



2026 CBCAP Virtual Grantee Meeting

September 1-2, 2026



Monday, August 31, 2026 (PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION)

2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

2:00—3:30 pm ET

CBCAP 101

This optional pre-conference opportunity for new State Lead staff will provide participants with the information and resources to get better acclimated to their role.

The session includes a review of the CBCAP program and resources, as well as an introduction to the CBCAP Federal Project Officers, the FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP, and the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council.

Julie Fliss & Emily Fisher, Child Welfare Program Specialists, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN); MaryJo Alimena Caruso, TTA Coordinator, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP; Paula Bibbs-Samuels & Jo Modeste, FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council Members

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 (DAY ONE)

1:30 – 4:30 PM ET

1:30 – 2:15 pm ET

Welcome and Opening

Children's Bureau (CB) and FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) staff will welcome attendees, review the agenda for the meeting, and provide relevant updates.

*Julie Fliss & Emily Fisher, Child Welfare Program Specialists, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)
Donna Wood, Director, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP*

2:15 – 3:20 pm ET

Grant Recipient Panel Discussion on CBCAP Supports for Fathers

Join us for an interactive panel discussion featuring a small group of CBCAP State Lead staff who are prioritizing fatherhood in their child abuse prevention programming, along with two FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) members. Panelists from Oregon, Maine, Massachusetts, and Illinois will share their experiences, successes, and lessons learned in engaging fathers in prevention programs and services. Through candid conversation and audience dialogue, participants will gain practical strategies for developing or strengthening father engagement efforts in their own states and communities. Whether you're just beginning this work or looking to take it to the next level, you'll leave with actionable ideas drawn from both lived experience and state-level implementation.

Lindsay Hyman (IL), Kelly Larimore (IL), Matthew Porter (OR-FRIENDS PAC), Christopher White (MA), Allie Sirrine (ME), and Joe Whitmore (ME-FRIENDS PAC)

3:20 – 3:30 pm ET

Break

3:30 – 4:30 pm ET

(Each participant chooses one session to attend to discuss CBCAP statutory requirements and strategies to meet them)

Breakout sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later through the FRIENDS' website. Discussion groups will not be recorded.

**See session descriptions on page 3*

Breakout Sessions

Evaluating CBCAP-Funded Programs

Dr. Joshua Mersky (WI) and Claire Ackerman (WI)

Building Protective Factors of Parents Through Statewide Prevention Systems

Kim Hemmert (ID), Rebecca Monnier (NE), and Cynthia Smith (FRIENDS NCCBCAP)

Partnering with Tribes and Tribal Organizations

Emily Dwyer and Christie Tabisola (Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.), Wendy Rich (Peoria Tribe of Indians of OK), and Nanette Bishop, Children's Bureau and staff from the National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement

Discussion Group

Effective Strategies to Engage and Support Parent Leaders

Facilitated by: Tene Marion, (AZ), and Dana Gardner (SC-FRIENDS PAC))



2026 CBCAP Virtual Grantee Meeting

September 1-2, 2026



Wednesday, September 2, 2026 (DAY TWO)

