



CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
— OF CALIFORNIA —



**CPOC'S 2022 FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE
BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE**



MAY 23-24, 2022 | HYATT REGENCY SACRAMENTO



AGENDA

CPOC'S 2022 FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

8:00am **REGISTRATION**

➤ *Regency Foyer*

9:00am – 9:15am **WELCOME**

Chief Esa Ehmen-Krause, Contra Costa County Probation Department, CPOC Bay Region Chair

➤ *Regency ABC*

9:15am – 10:15am **GENERAL SESSION**

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF *JETRO'S JOURNEY*

A documentary featuring a young man in probation supervised foster care, the resource family who open their home and the ongoing support of probation as he learns to trust and heal.

➤ *Regency ABC*

10:15am – 10:30am **BREAK**

➤ *Regency Foyer*

10:30am – 11:30am **GENERAL SESSION**

PANEL DISCUSSION OF *JETRO'S JOURNEY*

Panel Discussion moderated by Rosemary Lamb McCool featuring the Gaines Family from Jetro's Journey and the documentary Filmmaker, Jo Streit.

Speakers: Jetro, Foster Youth

Hillary Gaines, Resource Parent

Kevin Gaines, Resource Parent

Jo Streit, Documentary Producer and Director, Streit Productions

Moderator: Rosemary Lamb McCool, Deputy Director, Chief Probation Officers of California

➤ *Regency ABC*

11:30am – 12:30pm **LUNCH**

➤ *Regency ABC*



MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 CONTINUED

12:30pm – 2:30pm **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

★ **PROMISING STRATEGIES TO SERVE AND SUPPORT YOUTH WITH COMPLEX CARE NEEDS**

Sometimes counties may experience challenges in finding suitable placement and/or services for a youth with complex needs. In the first part of the session, Dr. Loc H. Nguyen will cover various placement settings outside of short-term residential therapeutic programs (STRTPs) for youth with acute needs. The second half of the session will cover various complex care funding opportunities through the enactment of AB 153. The California Department of Social Services will provide a high-level overview of these three different complex care funding categories: 1) child specific requests for exceptional needs 2) county capacity building to address gaps within the continuum of care and 3) the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot. In this part of the session, Los Angeles County Probation Department and Riverside County Probation Department will share their experiences in these funding efforts.

Speakers: Loc H. Nguyen, DrPH, MSW; Child Welfare Policy Consultant, County Welfare Directors Association of California
Dianna L. Wagner, LMFT; Health Program Specialist II, System of Care Branch, California Department of Social Services
Rachel Ligtenberg, Probation Division Director, Special Services Division, Riverside County Probation Department
Paul Vinetz, Bureau Chief, Placement and Child Welfare Services Bureau, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Moderator: Kim Suderman, LCSW; Consultant, County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA) of California

➤ **Regency D**

★ **MAXIMIZING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES**

The focus of this session is understanding how meaningful, developmental relationships are key to improving educational and life outcomes for system-involved youth. A framework for relationships, related strategies, and data will be discussed to address the barriers for system-involved youth and their natural support systems in navigating educational systems and advocacy. The session will be presented through the equity and systemic lenses, considering the access, opportunity and achievement gaps, as well as adult mental models.

Speaker: ShaKenya Edison, M.Ed., PPS; K-12 Administrator/Consultant, Edison Educational Consulting

Moderator: Kathy Martinez, CPOC Consultant, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Santa Clara County Probation Department

➤ **Regency E**

★ **UNDERSTANDING THE FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE APPLICATION OF REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD**

This training will be an interactive experience that teaches participants about the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard (RPPS). Participants will learn about the Foster Youth Bill of Rights and how to uphold the youths' rights and promote the positive development and well-being of youth in care.

Speakers: Shekinah Peredo, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, California Department of Social Services
Kendra Jackson, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, California Department of Social Services

Moderator: Anna Ruiz, CPOC Consultant, Retired Supervisor, Orange County Probation Department

➤ **Regency F**

2:30pm – 2:45pm **BREAK**

➤ **Regency Foyer**



AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 CONTINUED

2:45pm – 4:45pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

★ RACIAL EQUITY - A CLOSER LOOK AT PROBATION PLACEMENT PRACTICES

Practical tools will be discussed and presented that can lead to improved equity with probation, specifically to reducing kids of color in foster care placements.

