

An abstract painting of a city street scene. The background is a vibrant mix of purple, pink, and blue. In the center, a teal-colored street runs vertically. On the left, there are stylized buildings in shades of pink and purple, with some having white rectangular windows. On the right, there are more buildings in shades of pink and purple, with some having white rectangular windows. The street is filled with various shapes and colors, including yellow, green, and blue, suggesting a busy urban environment. The overall style is expressive and colorful.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program Annual Grantee Meeting

May 24-25, 2023
Baltimore, MD



2023 CBCAP Grantee Meeting-at-a-Glance



Tuesday, May 23, 2023

5:00—6:30 pm ET
South Foyer

Registration

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 (DAY ONE)

7:30 am – 4:00 pm
South Foyer

Registration

9:00 –10:30 am
Key Ballroom 6

Welcome and Introductions

Julie Fliss and Emily Fisher, Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)
Valerie Spiva-Collins, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP

Plenary: The Well-Being of LGBTQ+ Youth in Child Welfare

LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in child welfare systems and often misunderstood, and their needs not met. We are inviting you to come discover the galaxies of identities, looking beyond the binary. This session will also cover the needs, and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth in child welfare and introduce you to the Youth Acceptance Project which is a successful intervention working with the parents and families who struggle to accept their LGBTQ+ children and youth.

Vida Khavar, Project Director
Youth Acceptance Program and getREAL California

10:30 –11:00 am

Break

An opportunity to network and visit the exhibits

11:00 am – 12:15 pm
(Each participant chooses one session to attend)

**See session descriptions on page 5*

Discussion Groups

A Culture of Sustainability: Funding Availability Fluctuates-How You Think About It Should Remain the Same

Abby Waldbaum and Aaron Miller (CO); and Mary Pinker (NE)

Key Ballroom 3

Racial Equity: An Initiative or a Mindset?

Anntoinette Johnson (TN) and Magdalena Benitez (FRIENDS)

Key Ballroom 2

Breakout Sessions

Strategies to Support Diversifying CBCAP Funding Recipients

Yaraseth Anaya-Lugo (NV), Marion Eckersley (UT), and Karsten Hartman (GA)

Key Ballroom 6

The Protective Factors Survey and Its Multiple Versions: Going Beyond Subscale Scores to Measure Impact

Jessica Sprague-Jones and Stef Sloan, KU CPPR

Key Ballroom 1

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Lunch (on your own)

1:30 – 2:30 pm
Key Ballroom 6

Comments from ACYF Commissioner, Rebecca Jones Gaston

Commissioner Gaston will join grantees to share the administration's priorities, discuss challenges, and encourage meeting attendees in their commitments to strengthen and support all families.

Rebecca Jones Gaston, Commissioner
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families



2023 CBCAP Grantee Meeting-at-a-Glance



Wednesday, May 24, 2023 (DAY ONE)

2:45 – 4:00 pm <i>(Each participant chooses one session to attend)</i> <i>*See session descriptions on page 5</i>	Discussion Groups		Breakout Sessions	
	Safe, Consistent Care for Young Children: Coordinating and Collaborating with the Early Childhood System <i>Michael Cupeles (NJ), Teresa Rafael, Children's Trust Fund Alliance</i> <i>Key Ballroom 3</i>	Exploring the Stigma Around Seeking Prevention Services: How Language and Perception Play a Role <i>Theresa Costello, Action 4 Child Protection</i> <i>Key Ballroom 2</i>	Exemplary Practices: Thinking Outside of the Box to Provide Supports to Families <i>Becky Berk (NH), Nicole Sillaman (OH), and Tina Gorin (OR)</i> <i>Key Ballroom 6</i>	Exploring CBCAP Partnerships Between Tribal & Migrant Serving Programs and States <i>Tené Marion (AZ), Roger Sherman (ID), Ashley Schlichenmayer-Okroi (SD), and Juan Ramirez (Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic)</i> <i>Key Ballroom 1</i>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Break			
4:30 – 6:00 pm <i>Diamond Tavern</i>	CBCAP Meet and Greet A networking opportunity for all participants to meet and interact with other state leads, federal staff, FRIENDS staff, and parent leaders.			
6:00 pm	PAC and Parent Dinner Calling all parent leaders! The FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council is coordinating a dinner for participants attending the Grantee Meeting as parent representatives. This event is an opportunity to network with each other and learn about parent leadership efforts across the country. Please meet in the lobby on Wednesday, May 24 th at 6 pm (immediately following the Meet and Greet).			



2023 CBCAP Grantee Meeting-at-a-Glance



Thursday, May 25, 2023 (DAY TWO)