1:30 – 4:30 PM ET

1:30 – 2:00 pm ET	Opening session Grant Recipient Accomplishments and Day 1 Reflections FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP will feature CBCAP grant recipient accomplishments and review themes or outstanding questions that emerged on the first day of the meeting. <i>Donna Wood, Director, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP</i> <i>Julie Fliss & Emily Fisher, Child Welfare Program Specialists, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)</i>			
2:00 – 3:00 pm ET (Each participant chooses one session to attend to discuss CBCAP statutory requirements and strategies to meet them) Breakout sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later through the FRIENDS' website. Discussion groups will not be recorded. *See session descriptions on page 3	Breakout Sessions			Discussion Groups
	Effective Use of CBCAP Funds to Increase Family Stability <i>Jamie Brennan (TN), Amy Scott (TN), Lynsey Stubbs (TN), and Courtney Weaver (TN)</i>	Using Data to Improve CBCAP Programs <i>Katelyn Lammie (CO), Shaina Riciputi Swain (CO), Kristen Kirkland (NY), Diettra Engram (OH), and Renee Whitfield (OH)</i>	Integrating Early Childhood with CBCAP Programs <i>Hyacenth Sedillo (NM), Haley Scott-DeClerck (CT), Ashley McAuliffe (CT), Amanda Winslow (IA), and Cass Murra (IA)</i>	Leveraging Resources and Creative Procurement Solutions <i>Facilitated by: Ashley Schlichenmayer Okroi (SD), and Amy Sielaff (MO)</i>
3:00 – 3:10 pm ET	Break			
3:10 – 4:15 pm ET	Discussion on Identifying and Leveraging Community Assets to Improve Outcomes This session will highlight how states are identifying and utilizing various community assets to promote family and community well-being. CBCAP State Leads will share two distinct approaches: West Virginia's Family Support Centers and Kansas's Community Asset Mapping efforts. Through this interactive discussion, participants will learn practical strategies for recognizing and leveraging the strengths that already exist in their communities. Attendees will leave with ideas for applying asset-based approaches in their own states. <i>Melissa Rooker (KS), Kaela Byers (KS), Meghan Cizek (KS), and Kristie Wilson (WV)</i>			
4:15 – 4:30 pm ET	Wrap Up and Closing CB and FRIENDS staff will review themes or promising strategies that emerged over the course of the meeting, answer outstanding questions, discuss upcoming grant actions, and encourage participants to fill out the evaluations to gather feedback on the meeting. <i>Julie Fliss & Emily Fisher, Child Welfare Program Specialists, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)</i> <i>Donna Wood, Director, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP</i> <i>Please complete your evaluation</i>			

Day 1 Session Descriptions

Share Strategies-Exchange Ideas-Make Connections-Join a Discussion Group!

This year's CBCAP Grantee meeting will feature two discussion groups, one during each of the two breakout sessions. These will provide opportunities to learn from your peers and hear ideas and strategies that you can utilize in your state to help strengthen and support families and ensure they thrive.

All Discussion Groups are limited to 15 participants.

Tuesday, Sept. 1st: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm ET

Evaluating CBCAP-Funded Programs

Strong and Stable Families is a longitudinal study that aims to explore whether Wisconsin's family resource centers (FRCs) enhance family protective factors and reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. The study includes 646 families who participated in one of 18 FRCs and 1,488 families in the general population. Families who enrolled in the study completed an initial survey with questions in the following domains: family demographics, social determinants of health, adverse experiences, positive experiences, family protective factors, health and well-being, and FRC service experiences. Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (WI's CBCAP Lead Agency) funded the initial survey with state dollars and received a Community-Led Momentum Grant from the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment to expand Strong and Stable Families through a second wave of survey data collection, qualitative interviews and focus groups, and administrative data matching.

Dr. Joshua Mersky (WI) and Claire Ackerman (WI)

Building Protective Factors of Parents Through Statewide Prevention Systems

This session will describe the Protective Factors Survey, the use of protective factors in evaluating the effectiveness of a coordinated, community-driven prevention system, and analysis used to support continuous quality improvements in prevention programs by two CBCAP State Lead Agencies. The two State Lead Agencies will highlight additional data sources used in their system evaluations. This session will offer useful information to those looking for an evidence-based program evaluation tool to assess the impact of social

programs designed to build multiple protective factors of parents and strengthen families.