Speaker: Kiki Farris, Probation Manager, Contra Costa County Probation Department

Moderator: ShaKenya Edison, M.Ed., PPS; K-12 Administrator/Consultant, Edison Educational Consulting

➤ **Regency D**

★ NAVIGATING THE COURT PROCESS UNDER FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA) PART IV

This session will focus on the court involvement in juvenile justice proceedings, specifically, the court process designed to implement Part IV of FFPSA. Further, this session will discuss permanency options when a youth has completed treatment in a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) including return home, guardianships, and nonminor dependent status. In this session participants will be able to 1) explain the court process as it pertains the FFPSA 2) apply the court process through a hypothetical situation 3) explain permanency options for youth exiting care.

Speakers: Marymichael Miatovich Smrdeli, Supervising Attorney, Center for Children, Family & the Courts, Judicial Council of California

Joan Tillman, Attorney, Center for Children, Family & the Courts; Judicial Council of California

Moderator: Stephanie Anderson, Probation Foster Care Specialist, Chief Probation Officers of California

➤ **Regency E**

★ SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY AND IMPACTS ON FAMILY DYNAMICS

Despite high rates of substance use among youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, assessing needed evidence-based care can be difficult. This session will cover key principles for identifying and addressing substance use and co-occurring mental health needs with dually involved youth. Participants will hear from University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) researchers highlighting telehealth interventions and a discussion about research-informed ways to improve identification of substance use and co-occurring mental health needs and provide tools to aid in linkage to treatment. Additionally, participants will hear directly from a Parent Partner with lived experience about how best to support youth and families with substance use and co-occurring mental health needs either in treatment or exiting an STRTP. Lived experience provides keys to success: Support, Educate and Acceptance that there is not an easy solution. Together, we will make a difference.

Speakers: Johanna Folk, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor, UCSF Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Evan D. Holloway, Ph.D.; Postdoctoral Fellow, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Shawna Morris, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Peter Gelber, Recovery Specialist, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Moderator: Kathy Martinez, CPOC Consultant, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Santa Clara County Probation Department

➤ **Regency F**

4:45pm – 5:00pm END OF DAY WRAP-UP

➤ **Regency ABC**

5:00pm – 6:00pm RECEPTION

➤ **Vines Patio**



TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

7:30am REGISTRATION

➤ *Regency Foyer*

8:30am – 8:40am WELCOME

Chief Tracie Neal, Shasta County Probation Department, CPOC Juvenile Services Committee Vice-Chair

➤ *Regency ABC*

8:40am – 9:45am GENERAL SESSION

PROGRESS & PARTNERSHIP: REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST 25 YEARS AND THE ROAD AHEAD

This keynote will focus on findings from report, *The Evolution of Juvenile Justice and Probation Practices in California*, which examines 25 years of juvenile justice as administered by California's county probation departments and shares how probation departments and partners can confront ongoing challenges facing foster youth and their families.

Speaker: Jessica K. Heldman, Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights, University of San Diego School of Law Children's Advocacy Institute

➤ *Regency ABC*

9:45am – 10:00am BREAK

➤ *Regency Foyer*

10:00am – 11:15am GENERAL SESSION

THE HARD PARTS OF HAPPINESS

Presenter Anthony Poponi has a long history of working with youth. As a two-time resource (foster) parent, he deeply appreciates those working in youth services and realizes not every moment in this work is easy. This work can be hard and while we're chasing more pleasure, more joy and more fun we can't ignore those harder moments. Fortunately, the hard parts of happiness like service, navigating tough relationships, and building mastery are all proven to be important parts of a fulfilling and happy life. Happiness can be hard, but the hard parts of happiness can also be the best parts. During the session, Anthony will share what research proves are the correct areas to focus your energy to provide lasting happiness and ongoing success in work and how to quickly tap into both the hard and fun parts of our days for a happy, successful, and fulfilling life.

Speaker: Anthony Poponi, Chief Executive Officer, Focus on the 40

➤ *Regency ABC*

11:15am – 12:15pm LUNCH

➤ *Regency ABC*



AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022 CONTINUED

12:15pm – 2:15pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

★ FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA) PART IV: AFTERCARE SERVICES FOR FOSTER YOUTH

The statewide requirements and vision for FFPSA Part IV Aftercare and Wraparound will be discussed, as well as the cross-system efforts to co-create and operationalize these requirements and high-fidelity wraparound in California. San Francisco and Riverside County Probation Departments will share their current aftercare programs and challenges they have encountered. Resources will be shared that will assist counties in the planning to level-up wraparound programs to meet the FFPSA Part IV aftercare and high-fidelity wraparound goals and requirements.

