision-making skills. In addition to life skills, teens need belongingness, social skills, accountability, structure, and unconditional positive regard. Lastly, how to support and love them when they are at their most unlovable.

A-3 Understanding & Supporting Diversity

Presenter: **Sebrenia Saunders**

How do we empower children and youth to be aware and understand diversity in and out of their communities? How do we inspire them to step out of the box to educate themselves and embrace additional ethnicities, gender identities, persons with disabilities and different socioeconomic backgrounds? How do we answer questions about equity and inclusion or racism? How do we encourage and uplift children to celebrate their unique and authentic selves? Well, let's start here in this communicative space to learn. We will provide the room for growth, a glossary of terms, interactive activities, and transferable experiences as tools for your diversity tool kit.

A-4 Understanding Domestic Violence & Interpersonal Violence

Presenter: **Natalie Oleas**

& Reina Sandoval-Beverly

This workshop will Broadly define domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking and stalking. Identify safety risks, including lethality assessment and strangulation & potential protective factors. Introduce public health approach as a means of preventing IPV. ACEs and the Impact of trauma on children

Tuesday March 7, 2023

Luncheon

12:50 pm - 2:20 pm

2022 year in review
Solano & Napa County

Neely McElroy,
CWS Deputy Director Solano County

Veronia Pipper-Jefferson
CWS Deputy Director Napa County

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Tuesday March 7, 2023
Workshop B
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

B-1 Building Long Lasting Relationships with Youth

Presenter: **Greg Begin**

In this session we will look at what makes for enduring relationships and how to bring that awareness to our work with the children we care for. The need for lifelong connections cannot be overstated. It is also worth pointing out the things remembered here (I believe we already know) will be relevant to all our relationships.

B-2 When Faith Meets Trauma Recovery

Presenter: **Alexis & Justin Black**

We will use the *Redefining Normal Faith-Based Companion Guide* to show how we can utilize our gifts, abilities and resources to cultivate thriving communities that operate outside the lens of trauma through a faith-based lens.

B-3 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs) & Prenatal Drug Exposer

Presenter: **Trudy Emanuelson-Scampini MA, MFT**

Trainer discusses the prevalence of foster infants exposed to drugs and/or alcohol in utero and the negative effects that prenatal exposure to illicit drugs and alcohol have on developing infants. Trainer discusses public education campaigns that

emphasize the harm done by using alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs during pregnancy. Some States consider prenatal exposure to be evidence of child abuse or neglect, whereas others do not. Hospitals do not usually provide CPS or other State agencies with data on the total number of infants tested at birth, results of the tests, or referrals to CPS. California practices on the side of child abuse and neglect. Trainer examines the severity of consequences for the child can depend on how much the mother uses and at what time during pregnancy. Each substance reacts differently in the mother's body and can affect the baby in different ways, but outcomes run the gamut of affecting intelligence, attention, higher-level executive functions like problem-solving, and language, as well as academic achievement, emotional functioning, behavior regulation, and the child's own future drug use. Here are some examples

B-4 What is Calling Out Culture?

Presenter: **Sebrenia Saunders**

In this workshop will discuss the cause and effect of the Calling Out Culture on society and it's outcome on children and youth. We will focus on how to counteract these events by applying practical skills that engage and encourage children and youth to self-advocate, support and positively lean into the Calling In Culture. Examples, strategies and exercises of both practices will be provided, to gain a clearer understanding of real intentions and to provide better opportunities for self-reflection and personal development. Resources will also be provided to help in the development of these valuable life skills.

Tuesday March 7, 2023
Workshop C
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

C-1 Raising Resilient Children

Presenter: **Christian Mendoza**

Children's emotional resilience, or ability to cope with their feelings, is important to their long term happiness, wellbeing and success in life. Emotional resilience involves 6 key skills: recognizing and accepting feelings, expressing feeling appropriately, having a positive outlook, developing effective ways of coping, being able to deal with negative feelings, and being able to manage stressful like events. We will discuss ideas to help children become emotionally resilient.

C-2 (SPANISH) Raising Resilient Children

Presenter: **Martha Suarez**

La resiliencia emocional de los niños, o la capacidad para hacer frente a sus sentimientos es importante para la felicidad a largo plazo, bienestar y éxito en la vida. Presentare seis componentes basicos que ayudara en desarrollar la resiliencia emocional.