Kim Hemmert (ID), Rebecca Monnier (NE), Cynthia Smith (FRIENDS NCCBCAP)

Partnering with Tribes and Tribal Organizations

Join us for an inspiring, collaborative session dedicated to cultivating meaningful partnerships with tribes and tribal organizations. Discover the power of building genuine relationships rooted in mutual trust, respect, and shared goals. Our presenters will highlight the unique advantages of partnering with tribal organizations to meet families directly on their traditional lands and within their communities. You will hear firsthand success stories and impactful program activities from Cook Inlet Tribal Council in Alaska and the Peoria Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma. Also attending the presentation will be staff from the National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement (NTCWCI) and Children's Bureau staff who oversee the Center. The Center offers a wide range of supports, including tailored technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, and practical tools—all rooted in Indigenous Ways of Knowing (IWOK). With a foundation of trust, respect, and relational accountability, the Center partners with Tribal child welfare professionals to improve systems, meet federal requirements, and—most importantly—promote safety, connection, and well-being for Native children, youth, and families.

Emily Dwyer and Christie Tabisola, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.; Wendy Rich, Peoria Tribe of Indians of OK; Nanette Bishop, Children's Bureau and staff from the National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement

Effective Strategies to Engage and Support Parent Leaders

This discussion group will provide an opportunity for parent leaders and state lead staff to share strategies for advancing parents and family members from leadership roles within their families or community programs to meaningful partnerships at the regional and state levels. Participants will explore effective ways to elevate family voice and participant experience to help improve prevention outcomes for children and families.

Facilitators: Tene Marion, (AZ), Dana Gardner (SC-FRIENDS PAC)

Day 2 Session Descriptions

Share Strategies-Exchange Ideas-Make Connections-Join a Discussion Group!

This year's CBCAP Grantee meeting will feature two discussion groups, one during each of the two breakout sessions. These will provide unique opportunities to learn from your peers and hear ideas and strategies that you can utilize in your state to help strengthen and support families and ensure they thrive.

All Discussion Groups are limited to 15 participants.

Wednesday, Sept. 2nd: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET

Effective Use of CBCAP Funds to Increase Family Stability

Safe Families for Children in Tennessee is a voluntary, prevention-focused model that surrounds parents in crisis with practical, relational, and community-based support to keep children safe and families together. This session will share Tennessee's journey from a fragile launch supported by a small grant, churches, private foundations, and volunteers to a stronger prevention infrastructure made possible through public funding, including CBCAP dollars. Participants will learn how these investments have strengthened staffing, volunteer support, documentation, training, outcome-tracking, and regional growth, while preserving the local ownership and relational care that make the model effective. Through powerful statistics and stories, the team will demonstrate how Safe Families strengthens families, deflects child welfare involvement, and helps parents move from crisis toward stability.

Jamie Brennan (TN), Amy Scott (TN), Lynsey Stubbs (TN), and Courtney Weaver (TN)

Using Data to Improve CBCAP Programs

This session will highlight three State Lead Agencies and their use of data to improve CBCAP programs. Colorado will highlight its work integrating data sets on child

maltreatment risk and protective factors to provide comprehensive, regional data reports for communities to use in understanding areas of strength and growth and establishing data-informed goals for local planning and prevention efforts. New York will highlight ways to use program data to craft messages that matter for public awareness. Ohio will highlight their data dashboards and share how their regional coordinators and grantees use the dashboards to demonstrate program impact, understand who is being served, and identify additional areas of need.

Katelyn Lammie (CO), Shaina Riciputi Swain (CO), Kristen Kirkland (NY), Renee Whitfield (OH) and Diettra Engram (OH)

Integrating Early Childhood with CBCAP Programs

Early childhood partners are a key piece of the puzzle for the prevention continuum. Come learn from your peers about the work they are doing leveraging those partners to better serve families.

Hyacenth Sedillo (NM), Haley Scott-DeClerck (CT) Ashley McAuliffe (CT), Amanda Winslow (IA), and Cass Murra (IA)

Leveraging Resources and Creative Procurement Solutions (Discussion Group)

Join fellow CBCAP state leads for an informal, interactive discussion on maximizing your prevention impact. This peer-to-peer session focuses on how states can strategically leverage resources and implement creative procurement solutions. We will kick off the conversation with real-world examples and insights from South Dakota and Missouri, highlighting practical ways to maximize prevention dollars. Come prepared to share your own state's successes, ask questions, and brainstorm collaborative solutions with your peers.