Speakers: Jamica Walker, Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Placement Unit, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department
Daniel Wilson, MSW; Manager, Family-Centered Practice Unit, California Department of Social Services
Mila Baranov, Probation Officer, Placement/Re-Entry Unit, San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department
Rachel Lichtenberg, Probation Division Director, Special Services Division, Riverside County Probation Department

Moderator: Daniel Wilson, MSW; Manager, Family-Centered Practice Unit, California Department of Social Services

➤ **Regency D**

★ HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: WORKING WITH LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, QUESTIONING, GENDER NONCONFORMING AND TRANSGENDER (LGBQ/GNCT) JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system. Approximately one in five youth in juvenile justice detention nationwide is LGBTQ+. What does it mean to serve these youth equitably and respectfully? How do probation staff create safe and affirming spaces for youth across the gender and sexuality spectrums? Explore these questions (and more!) in this interactive workshop geared toward those wanting to learn—or practice—skills to best serve this vulnerable population.

Speaker: Carolyn Reyes, Policy Director, Ceres Policy Research

Moderator: Kathy Martinez, CPOC Consultant, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Santa Clara County Probation Department

➤ **Regency E**

★ EFFECTIVE FAMILY FINDING AND SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Studies show that youth thrive more in a nurturing family-based setting. Are you looking for additional insight to enhance your family finding and support efforts? If so, this is a session you don't want to miss. Sacramento County Probation Department will share their approach to resource family recruitment and helping foster youth build a network of support. This session will explore family finding strategies, including community advertising along with community engagement and building relationships that lead to a nexus of support to help youth flourish.

Speakers: Danna Buerger, Deputy Probation Officer, Placement Services Unit, Sacramento County Probation Department
Pamela Lowe, Senior Deputy Probation Officer, Placement Services Unit, Sacramento County Probation Department

Moderator: Stephanie Anderson, Probation Foster Care Specialist, Chief Probation Officers of California

➤ **Regency F**

2:15pm – 2:30pm CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

➤ **Regency ABC**



STEPHANIE ANDERSON

*Probation Foster Care Specialist,
Chief Probation Officers of California*

Stephanie Anderson is the Probation Foster Care Specialist at the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC). In 2018, she joined CPOC and assisted with the implementation of Continuum of Care Reform and has most recently been working on the implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and other foster care policy matters. Prior to this role, she was an Arts in Corrections (AIC) Program Manager at the California Arts Council, which she assisted in the expansion of art programs in all the California state institutions. Stephanie previously worked at CPOC, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Division of Rehabilitative Programs, and served in the Governor Gray Davis Administration. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the California State University, Sacramento.

MILA BARANOV

*Supervising Probation Officer, Placement and
Re-Entry Unit, San Francisco Juvenile Probation
Department*

Mila Baranov was first hired as a Deputy Probation Officer in 2009 and worked in the Intake and Community Supervision Units. In 2018, she was promoted to Supervisor and currently oversees the Placement and Re-Entry Unit. Mila's Unit supervises San Francisco youth placed in relative/non-relative/Foster Family Agency Resource Family Approval placements, Transitional Housing Programs, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs, committed to Juvenile Justice Center, committed to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility and youth in re-entry. Mila has a passion for working with the youth and has been closely collaborating with outside stakeholders to ensure San Francisco youth are receiving comprehensive services.

DANNA BUERGER

*Deputy Probation Officer, Placement Services Unit,
Sacramento County Probation Department*

Danna Buerger is a Deputy Probation Officer at Sacramento County Probation Department. Danna joined the department in 2017. She has worked both in the Youth Detention Facility and Placement Services and currently supervises a resource family approval (RFA) caseload. Mrs. Buerger has a Social Work degree and has extensive experience working with at-risk youth, youth in foster care, and youth on probation.