C-3 & C-4next page

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

C-3 Exploring Foster Care & Adoption

Presenter: **Tyffany Wanberg**

Do you ever get asked things like: How do I become a Resource Parent? What if I want to Adopt? What is the process? Where do I start? How long does it take? Maybe you have some of these questions too. Bring a friend, prizes will be given. Invite your friends, family and anyone interested in being a resource parent to learn the answers to these questions and more. This is a relaxed, no pressure workshop. Did we say there will be prizes for bringing a friend?

C-4 Communication Through Storytelling

Presenter: **Greg Begin**

Communication is so important, yet so challenging. Storytelling is a communication style that can be very effective with Children & Youth in Care.

Wednesday
March 8, 2023
Morning Resource Sharing
9:30 am – 10:30 am
Morning Snack

Wednesday March 8, 2023
Workshop D
10:40 am – 12:40 pm

D-1 Redefining, Rethinking, Reflecting on Relationships and Intentional Support for Foster Youth

Presenter: **Alexis & Justin Black**

This workshop discusses strategies and techniques developed by foster care alumni, Justin and Alexis Black, as they combined the information they've learned from healthy foster parents, counselors, advocates, and ultimately their lived experience. They discuss the necessary resources that caregivers and advocates need to surround themselves with in order to be a positive partner in the lives of youth.

D-2 Faith-Based

Community Round Table

Presenter: **FKCE-SCC & Solano County**

Solano has an amazing community of faith. This is an opportunity for our faith based community to come together and share what is working, what are the challenges, new ideas and discuss next steps.

D-3 Understanding & Supporting Trauma

Presenter: **Nola Brantley**

Working with foster youth can be challenging given the generational patterns of trauma, poverty, incarceration, etc. So, it's essential for providers to understand trauma and generational trauma and to work with foster youth from an individual and generational perspective. Providers will learn strategies to support youth with individual and generational patterns of trauma.

D-4 Placement Practices & ?'s to Ask

Presenter: **Tyffany Wanberg, Denise Manual**

Come learn how Solano County Child Welfare placement practices work. Emergency, relative, concurrent & many types of homes are needed for youth in care. What questions should you ask when the call comes? Bring your questions as well.

Wednesday March 8, 2023
Luncheon
12:50 pm – 2:20 pm
Keynote; Nola Brantley
Caring for Yourself
While Caring for Others

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Wednesday March 8, 2023
Workshop E
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

E-1 Applying Harm Reduction Strategies & The Stages of Change Model with Commercially Sexually Exploited Children & Youth

Presenter: **Nola Brantley**

Commercial Sexual Exploitation is a horrific form of abuse that impacts too many foster care youth. In this workshop participants will learn two practices that can be applied when caring for commercially sexually exploited children and youth. These are two practices that truly allow us to work from a trauma informed, client centered perspective and to meet children and youth where they are at.

E-2 Turning Dreams into Degrees

Presenter: **Solano County Office of Ed.**

Encouraging youth to reach their full potential can be exhausting, yet very rewarding. Watching our youth succeed is such an amazing part of caregiving. This discussion will include: How do we encourage youth to dream up a future? How can we support that dream? What resources are available? How are they accessed? And more.

E-3 Punishment vs Discipline: What Doesn't Work with Attachment Challenged & Traumatized Children.

Presenter: **Helene Timpone, LCSW**

What do you do when setting limits turns into power struggles, parental exhaustion, and/or a lack of compliance from a child? Have you ever experienced feeling hopeless or frustrated after seeing or experiencing a child's reactions? Felt lost when consequences create more behaviors or no results?

Here we will explore the difference between punishing and disciplining a child; learn when the most effective time to teach a child is; and how to discipline in a way that heals the root cause of the behavior. Here you will be given a minimum of 10 new interventions. Please bring your questions and the most difficult behaviors you are dealing with.

E-4 (SPANISH)

RFA+ Discipline & Trauma

Presenter: **Diana Rosales**

We will focus on how trauma can effect disciple & what discipline doesn't work with children who have experienced trauma.

Wednesday March 8, 2023
Workshop F
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

F-1 (SPANISH)

The Power of Positive Parenting

Presenter: **Martha Suarez**

El Poder de la Una Crianza Positiva

Que es la crianza positiva? cuales son los beneficios para los ninos y los padres? Discusión de los comportamiento dificil de los ninos.