Facilitators: Ashley Schlichenmayer Okroi (SD), and Amy Sielaff (MO)

Speaker Bios



Claire Ackerman is a Prevention Coordinator with the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, where she has worked since 2020. In her role, Claire supports communities and organizations working to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. Her work includes grantmaking, contract administration, technical assistance, training and professional development, and building strong partnerships with grantees and community partners. Claire is passionate about prevention and about investing in the conditions that help children and families thrive.



Nanette Bishop has more than 33 years of experience in child welfare, including 22 years as a Program Specialist with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau (CB). Prior to joining ACF, she held a variety of child welfare positions with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Nanette currently serves as the lead for the Children's Bureau Tribal Cross-Functional Team and as the Federal Project Officer for the National Tribal Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement. She is a descendant of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Nanette holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.B.S. in Counseling Psychology. She is also a Certified Sexual Abuse Specialist, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor.



Jamie Brennan is the Director responsible for overseeing the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding process for the State of Tennessee at the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, the state's CBCAP Lead Agency. With more than 14 years of service with the Department, Jamie brings extensive experience in grants management, program operations, and program evaluation.

Prior to joining the Department, Jamie spent 17 years with a CBCAP provider, where she served as Grant Manager. This combined experience provides her with a unique perspective on both the administration and implementation of CBCAP-funded programs. Jamie holds a Master of Business Administration and has strong expertise in operational grants management and program evaluation.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Jamie enjoys spending time with her daughter and participating in outdoor activities.

Speaker Bios



Kaela Byers, PhD, MSW is an Associate Professor at the Florida State University College of Social Work and Faculty Affiliate to the KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research. Her research and scholarship focus on cross-systems approaches to maltreatment prevention and the promotion of child and family well-being. She has served as principal or co-principal investigator of large-scale studies, including federal, state, and locally funded initiatives in child welfare, early childhood, and mental health systems. Dr. Byers has a Ph.D. in social work from the University of Kansas and an MSW from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.



Meghan Cizek, MA, LCSW is an Assistant Director at the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. Meghan provides implementation expertise in community-engaged capacity building and substantive expertise in family and community well-being and program implementation. Meghan's current projects focus on investing in and expanding the primary prevention infrastructure to shift toward a system of well-being and proactive support of children and families. Meghan has previous nonprofit management and clinical experience in child welfare, community behavioral health, and housing and homeless service organizations.



Emily Dwyer serves as the Director of Family Wellness at Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC), where she provides strategic leadership for family-centered programs serving Alaska Native and American Indian children and families. In this role, she oversees prevention, intervention and preservation, crisis and reunification, and parenting and healthy relationship initiatives while leading program operations, grant implementation, budgeting, and cross-system collaboration. She works closely with Tribal partners, child welfare agencies, court systems, and community organizations to strengthen services and improve outcomes for children and families.

In addition to her leadership roles, Ms. Dwyer founded Great Alaskan Consulting, providing specialized educational consulting services to school districts throughout Alaska. Throughout her career, Ms. Dwyer has fostered collaborative partnerships across education, child welfare, Tribal, and community systems to advance innovative, family-centered approaches that improve outcomes for children and families. Her expertise includes organizational leadership, grant administration, cross-sector collaboration, and implementing sustainable programs that strengthen families and communities. Ms. Dwyer brings a passion for building collaborative partnerships that empower families, strengthen communities, and create sustainable systems of care that honor Tribal values and support long-term family wellness.

Speaker Bios



Diettra Engram joined the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund as a program manager in July 2020. Diettra works in support of three regional councils and has been deeply involved in the expansion and redesign of OCTF’s forms and data dashboards. Ms. Engram finds purpose in working toward a future where youth in Ohio have the freedom and the support to realize their full potential because their parents and the communities that pour into them have the opportunities and resources needed to live in dignity and to be whole.