SHAKENYA EDISON, M.ED, PPS

*K-12 Administrator/Consultant,
Edison Educational Consulting*

ShaKenya Edison is a professional educator committed to establishing high expectations, vertical and horizontal accountability, and shared responsibility in reimagining the educational system and improving overall outcomes and experiences for students and their families. She has over a decade experience in various leadership roles, diverse districts across California, always leading through the lens of equity. Her dedication to improving life outcomes for youth has moved her to serve on various county task forces, committees, and on many other community initiatives. She is committed to improving systems through capacity building, cross-sector collaboration and co-creation, developing meaningful relationships with the community, as well as providing equitable policies, practices and access. Through her leadership and partnerships, districts and community partners have implemented processes, programs, initiatives, and/or systems that strategically address the family, community, or systemic barriers that negatively impact youth thriving. Ms. Edison believes that a quality education has the potential to improve life outcomes for youth, their families, and the overall community.



CHIEF ESA EHMEN-KRAUSE

*Contra Costa County Probation Department, CPOC
Bay Region Chair*

Esa Ehmen-Krause has been the Chief Probation Officer in Contra Costa County since March 2020. Prior to this, she served as both an Assistant Chief, and Deputy Chief Probation Officer in Alameda County. Chief Ehmen-Krause has more than twenty years of public sector experience working to improve outcomes for youth, families, and vulnerable individuals and enhance the systems that serve these populations.

KIKI FARRIS

*Probation Manager, Contra Costa County Probation
Department*

Kiki Farris is the Contra Costa County Probation Manager responsible for Prevention, Placement, and Juvenile and Adult Investigations. She began her career as a Probation Counselor in Juvenile Hall, three months after earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Cal State, Hayward in 2003. Her body of work includes a wide range of community supervision and court work and becoming the departmental foster care expert as Placement Supervisor from 2016 to 2020. Throughout her career, she has applied the authenticity of lived expertise as an underprivileged child and young parent from Oakland, and is known for her unconventional spirit, collaborative nature and passion for betterment.

JOHANNA FOLK, PH.D.

*Assistant Professor, UCSF Department of Psychiatry
and Behavioral Sciences*

Johanna Folk, Ph.D. is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Folk received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2018 from George Mason University and completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship at the University of California, Davis Medical Center. Dr. Folk works in the UCSF Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health lab, which aims to improve behavioral health outcomes for youth and families who come into contact with the juvenile legal system.

HILLARY AND KEVIN GAINES

Resource Parents

Kevin and Hillary Gaines met in Sacramento in 2005, and married in 2007. They are parents to 5, and grandparents of 7. After working 15 years as a manager at a foster family agency/children's mental health nonprofit, Hillary is now a full-time student in design and digital media. Kevin works at the California Department of Social Services, in the Community Care Licensing Division. Together, they use all the skills, contacts and resources they have to ensure every young person they meet is connected to an adult who cares.

PETER GELBER

*Recovery Specialist, Casa Pacifica Centers for
Children & Families*

Peter Gelber is a Recovery Specialist for Casa Pacifica located in Camarillo, CA. He is also a parent partner in the Wraparound Program and has substantial experience in co-occurring disorders. He has been in the substance abuse and recovery field for over 32 years with extensive experience working with friends and families of addicts. Peter facilitates youth groups utilizing the 12-step and Matrix Models. He also co-facilitates parent groups teaching DBT and positive parenting skills and offers one-on-one support to clients.



JESSICA HELDMAN

*Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights, University of San Diego School of Law
Children's Advocacy Institute*

Jessica Heldman is the Fellmeth-Peterson Professor in Residence in Child Rights at the University of San Diego School of Law since August 2018, where she has taught Child Rights & Remedies and co-authored the latest text. She supervises students participating in the three clinical opportunities offered by CAI (Dependency, Delinquency, and Policy). Previously, Professor Heldman served as Associate Executive Director at the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice in Boston where she provided technical assistance and training to state and local jurisdictions, guiding the development of policy and practice within child welfare and juvenile justice systems, nationally. She has served as a consultant for organizations including Children's Rights, the Child Welfare League of America, and Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. She is a frequent trainer and presenter related to juvenile court policy and practice focusing on reform in youth justice and dual status youth authoring several reports and guidebooks on the topic.