Presentar las claves principales que son lo siguiente:

- Crear un ambiente seguro e interesante
- Fomentar un ambiente de aprendizaje positivo
- Usar disciplina asertiva
- Tener expectativas realistas
- Cuidarse a sí mismo

F-2 RFA+ Attachment, Trauma & Loss

Presenter: **Tyffany Wanberg,**

& Iyeisha Miller

Come learn how trauma impacts basic human development, attachment and the grief/loss process. We will explore ways that we can create a healing home for youth who have experienced trauma.

F-3 Mindfulness

.

F-4

CPR-First Aide
STARTS AT 4:45

Presenter: **Pam Graham, ABC Health & Safety**

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Thursday March 9, 2023
Morning Resource Sharing
9:30 am – 10:30 am
Morning Snack

Thursday March 9, 2023
Workshop G
10:40 am – 12:40 pm

G-1 Advancements in Brain Science:

Identifying and Healing the Invisible Injuries of Trauma.

Presenter: **Kate Messina LCSW, PhD**

Prenatal substance exposure and postnatal neglect and terror dramatically impact the way in which a new brain organizes and develops. In this workshop, participants will learn how to recognize the 'invisible injuries' of prenatal and post-natal trauma exposure that are often misdiagnosed as simply behavior problems, such as auditory, visual, and sensory processing problems, and hyper/hypo-aroused nervous systems. Participants will learn how these 'stuck points' contribute to a child or teen's challenges to successfully navigate life; who to seek help from for an accurate assessment and diagnosis, and be introduced to advanced neuroscience strategies that help to mitigate and often repair the 'stuck' points in a child's or teen's development.

G-2 RFA+ Understanding the Court & Options for Permanency

Presenter: **Tyffany Wanberg**

The dependency court process will be shared from start to permanence. Each of the permanency options will be discussed.

G-3 Control, Aggression & Defiance:

How to Work with

Trauma's most Difficult Behaviors

Presenter: **Helene Timpone LCSW**

Let's talk about why these behaviors are associated with complex trauma, examine the neuroscience behind it, and obtain an in-depth understanding of the root cause. This understanding will not only assist you in helping your child decrease the behavior, it will assist them in healing the trauma that caused it. Here we will spend time in role plays that will allow you to experience what increases the behavior and what decreases the behavior. You will gain practical experience and how-to's!

G-4 Basic Care & Unique Needs of Infants & Toddlers in Foster Care

Presenter: **Alma Woodard, MS**

Presenter will review how children have certain basic needs in common that must be provided for to ensure their optimal development and wellbeing; warmth and affection, the basic care and precautions while caring for infants in the foster care system. The training covers best practices in sleep rules, new crib standards, safety hazards and how they affect a safe sleeping environment. Training addresses feed and common health issues in infants and toddlers in Foster Care. Presenter will discuss infant/toddler development stages and milestones, well baby checkups, and immunizations. The basic side effects from prenatal drug exposure will be reviewed and how it can prevent the child from reaching age-appropriate milestones, creating significantly more health issues and caregiving demands.

Thursday March 9, 2023
Luncheon

12:50 pm – 2:20 pm

Kate Messina LCSW, PhD

Importance of the Caregiving Role in Providing a Healing Environment for Traumatized Children

Thursday March 9, 2023

Workshop H

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

H-1 Cultural Humility -

The Power of Relationships

Presenter: **Alma Woodard, MA**

The trainer will explore the role of culture in society and the reasons for the awareness and development of different cultural values, patterns, and behavior in response to society's demands when working with system involved youth and families. Participants will learn how cultural diversity is appropriate and logical in response to needs, i.e. that individuals are never "just different". Participants will continue to discuss the roles that pre-prejudice, prejudice, bigotry, and racism play psycho-dynamically as well as developmentally will help participants become aware of their own attitudes and biases with regard to diversity.

H-1, H-3, H-4 next page

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

H-2 Introduction to the WisdomPath Way Reparative Parenting Approach

Presenter: **Kate Messina LCSW, PhD**

This workshop, participants will be introduced to the WPW Reparative Parenting Approach. You will learn how to establish a 'corrective attachment experience' for trauma-affected children and teens in which the parent-child relationship is viewed as the primary relationship where children and teens can begin to heal, and mature. This workshop will focus on how to use the parenting relationship to establish In safety, rhythm, and predictability, and how to use the application of the WPW strategies of correction (not punishment) and emotion coaching to gradually help children and teens learn to live well and live well with others.