Kim Hemmert has been with Idaho Children’s Trust Fund for five years. She oversees the grant program, leads the statewide HOPE Conquers ACEs Community of Practice, supervises Master’s level Social Work student interns, and helps coordinate Strengthening Families month in April. She holds a Master’s degree in Social Work, a Bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Studies and has previous experience with Head Start and Early Head Start, which helped her understand why healthy brain development and attachment are so critical in the early years of life. She is a certified trainer in the following: HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences), Strengthening Families Protective Factors, STRONG, Making Sense of Your Worth, and Parent Café facilitator.



Lindsay Hyman is a licensed social worker and seasoned program administrator committed to strengthening outcomes for children and families across Illinois. She currently serves as a Grants Management Supervisor with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, where she leads the coordination of statewide initiatives focused on child abuse prevention, federal grant oversight, and program development. Lindsay specializes in managing federally funded contracts, conducting comprehensive needs assessments, and guiding evidence-based service delivery for community-based organizations.

With more than two decades of experience in human services, including roles in adult protective service programs, Medicaid casework, child support, mental health, and early childhood education—she brings a deep and practical understanding of the service continuum. Lindsay holds a Master’s in Social Work with a concentration in Leadership and Social Change from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She’s passionate about ensuring families have what they need to thrive, not just survive.

Speaker Bios



Kristen Kirkland, Ph.D., MSW, is a Research Scientist and Assistant Director at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Office of Research, Evaluation, and Performance Analytics. In addition to her Assistant Director role, Dr. Kirkland leads the Community-Based Prevention Evaluation and Implementation Support unit. In this role, she provides research and evaluation project oversight and implementation support for OCFS-funded child abuse prevention and intervention programs, including Healthy Families New York, Family Resource and Opportunity Centers, Kinship Navigator and Permanency Resource Centers, and other Family First Prevention Services Act evidence-based programs.



Katelyn Lammie, MSW, has nearly 20 years of experience in human services across the research, nonprofit, philanthropic, and government sectors. Currently, she oversees the administration of federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding for Colorado. In her CBCAP role, she focuses on developing resources, partnerships, and the workforce to strengthen local and statewide collaboration to prevent child maltreatment, as well as research and practice relevant to family economic well-being.



Kelly Larimore is a seasoned grant administration professional with extensive experience managing federally funded programs across public service, transportation, conservation, and natural resources. She currently administers Illinois' Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grant, leading statewide prevention initiatives, compliance oversight, and federal reporting. Throughout her roles at the state of Illinois agencies, Kelly has led major federally funded initiatives, provided strategic guidance to executive leadership, developed statewide technical assistance resources, ensured compliance with federal requirements, and collaborated closely with multiple national partner agencies. She holds a Master's in Forensic Psychology from Northcentral University and a Business Administration degree from Midstate College.



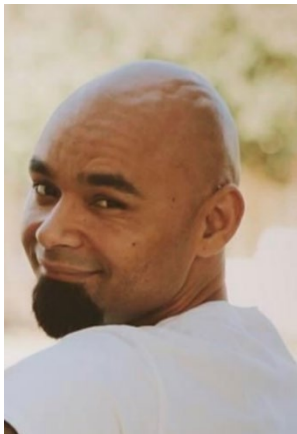
Ashley L. McAuliffe is an experienced early childhood and family services leader with more than 20 years of experience supporting children, families, and communities. She currently serves as the Family Support Division Director at the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, where she provides leadership and oversight for The Connecticut Home Visiting System, Help Me grow System and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention work.