EVAN D. HOLLOWAY, PH.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Evan D. Holloway, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist and Postdoctoral Fellow in the NIDA T32 Traineeship in Substance Use Disorders Treatment and Services Research in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Holloway received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (forensic specialization) from Fordham University and completed his pre-doctoral clinical internship and post-doctoral research fellowship through the Clinical Psychology Training Program at UCSF. Dr. Holloway has been a member of the UCSF Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health lab since July 2019.

KENDRA JACKSON

*Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson, California
Department of Social Services*

Kendra Jackson is an analyst with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson. Kendra previously worked for the nonprofit organization Foster Youth Education Fund and for the Guardian Scholars Program at California State University, Sacramento.

RACHEL LIGTENBERG

*Probation Division Director, Special Services
Division, Riverside County Probation Department*

Rachel Ligtenberg is a Division Director for the Riverside County Probation Department Special Services Division, which services youth and families in the provision of all levels of out of home care. Rachel began her work with the probation department 22 years ago and has remained steadfast in her belief that the work probation does can truly change lives. Rachel has worked a variety of assignments within the juvenile institutions, field and administration and feels fortunate to be back within the placement services realm impacting those who are most in need.

PAMELA LOWE

*Senior Deputy Probation Officer, Placement Services
Unit, Sacramento County Probation Department*

Pamela Lowe is a Senior Deputy Probation Officer at the Sacramento County Probation Department. Pamela has been with the department since 2003 and has worked in the Youth Detention Facility, Juvenile Court and Placement Services. Since working in Placement, Pamela spent five years supporting youth in extended foster care and is currently working as a Resource Family Liaison recruiting and supporting resource families.



KATHY MARTINEZ

CPOC Consultant, Retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Santa Clara County Probation Department

Kathy Martinez is a retired Deputy Chief Probation Officer after working in the field for nearly 25 years. Kathy has been in executive leadership and managerial roles for over eleven years and has extensive experience working collaboratively with community and system partners. She was instrumental in bringing youth and families into system processes, developed a Youth Advisory Council with Probation and a Community Organization and led an internal team through a Results Count Professional Development Series jointly with Santa Clara and Santa Cruz County Probation Departments. Kathy completed a leadership fellowship program through the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Applied Leadership Network and a Results Count Framework professional development series. She is passionate about juvenile justice reform and operates through the lens of race, equity and inclusion for underserved populations and dual system (child welfare and juvenile justice) involved youth.

MARYMICHAEL MIATOVICH SMRDELI

Supervising Attorney, Center for Children, Family & Courts; Judicial Council of California

Marymichael Miatovich Smrdeli is a Supervising Attorney with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts at the Judicial Council of California in San Francisco. Currently, she supervises the Judicial Resource and Technical Assistance (JRTA) Team that is part of the Court Assistance, Resources, and Education Team (CARE). This team works to help improve the outcomes of children involved in with the juvenile dependency and delinquency courts. Mrs. Smrdeli became a Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) through the National Association of Counsel for Children and is a statewide trainer on the topic of laws and best practices related to children in foster care. Mrs. Smrdeli obtained her undergraduate and law degree from Santa Clara University and obtained her master's in clinical psychology with an emphasis in child abuse and neglect from JFK University in 2014.

ROSEMARY LAMB McCOOL

Deputy Director, Chief Probation Officers of California

Rosemary Lamb McCool is Deputy Director with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) with primary responsibility over juvenile justice policy as well as assisting with overseeing the day to day operations of the association. She has been with CPOC for almost nine years. Prior to joining CPOC, Rosie worked on public safety policy at the California State Association of Counties. She initially moved to Sacramento from southern California to participate in the Capitol Fellows Program as an Executive Fellow in Attorney General Bill Lockyer's Office. Before residing in Sacramento, Rosie worked at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California and also worked with youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems in Tucson, Arizona after graduating from the University of Arizona.

SHAWNA MORRIS, MPA

Chief Executive Officer, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

Shawna Morris is the CEO of Casa Pacifica in Camarillo, CA since 2020. Previously, she was senior vice president and chief operating officer at the Menninger Clinic, a psychiatric hospital for adults and adolescents with complex mental health needs, for 18 years. She was also president and CEO of the Phoenix House California and Texas for four years, which is a national non-profit, accredited, behavioral healthcare provider, specializing in the treatment and prevention of substance use disorders and co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Her commitment to ensuring access to education, prevention and mental health services is fueled by her life experience of being a child of an addict with her mission to reduce the pain and suffering of those suffering from mental illness.