H-3 Empowerment and Motivation

Presenter: **Greg Begin**

We want our youth to be strong, self reliant individuals who have successful lives. This requires opportunity to grow and make mistakes and learn from them. Encouraging youth to develop these skills is essential and quite challenging. This class focuses on how to help youth find their power and also how to motivate youth when they seem to be uninterested in participating.

I-3

CPR-First Aide (Adults Only)

STARTS AT 4:45

Presenter: **Pam Graham, ABC Health &**

Thursday March 9, 2023

Workshop I -- Family night

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

I-1 How to Practice Self-Love & Begin Healing (Teens/caregivers)

Presenter: **Alexis & Justin Black**

Who shaped your definition of love? What habits or people contribute to your happiness and success? Oftentimes, we get overwhelmed with the idea that we need more in our lives to receive love and create success. We each have the power to create and dictate our own success and future outcomes regardless of who or what surrounds us. During this lesson, we will give you the tools you need to take the next steps toward self-love and creating your own happiness with reference to the *Redefining Normal Youth Companion Guide*.

I-2 The Arts of Home (for children with Caregiver)

Presenter: **Lacy Sczepanski & Sheila Rose** You can create great works of art from simple household items. Art & sensory play with items around the house for fun times as a family

I-4 Music, Movement & Song (for children with Caregiver)

Presenters: **Shawn Scibek D.J. ,
Quetus Langford & Rachel Fulton**
Come sing, dance & get those wiggles out!

Friday March 10, 2023

Morning Resource Sharing

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Friday March 10, 2023

Workshop J

10:40 am - 12:40 pm

J-1 Difficult Teen Girls: Effective Strategies for Dealing with Their Top Five Difficult Behaviors

Presenter: **Helene Timpone LCSW**

Teen Girls! Well... they can be difficult! When you add significant trauma, their behaviors can leave even the most seasoned parent feeling frustrated and hopeless. First, we will examine normal teen development and then what happens when you add complex trauma. More specifically, we will address/examine these five behavioral areas, possible causes, and some specific ways to intervene with the behaviors: Gossiping and bullying; isolating and withdrawing; cutting; obsessions with a love interest; and their stress sensitivity.

J-2, J-3, J-4 on next page

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

J-2 Truth & Trauma: The Bridge Between Trauma-Informed Training & Real Life Experience

Presenter: **Alexis & Justin Black**

In this session, we explore definitions often used in the social work and mental health spaces while describing what they mean and how they translate in real life scenarios and situations with those who've experienced trauma. We start the conversation of how to appropriately use these terms and how to healthily apply them.

J-3 Social Worker Priorities vs Resource Parent Priorities

Presenter: **Tyffany Wanberg, Iyiesha Miller & Jessica Weaver**

Why don't social workers return my calls? Why do caregivers call so much? Does this sound familiar? The focus of this workshop is to facilitate conversation between caregivers & social workers about how our priorities may differ, how to balance conflicting priorities while supporting relationships, and how to improve communication. For all of us the primary focus is the child and we all need each other to do our best on behalf of the children in our care. Come share your thoughts & feedback.

J-4 Working with CASA

Presenters: **CASA & Resource parent panel**

What is CASA? What is their Role? How do CASA's and Resource Parents work together for Children/Youth? Hear from others, bring your experience and ask questions.

Friday March 10, 2023

Luncheon

12:50 pm – 2:20 pm

Keynote: QPI Champions

**QPI Updates
& Next Steps**

Friday March 10, 2023

Workshop K

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

K-1 Questions & Answers

Presenter: **Alexis & Justin Black**

This is your chance to ask the questions and share comments that you didn't ask during workshop sessions and/or thoughts afterwards. We are an open book so come prepared to ask anything!

K-2 Don't Forget to Have Fun

Presenter: **Greg Begin**

We will look at how to play together, laugh tell stories and remember to take the time to enjoy life. Our youth need us to have fun with them. Our partners do too by the way. We will look at how to bring lightness into our lives. Come in and let's have a little fun.