Throughout her career, Ashley has held leadership roles in child care licensing, family services, Head Start, and early childhood education. Her work has focused on program development, staff leadership, policy and advocacy, grant management, regulatory compliance, and building

Speaker Bios

	strong partnerships with families, community organizations, and state and federal agencies.
	Dr. Joshua Mersky is a professor at the UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. He is the founding director of the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being, the mission of which is to improve the lives of children and families by implementing effective programs, conducting cutting-edge research, engaging communities, and promoting systems change. Dr. Mersky's research agenda is organized around the goal of helping disadvantaged families and marginalized communities access high-quality services by designing, evaluating, and disseminating effective strategies that can be implemented as routine care. He works with a variety of community organizations and state agencies on projects and initiatives that aim to promote resilience among children and families, particularly those that are disproportionately affected by adversity and trauma.
	Rebecca Monnier is an accomplished evaluation leader with experience designing and implementing learning systems that drive impact across public, nonprofit, and international settings. She currently serves as the Vice President of Evaluation, Research, and Continuous Quality Improvement at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF), where she oversees a statewide evaluation portfolio focused on child and family well-being, community capacity, and systems-level change. Rebecca holds a Master's in International Development and a Bachelor's in Business Administration, and has completed advanced training in data science and monitoring and evaluation. She is passionate about building high-performing teams, operationalizing data for continuous improvement, and working across systems to support thriving communities.
	Cass Murra is the Program Manager for the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program. Cass received her master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and Professional School Counseling from Buena Vista University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from Buena Vista University. Cass spent many years in the field working directly with children and families. Cass is driven by a commitment to do the real work families deserve.

Speaker Bios



Matthew Porter is a married father of four children. As a parent having experienced the child welfare system firsthand, Matthew has found his calling as a parent mentor for Morrison Child & Family Services. By utilizing the tools he has acquired, Matthew uses his own experience to help other fathers of color, advocate for themselves and navigate the child welfare system. Matthew is a member of the Parent's Advisory Council (PAC) through Morrison along with being on the Father's Advisory Board (FAB). Matthew's passion has been to add a father's perspective and voice to different branches of Department of Human Services in Multnomah County, OR. Matthew is also a Certified Recovery Mentor and will soon be as certified as a Family Support Specialist. Matthew is motivated by supporting families that have children with varying needs and giving hope to parents who are struggling. Matthew and his family live in Beaverton, OR.



Wendy Rich is a seasoned child and family services professional and currently serves as the Health and Human Services Director for the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. With more than 25 years of experience in social services, Wendy's career has been rooted in one central purpose: strengthening families and helping children thrive. Her professional journey began with Missouri Social Services, where she spent 25+ years serving children and families, followed by work with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services for two years in Permanency and Foster Care. She later joined the Peoria Tribe, beginning as the Home Visitation Program Manager and serving as the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Manager before advancing to her current leadership role.

Wendy's diverse experience across state and Tribal systems has given her a unique perspective on child welfare, prevention, family preservation, foster care, permanency, home visiting, and the importance of culturally responsive services. She is passionate about shifting the focus from simply responding to families in crisis to building strong families and communities before a crisis occurs. Wendy believes that families are experts in their own lives and that effective prevention begins with listening, building trust, recognizing strengths, and creating meaningful partnerships. She brings both professional experience and a genuine passion for families to her work and is honored to share her journey, lessons learned, and perspectives with colleagues at the CBCAP Annual Grantee Meeting.

Speaker Bios



Melissa Rooker was named Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund in February of 2019 and currently serves as Deputy Director of the Children's Cabinet Division of the Kansas Office of Early Childhood. Before joining the Cabinet, Melissa served three terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, representing House District 25 between 2013 and 2019. Prior to running for office, Melissa spent 15 years as a development executive at Clint Eastwood's Malpaso Productions.



Amy Scott serves as State Director for Bethany Christian Services of Tennessee, where she provides strategic, financial, and programmatic leadership for a team of more than 60 staff across offices and programs throughout the state. With nearly two decades of experience in child welfare, family preservation, adoption, foster care, refugee services, and community-based programming, Amy is known for building strong teams, advancing mission-driven initiatives, and strengthening outcomes for children and families.

In her current role, Amy oversees programs serving domestic families and children, international refugees, and unaccompanied minors, ensuring financial fidelity, program quality, operational alignment, and mission-centered service delivery. She also works closely with community partners, churches, funders, and legislative stakeholders to expand services, advocate for underserved populations, and mobilize resources that support vulnerable children and families across Tennessee.