CHIEF TRACIE NEAL

Shasta County Probation Department, CPOC Juvenile Services Committee Vice-Chair

Tracie Neal has been the Chief Probation Officer of Shasta County since 2013. Chief Neal has worked in the field of probation services and community corrections since 1996, working for Humboldt County Probation as a Juvenile Group Counselor and Deputy Probation Officer and then in Mono County Probation where she worked up to Assistant Chief Probation Officer before going to Shasta County Probation in 2012. Throughout her career she has implemented a number of programs and practices designed to improve the lives of young people involved in the juvenile justice system and their families, as well as adults involved in the criminal justice system. She has continued to advance a strong commitment to public safety through the implementation of best practice and evidenced based approaches to improve rehabilitative options for both youth and adults, and community alternatives to detention.

LOC H. NGUYEN, DRPH, MSW

Child Welfare Policy Consultant, County Welfare Directors Association of California

Dr. Loc H. Nguyen is currently the Child Welfare Policy Consultant for the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA). He has worked with vulnerable populations for 34 years, including refugees, the elderly, those affected by disasters, and children. He has worked in the area of public child welfare for the 18 years in Los Angeles County as a manager at the Department of Children and Families where he oversaw the American Indian Units and the Asian Pacific Program, and was the director of the Regional Training Academy for Los Angeles County (i.e., the University Consortium for Children and Families). His most recent executive-level experience was as the child welfare director for more than five years in San Mateo County. Dr. Nguyen has a master's degree in social work, a master's and doctorate in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

SHEKINAH PEREDO

Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson, California Department of Social Services

Shekinah Peredo is an analyst with the Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson. Shekinah received a B.S.W. from Humboldt State University and has worked in the fields of sexual assault prevention, education, juvenile justice, and now in child welfare with the office. She is currently studying graphic and web design at American River College.

ANTHONY POPINI

Chief Executive Officer, Focus on the 40

Anthony Poponi is the founder of Focus on the 40, a series of programs and resources grounded in Positive Psychology, performance science, neuroscience, and cognitive science all developed to show people a path towards lasting happiness in their work and community lives. He loves gluing together the complex findings in the research and occasionally glues his fingers together during home improvement projects. His passion for youth spans many decades and his past includes time as a middle school teacher, staff of Boys & Girls Clubs (twice!), as a resource (foster) parent (twice!) and adult mentor. Anthony is author of "Head to Toe Happiness" a self-paced book for those looking for a fulfilled life.

CAROLYN REYES

Policy Director, Ceres Policy Research

Carolyn (she/her) is Policy Director at Ceres Policy Research, where she provides training and technical assistance related to the collection of sexual orientation, gender expression, and gender expression (SOGIE) data and the development of LGBTQ+ policy in the juvenile justice system. She has been working on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth in juvenile justice and child welfare for the past 17 years in various capacities. Carolyn holds graduate degrees in social work, law, and theology and manages to use them all in service of LGBTQ+ youth of color.



BIOGRAPHIES

ANNA RUIZ

CPOC Consultant, Retired Supervisor, Orange County Probation Department

Anna Ruiz retired from Orange County Probation in March 2020 after 32 years of dedicated service. The last four years of her career were in the Administrative Placement Unit where she was afforded the opportunity to represent her department in local, regional, and state workgroups and collaborative meetings implementing Continuum of Care Reform. She enjoyed working with CPOC, CDSS and representatives from departments from throughout the state to revise Placement and Supervisor Core training. Post retirement, she remains involved as an instructor for CPOC and continues to participate in the Probation Advisory Committee (PAC) and keeps updated on changes affecting foster care to ensure training information provided is up to date.

JO STREIT

Documentary Producer and Director, Streit Productions

Jo Streit, founder of Streit Productions, is an award-winning producer and director of public education campaigns, documentaries, and training videos, with decades of experience working with government agencies, foundations, universities, nonprofits, start-ups, and Fortune 500 companies. She utilizes her journalism and broadcast skills to create compelling visual media that tell inspiring stories that promote understanding and support social change. Working with i.e. communications since 1998, Streit Productions has created numerous videos documenting unsung heroes advancing community peace, the value of Wraparound services for probation youth, and specifically for CPOC: “Decade of Progress: Juvenile Justice Realignment”.