K-3 Preventing Burnout:

**Caring for Yourself as Much as
You Care for Others**

Presenter: **Alma Woodard**

Alma will present information related to self-care as it relates to the effects of secondary trauma on caregivers and service providers to system involved youth and families. This workshop will discuss how the demands of caregiving can sometimes be exhausting and overwhelming. But there are steps you can take to rein in stress and regain a sense of balance, joy, and hope in your life. If the stress of caregiving is left unchecked, it can take a toll on your health, relationships, and state of mind - eventually leading to burnout, a state of emotional, mental, and physical exhaustion. That's why taking care of yourself isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. Cultivating your own emotional and physical well-being is just as important when caring for others..

K-4 QPI Round Table

Presenter: **Solano County QPI Champions**

This is a great opportunity to be heard and share your thoughts. Next steps will be discussed. We are all part of the Village, the Quality Parenting Initiative.

Friday March 10, 2023

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Communication Through
Music & Storytelling
With Greg Begin**

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Friday March 10, 2023

Closing Banquet

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Keynote: Alexis & Justin Black

“The Rose from Concrete”

Solano Resource Family Association

Celebration with Karaoke & Dance

**Following end of
banquet/conference**

8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Meet our amazing presenters!

Alexis Black is an award-winning, bestselling author, serial entrepreneur and Forbes Next 1000 recipient on a mission to help others create a life worth living through a company called Redefining Normal founded by her and her husband, Justin Black.

Alma Woodard, MS has been dedicated and resourceful in the field of social work for 40 years - 32 years in foster care and 8 years in mental health. In the past 32 years, she has worked various positions for mainly two non-profit agencies as Adoption Coordinator, home approver/certifier, trainer, site manager, recruiter, district administrator, case manager, and social worker. Early career worked 8 years in mental health as psychiatric technician and director of a Day Treatment Program. Accustomed to handling sensitive and confidential information. Proactive in meeting the goals of the agency by using necessary tools and skills to provide services to clients and staff. Possess MS in Guidance and Counseling, BS in Sociology with Minor in Social Work. Alma graduated from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL, and has a special gift in facilitating trainings and working with families and children.

Christian Mendoza is an accredited Triple P Parent Coach at Parents by Choice.

Debbie Jenson-Davis, MA earned her Master's degree in Psychology in 1992. In her career spanning more than 30 years, she has facilitated and supervised out-of-home care for children from infancy to adulthood. Debbie has worked with people along a wide spectrum of developmental issues, mental illnesses, trauma, and addictions. Most of her career, she served as a foster care social worker, supervisor, and program director, teaching and coaching others in the field, including foster parents. In recent years she has embraced System of Care (SOC) reforms and now gives renewed assurance to those who are in the system and to those who are newly part of the system.

Greg Begin is a social Worker for Sonoma County Department of Human Services. He has worked with youth and families for the past 40 years. He has worked in Juvenile Hall, valley of the Moon Children's home, ran the Independent living skills program for over 20 years. Greg has worked in nearly every aspect of the child welfare system and is currently a Permanent Placement Social Worker. Greg is also a father, professional storyteller, and was an instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College for over 25 years

Denise Manuel 2000-BA in Psychology, Social Science and a minor in Child Development from California State University, Chico. Began SW career in 2000 as a SW I in Trinity County, spent 2 years there before moving closer to family in the Redding area and being promoted to SWII. Remained in Tehama County, promoting to a SWIII in ER, FM/FR, PP and Placement before leaving in 2008 to work for 2 years as a Domestic Violence Shelter Manager and 3 years for Tehama County Office of Education as a Foster and Homeless Youth Services Coordinator. Met husband (city boy) and we agreed Solano would be perfect for our new life. Moved in 2014, and joined Solano County as a SWIII in ER. VCA to placement. Enjoys going on adventures with hubby and Izzy the princess fur child.