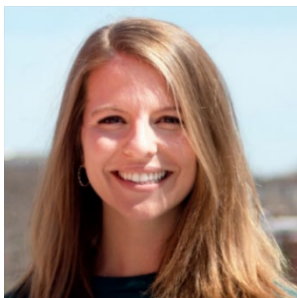


Dr. Haley Scott-DeClerck is the Primary Prevention Services Coordinator at the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC), where she coordinates Connecticut's Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) efforts. Her work includes helping build Connecticut's first Tribal Home Visiting program and overseeing statewide family-strengthening and community-based prevention initiatives. She also oversees OEC's partnership with the University of Connecticut's Mind Over Mood Initiative, which expands access to specialized maternal and perinatal mental health care for families participating in early childhood home visiting. Additionally, she leads the Connecticut Even Start program, a two-generation family literacy initiative.

Speaker Bios



Hyacenth Sedillo serves as the Supervisor for the Prevention Initiatives Bureau within the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD). Guided by the principles of servant leadership, Hyacenth views her 25-year career spanning public health, early childhood education, and family services as a commitment to stewardship, empathy, and the growth of communities. She is a strategic leader specializing in the end-to-end lifecycle of large-scale, community-based programs. Currently, she guides the executive fiscal oversight of multi-million-dollar funding portfolios and statewide contracts, ensuring strict compliance while making sure vital resources directly empower local providers. A collaborative leader who prioritizes listening and shared purpose, Hyacenth specializes in navigating complex agency transitions and aligning multi-disciplinary teams with legislative mandates to lift up and support families.



Allie Serrine, Massachusetts Children's Trust, Prevention Initiatives Coordinator, is a Licensed Master of Social Work with over a decade of experience managing family strengthening, financial and workforce development programs at various nonprofits, in addition to working directly with clients. In her current role as the Prevention Initiatives Coordinator at Maine Children's Trust, she supports the Maine Child Abuse Prevention Councils throughout Maine in a number of ways, including building partnerships, public awareness efforts, and supporting parent voice, as well as many of the Maine Prevention Council efforts, Trust grants, and contracts. Her favorite part of her work is supporting the Public Awareness Campaign Workgroup, which is comprised of Maine parents.



Cynthia Smith has over 15 years of experience working on issues related to children, youth, and families at the school, community, and state levels. Prior to joining FRIENDS as the Evaluation Specialist and Technical Assistant Coordinator, Cynthia held positions at the Indiana Department of Child Services including as the CBCAP Lead.

Speaker Bios



Lynsey Stubbs, Assistant Branch Director, Safe Families for Children, is a nonprofit leader and child welfare professional with more than 20 years of experience serving vulnerable children and families. She serves as a Safe Families for Children State Supervisor with Bethany Christian Services, providing strategic oversight, staff leadership, quality assurance, and community partnership development across multiple Tennessee chapters. Lynsey is passionate about strengthening families, mobilizing communities, and creating collaborative systems of support that help children thrive. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Social Leadership degree and is deeply committed to faith-based and community-centered service. Outside of her professional work, Lynsey is married to her best friend and together they are raising two amazing children who keep life full of joy, adventure, and perspective.



Shaina Riciputi Swain, M.S., is a Senior Research Associate II at the Butler Institute for Families in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver. Shaina is a research and evaluation specialist with more than a decade of experience in program design, implementation, and evaluation, particularly as they pertain to the well-being of children, adolescents, and young adults. Having worked in direct service, government, and academia, she is happiest at the intersection of research and practice, developing data- and research-driven solutions to health and social issues.



Christie Tabisola has worked in the Family Wellness Department at Cook Inlet Tribal Council since 2000. She currently serves as the Manager of Family Wellness Group Services, where she oversees the Family Contact Program and the Parents' Journey Program. Over the course of her more than 25 years in Family Wellness, Christie has worked in a variety of roles, including home-based case management, supervised family visitation, and group facilitation. These experiences have shaped her approach to working with families and strengthened her understanding of the importance of trust, connection, and relationships.