KIM SUDERMAN, LCSW

Consultant, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)

Kim Suderman is a retired Behavioral Health Director of Yolo County and a previous Deputy/Chief of Mental Health Children & Youth Services at San Joaquin, Yolo, and Sutter/Yuba Counties. Her professional background includes provider agency work in a foster family agency & residential program, Child Welfare Adoptions, and a high school counselor. Currently, Ms. Suderman is a Consultant for the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), assisting Mental Health Plans to implement CCR, AB 1299, AB 2083, FURS, FFPSA, and other related child and youth issues. Ms. Suderman received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from Fresno Pacific College; her Master of Social Work from California State University, Fresno; and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) since 1988.

JOAN TILLMAN

Attorney, Center for Children, Family & the Courts, Judicial Council of California

Joan Tillman is an Attorney with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts at the Judicial Council of California in San Francisco. Currently, she is a part of the Judicial Research & Technical Assistance (JRTA) team, which works to help improve the outcomes of children involved with the juvenile dependency and juvenile justice courts. She has been fortunate to have a variety of positions in her legal career, including serving as a juvenile dependency attorney for children and parents and defending youth as a juvenile justice attorney for the past decade. She is a former Deputy District Attorney (specialized in domestic violence prosecution), has taught Search and Seizure law at the reserve police offer academy, and worked as a criminal research attorney for the California Supreme Court and the San Mateo County Superior Court. After graduating from the University of California at Santa Barbara, she attended law school at McGeorge School of Law (University of the Pacific) in Sacramento.



PAUL VINETZ

Bureau Chief, Placement and Child Welfare Services Bureau, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Paul Vinetz is a Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles County Probation Department and currently provides executive oversight of department's Placement and Child Welfare Bureau. A 35-year veteran with the Los Angeles County Probation Department, he has a wide range of experience in the criminal justice system. In addition to his current assignment, he has had executive oversight responsibility for adult and juvenile field services and operations, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act which placed probation officers in over 100 schools, housing developments, and parks throughout the county – as well as oversight of Juvenile Court operations. His experience includes tenure as a Director in the Probation Department's Juvenile Special Services Bureau, establishing the Department's first Juvenile Day Reporting Center, local multi-disciplinary teams, working in juvenile halls, detention camps, prevention initiatives, intensive gang supervision, after-school programs, and as a court officer. He is a past-President of the California Probation, Parole, and Correctional Association and has served on its Legislative Committee for sixteen years.

DIANNA L. WAGNER, LMFT

Health Program Specialist II, System of Care Branch, California Department of Social Services

In the last 24 years, Dianna Wagner has served children and youth in the California foster care system. She spent the first 16 of those years, working directly with children and families in various counties in California, providing them therapeutic services within rate classification level (RCL) 13-14 facilities. Dianna then directed her focus to work in a county Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) system in order to provide therapeutic services to those in her community at a Perinatal Substance Use Program. Shortly afterwards, she took a director position over both child welfare and children's mental health. It was in these roles that she was able to see the necessity of providing integrated trauma-informed services that spans across all child serving agencies, which lead to her current position at California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in the System of Care Branch.

JAMICA WALKER

Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Collaborative Reentry Unit (JCRU)/Placement Unit, San Francisco County Juvenile Probation Department

Jamica Walker is the Juvenile Collaborative Reentry (JCRU) Unit/Placement Unit Deputy Probation Officer with San Francisco Juvenile Probation Department. She has worked in a variety of assignments providing supportive services to youth and families. Recently, she assumed the role of San Francisco's first Secure Track Probation Officer tasked with creating partnerships and working collaboratively with the court, community programs, and other system partners to help youth ordered into their secure youth treatment facility meet their individual rehabilitation goals. Jamica is dedicated to the success of young people in San Francisco.