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Helene Timpone LCSW, is an internationally recognized therapist, trainer, and consultant, especially noted for her work with preteens/teens and aggression. Specializing in the areas of attachment, grief, and trauma, Helene's expertise is in empowering parents with information and techniques focused on understanding and identifying the trauma that lies beneath the child's severe behaviors, thus creating long-term healing and enhancing close, healthy relationships. Helene has been in private practice for almost 20 years, and in 2021 shifted her focus into providing POST Adoption WRAP services. She was able to merge her intensive program which focused on families with adoptive children. This program had a 94% success rate in decreasing behaviors by 50% or more when parents committed to one year of services. Peggy Smith, the CEO with Expressions of Hope, Inc., has brought Helene Timpone on to provide the Clinical Direction for the Adoption Wraparound services in Napa, Solano, Fresno and Madera counties (and their surrounding areas). Helene studied with Bryan Post for many years, published articles, CD's and other materials. Helene considers her most important part of her journey to be accompanying her adoptive daughter along in her healing journey. Finally, she obtained her Master's Degree from SUNY at Stony Brook in Long Island, NY, and is a member of the NASW.

Justin Black is serial entrepreneur, co-founder of Redefining Normal, a foster care alumni advocate as well as the co-author of the award-winning, bestselling book *Redefining Normal* and the new kid's book, *I Love You More than Cereal: Maeva and Dad Redefine Love* in honor of his new daughter. His goal is to help identify generational trauma and develop strategies for creating generational success through literature and conversation.

Jessica Weaver earned a BA in Psychology from Arizona State University in 2008 and graduated in 2021 with her MSW from Sacramento State through the Title IV-E program. Jessica began her career in Child Welfare Services in 2009 while working for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as an ER/DI social worker. Jessica moved back to California to be closer to family and joined Solano County in 2016 where she has worked in Adoptions, FM/FR, and PP/NMD. In August 2022, Jessica promoted to Supervisor in Staff Development & Training. Jessica resides in Solano County, is a proud auntie, and enjoys spending her free time going off-roading with her Jeep club.

Dr. Kate Messina has over 40 years of experience working with foster and adoptive children and families affected by early childhood adverse experiences. She is the author and trainer of the **WisdomPath Way Reparative Parenting Approach**, developed in 2012 as a response to the continued need to help trauma-affected children heal and mature. Dr. Messina believes that parents are the natural teachers and guides for children and is an advocate for the provision of ongoing coaching support for families raising trauma-informed children and teens. She serves as a consultant to the California Department of Social Services and the UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice, providing clinical assistance to various counties seeking help for foster children presenting with complex trauma. Dr. Messina is passionate about helping professionals and parents alike to better understand the 'invisible injuries' of trauma that go undetected yet underscore so many of the emotional, social, and cognitive challenges faced by trauma-affected children and adolescents. She is a graduate of Saybrook University where she received her doctorate in Psychology with an emphasis on humanistic psychology and socially engaged spirituality.

Martha Suarez, MSW graduated from SFSU and has a BA in Social/Cultural Anthropology with minors in Native American and Chicano Studies from UC Davis. She has worked in Child Welfare for the past 19 years and has recently joined Solano County as their Social Services Manager with the Community Engagement Services Section. She has experience in Emergency Response, Dependency Investigations, FM/FR, Adoptions and Licensing/RFA Programs as a Child Welfare Worker and Child Welfare Supervisor. Martha is a RFA Trainer, Lecturer at SFSU BASW program, and a Certified Triple P Practitioner. She has experience in working in Community Based Organizations prior to her child welfare career, including La Familia Counseling Services, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Spanish Speaking Unity Council, Oakland Head Start and Alameda County Health Department (CHDP).

Natalie Oleas, Central Center Director
Natalie, a California native, has worked as a survivor advocate for fifteen years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2011, where her studies centered around victim advocacy, criminal procedure, and civil rights. While living in Massachusetts, she worked as a Legal Consultant for a local Rape Crisis Center. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Santa Barbara, where she double majored in English and Sociology and worked as a Speaker for the Rape Prevention Education Program. She was a Certified Rape Crisis Counselor in California and Massachusetts. She is proud to be the coordinator for the Domestic Violence Multidisciplinary Team (DV MDT), the Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team (HT MDT), the Domestic Violence Death Review Team, the Strangulation Task Force and the Central Center's Director. She believes strongly in a holistic approach to justice and healing.