Much of Christie's work has focused on supporting Alaska Native and Indigenous families and creating spaces where families can strengthen relationships and move forward together. She is especially committed to ensuring that families feel respected, heard, and supported throughout their experiences with services. Christie is also proud to lead a team of dedicated professionals who share a deep commitment to serving families. She recognizes that the strength of the work comes from the relationships her team builds with families and from their genuine investment in the people they serve. Throughout her career, Christie has remained committed to supporting children and families through relationship-based work, cultural understanding, and a strong belief in the strengths that families and communities bring to their own healing and well-being.

Speaker Bios



Courtney Weaver, TN CBCAP State Lead, has worked in child welfare for 13 years. Until the last 3 years, all her work was as a frontline worker in the field. She has experience in various areas of child welfare, but her passion is prevention work. She currently serves as the CBCAP state lead for the state of Tennessee and has been in this role for about 3 years. She is currently in graduate school at the University of Tennessee to pursue her M.S.S.W. degree with a focus on organizational leadership and veterinary social work. Her passions outside of social work are traveling, competing in dog sports and spending time on the farm she and her husband Sam have built. They enjoy farm life with their various animals (four dogs, five cats, a horse and a donkey).



Christopher White is the proud father of two energetic sons, ages 5 and 7, and a passionate fatherhood and co-parenting advocate, trainer, and leader dedicated to strengthening families and empowering the professionals who serve them. Serving as the Fatherhood Initiative Coordinator at The Children's Trust, Chris partners with state agencies, community-based organizations, and frontline practitioners across Massachusetts to advance father-inclusive policies, practices, and programming. He works to ensure that providers are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed to effectively engage and support fathers from all backgrounds.

With a career devoted to serving families, Chris is recognized for his ability to translate research into practical application, inspire systems-level change, and champion the critical role fathers play in child development and family well-being. His trainings combine evidence-informed strategies with insights and experiences from the field to provide actionable guidance—equipping professionals to better connect with, support, and elevate fathers in the communities they serve.



Renee Whitfield is a Program Manager who joined the Ohio Children's Trust Fund in 2018. During her time with the Trust Fund, she has supported the work of several regional prevention councils and has been an integral part of website and data dashboard development. Ms. Whitfield believes that children need a stable and loving atmosphere to grow and develop; having resources available to support parents is vital to create those environments.

Speaker Bios



Joe Whitmore is a proud father and member of the Penquis Prevention Council Parent Leadership team. Joe is a member of Maine's Prevention Mindset Institute team, as well as other local, State and National efforts to support families to prevent child abuse. Joe is also a facilitator in the Nurturing Fathers program.

In addition to the work Joe does with the Prevention Council, he enjoys being a positive part of the community by helping other parents achieve their potential as parents and individuals. Joe uses his voice as a parent to help improve the lives of parents and children and serves on state and national committees. Joe also works with child protective service organizations, providing his perspective experience to new case managers. Joe has over 20 years' experience supporting families at the grassroots level and 2 years professionally. He is a strong advocate, stepping forward to embrace becoming nurturing, supportive, and loving fathers.



Kristie Wilson serves as a Health and Human Resource Specialist and the CBCAP State Lead for West Virginia. Over her 16-year career with the state, she's had the opportunity to support families from multiple angles-starting on the front lines as an Economic Service Worker, moving into Quality Control, and now stepping into primary prevention leadership. Today, she serves as the regional facilitator for 23 Family Support Centers and 6 In-Home Family Education programs, working directly with subgrantees to build resilient, community-anchored prevention networks across West Virginia.



Amanda Winslow is the Bureau Chief of Early Childhood Services at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Mrs. Winslow has a Master's degree in early childhood education from Northwestern College and a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Iowa State University. Motivated by a commitment to building and strengthening state and local partnerships, Mrs. Winslow has guided strategic planning across early childhood systems, working collaboratively and intentionally to develop approaches that promote positive family outcomes with a strong emphasis on prevention.