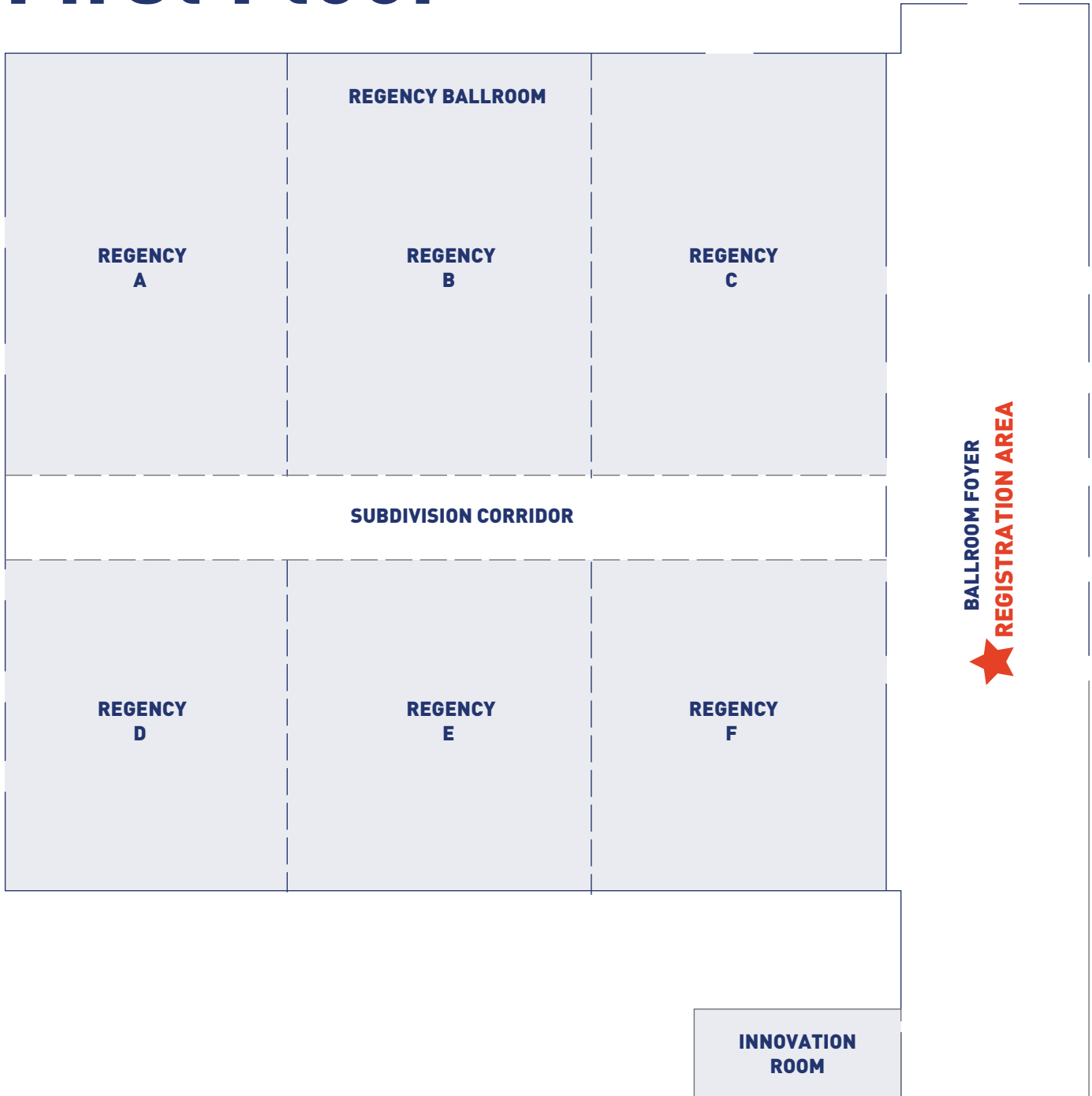
DANIEL WILSON, MSW

Manager, Family-Centered Practice Unit, California Department of Social Services

Daniel Wilson has been with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Children and Family Services Division for eight years in various capacities, currently supporting Wraparound, specialized permanency, peer partners, and the state's Integrated Core Practice Model, during which time he was also a resource parent through Sacramento County. Prior to his time at CDSS, he was a case-carrying social worker with Sacramento County Child Protective Services focusing on family engagement through the jurisdiction and disposition hearing and case planning processes. Daniel sees his role at CDSS as organizing and connecting statewide community members to improve child-serving systems to better meet the needs of children, families, and communities.



First Floor





COVID-19 Safety Precautions and Protocols: CPOC will abide by and implement applicable safety protocols consistent with the California Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Sacramento County’s guidelines as well as any requirements instituted by the Hyatt Hotel. COVID-19 protocols and updates will be provided to registrants prior to the conference.

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