For more information and registration please go to www.FosterLuv.com All events will be at The Sunrise Event Center, 620 Orange Dr, Vacaville CA 95688

For hotel reservations at \$129. Per night. Go to Hyatt.com & use group code G-KIND or call 1-800-233-1234 & tell them "The Foster Kinship" block. Register by Feb 6 to get the \$129 Group rate

Conference registration fee: Solano & Napa residents \$35 per day / \$75 for all - Out of county residents \$50 per day / \$110 for all - limited scholarships for caregivers

Foster Kinship Care Education – Solano College – Annual Conference March 7-10, 2023

“Redefining Normal”

Neely McElroy is the Deputy Director of Child Welfare Services in Solano County. Neely is a social worker by profession, receiving her Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in Human Development and Social Policy and her Master's in Social Work (MSW) from UC Berkeley. She has over 25 years' experience working in the Child Welfare field, many of those years in leadership positions. Neely has worked for Solano County since 2019 when she was hired as the Child Welfare Administrator. She was promoted to Deputy Director in February 2022. In addition to Solano County, Neely worked in Santa Barbara and Contra Costa Counties in Child Welfare and several other community based organizations, including an Adoption and Foster Care agency. Neely strives to create a trauma-responsive organization that serves the children and families of Solano County with respect, dedication and empathy.

Nola Brantley, Founder & CEO of Nola Brantley Speaks Is best known as a nationally acclaimed advocate who has played a large role in spear-heading the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children awareness and advocate movement in the state of California since 2004. Nola has traveled the continuum of abuse that many sex trafficking victims and survivors have traveled. Nola has become nationally recognized as a powerful voice for the issue of child sex trafficking through her moving and information packed public speaking. Currently Nola is working as a child sex trafficking subject matter expert and sought after master-trainer through consultancy company Nola Brantley Speaks where she has trained over 250,000 professionals and community members to date.

Quetus Langford was born & raised in the former Rubber City Capitol of the World, Akron, OH. After I graduated with my Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology from Otterbein College in Westerville, OH, I set my sights on the Bay Area, CA in 2008. Over the next 6 years, I built my expertise within mental health & psychiatric medication treatment with various non-profit agencies in the area then transitioned in social services for both Alameda County & Contra Costa County for 3 years. In 2018, I felt that best way for me give thanks to my community was to become a Social Worker with Solano County Child Welfare Services Department. As a Parent-Child Coach/Visitation Social Worker, it seems as the best position ever, to watch over a family as they lovingly bond with one another.

Rachel Fulton I was born and raised in the Bay Area but moved to Butte County for college and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. I facilitated Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) groups in the Butte County Jail for 3.5 years before entering the world of Social Work in September of 2018. Realizing I enjoyed social work and having a new appreciation for the importance of family, my husband and I moved back to the Bay Area and I joined Solano County Child Welfare Services in October of 2019. Although the majority of my time as a Social Worker has been working to help families reunify, I recently transitioned to the Permanency Assessment Unit (formerly known as Adoptions) to help youth who were unable to reunify with their parents achieve the level of permanency that is best for each youth's needs.

Reina Sandoval-Beverly is the incoming Director for the Solano Family Justice Center. A Consultant and Trainer with county and national organizations. Reina has been an advocate and activist since 1988. She is recognized as an effective trainer, facilitator and for curriculum development and implementation. Committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and families impacted by intimate partner violence. Specializing in working with individuals who've caused harm, restorative justice practices and survivor advocacy.

Sebrenia Saunders is an Advocate Supervisor with Yolo County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). She has worked for the organization for several years. Sebrenia serves as a Co-Chair for the California Court Appointed Special Advocates Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. She is also a Senior Certified Trainer for the California School-Age Consortium, an Integrated Arts Learning Specialist and she facilitates Theatre of the Oppressed workshops. Sebrenia is passionate about working with children and youth. She has worked in various capacities for over 25 years with Girls Inc. the YMCA, and the City of Vacaville in the supervision of at-risk children and youth from the ages of 5-18. Sebrenia enjoys creating spaces that engage and encourage communities from various backgrounds to recognize and appreciate each other's diversities.

Trudy Emanuelson-Scampini MA, AMFT was a Resource Parent for 16 years, is an adoptive parent and has worked within the Child Welfare system as a Social Worker and Social Work supervisor for the fast 23 years. Trudy has been teaching classes for FKCE for more than 20 years presenting a variety of tiling including the Resource Family Approval Training. Trudy is certified in Triple P Positive Parenting, Wisdom Pathways Reparative Parenting and the Safe And Sound Protocol (Integrative Listening Systems).