7:00 am—12:30 pm <i>South Foyer</i>	Registration			
7:00—8:15 am <i>Key Ballroom 1</i>	CBCAP 101 CBCAP Leads who are new to their role have the option of participating in this in-person orientation to CBCAP, providing participants with the opportunity to learn more about their role and resources to get better acclimated to their position. The session will include a review of the 2023 New State Lead Manual and an introduction to the Federal Project Officers, FRIENDS TA staff, and FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council. <i>Julie Fliss, CBCAP Federal Project Officer; MaryJo Alimena Caruso, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP; Joanne Hodgeman (MN) and Paula Bibbs-Samuels (TX), FRIENDS PAC members</i>			
8:30 – 9:30 am <i>Key Ballroom 6</i>	Understanding the FRIENDS Annual Needs Assessment This session will explain the who, what, and why of the FRIENDS' Annual Needs Assessment, while reviewing the results of the 2022 Needs Assessment. In addition, attendees will hear how FRIENDS responded to this feedback throughout the year and participate in a preview of the 2023 Needs Assessment. <i>Sarah Connelly, Senior Research Associate OU E-TEAM</i>			
9:30 – 9:45 am	Break			
9:45 – 11:00 am <i>(Each participant chooses one session to attend)</i> <i>*See session descriptions on page 6</i>	Discussion Groups		Breakout Sessions	
	Tipping Systems Change: Primary and Secondary Prevention to Transform Child Welfare <i>Alex Morales, Consultant</i> <i>Key Ballroom 3</i>	Community, Staff, and Family Wellness: How Can We Move Towards Collective Wellness? <i>Dana Fields-Johnson, Prevention Institute</i> <i>Key Ballroom 2</i>	Tools and Resources to Reinvigorate Anti-Racism Work <i>Nicole Cardoza, Founder Reclamation Ventures and the newsletter, Anti-Racism Daily</i> <i>Key Ballroom 1</i>	Building the Table Together: The Importance of Strengthening Parent and Practitioner Relationships <i>Vadonna Williams (PAC AL) and Bailey Waller (AL State Lead); Heather Stenson (PAC MT) and Josh Kendrick (MT State Lead); Melissa Zimmerman (PAC AZ) and Tené Marion (AZ State Lead)</i> <i>Key Ballroom 6</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	Break			
11:15 am – 12:30 pm <i>Key Ballroom 6</i>	Closing Session Plenary: <i>Creating Solutions that Transform Today and Reimagine Tomorrow</i> Using science fiction, reimagination, and suspending disbelief to take anti-racism work from efficiency to liberatory thinking. <i>Nicole Cardoza, Founder Reclamation Ventures and the newsletter, Anti-Racism Daily</i> Closing Remarks <i>Julie Fliss and Emily Fisher</i> <i>Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN)</i>			

Day 1 Session Descriptions

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

This year's CBCAP Grantee meeting will feature six discussion groups, two during each of the three breakout sessions. These table talks 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 20 participants.

Wednesday, May 24th: 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

A Culture of Sustainability: Funding Availability Fluctuates - How You Think About It Should Remain the Same (Discussion Group)

Facilitators:

Abby English Waldbaum and Aaron Miller, Colorado Department of Early Childhood; Mary Pinker, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Racial Equity: An Initiative or Mindset? (Discussion Group)

Facilitators:

Anntoinette Johnson, FRIENDS PAC member, TN; Magdalena Benitez, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP

Strategies to Support Diversifying CBCAP Funding Recipients

Join this interactive session to learn more about how to build capacity to support diverse grantees with successful applications for CBCAP funding in your state. Learn how CBCAP Leads have developed, offered, and implemented grant opportunities for smaller, unique, and hard to reach programs. In addition, hear how one state created a workshop on the contract process to provide support to potential grantees.

Yaraseth Anaya-Lugo, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services; Marion Eckersley, Utah Department of Health and Human Services; Karsten D. Hartman, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services

The Protective Factors Survey and Its Multiple Versions: Going Beyond Subscale Scores to Measure Impact

The Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2) is a validated tool measuring multiple family protective factors in a single instrument designed specifically for use with family support and prevention programs. In this presentation, Jessica will provide an overview of the PFS-2, including information on using both pre-post and retrospective versions. She will also discuss the field testing of the Spanish translation of the PFS-2 and the recently developed Protective Factors Survey-Military Families (PFS-MF). We will have a group discussion on how states are using the PFS in evaluation and program improvement, answer questions, and strategize on addressing barriers grantees may be facing in collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and/or applying their PFS data. Finally, Stef will present on how the Kansas CBCAP evaluation uses PFS-2 data in combination with Ripple Effects Mapping to engage CBCAP service providers in examining their own efforts.

Jessica Sprague-Jones and Stef Sloan, Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas

Wednesday, May 24th: 2:45 – 4:00 pm

Safe, Consistent Care for Young Children: Coordinating and Collaborating with the Early Childhood System (Discussion Group)

Facilitators:

Michael Cupeles, NJ, FRIENDS PAC Member; Teresa Rafael, Children's Trust Fund Alliance

Exploring the Stigma Around Seeking Prevention Services: How Language and Perception Play a Role (Discussion Group)

Facilitator:

Theresa Costello, Action 4 Child Protection

Exemplary Practices: Thinking Outside of the Box to Provide Supports to Families

Each year, FRIENDS, in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, highlights programs and practices reported by state lead agencies in their annual CBCAP reports that exhibit innovative approaches to implement prevention services across the nation. Two of the categories of exemplary practices selected

Day 1 Session Descriptions

for this year are economic and concrete supports and parent support programs.

Join presenters from New Hampshire, Ohio, and Oregon to learn how they have developed unique programs in efforts to promote child and family well-being through upstream prevention activities in their states. Hear specific examples of programs for families that offer financial assistance, address homelessness, and provide supports for fathers.

Becky Berk, New Hampshire Children's Trust; Nicole Sillaman, Ohio Children's Trust Fund; and Tina Gorin, Oregon Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Program

Exploring CBCAP Partnerships between Tribal & Migrant Serving Programs and States

Is your state, tribal, or migrant program interested in partnering with your fellow CBCAP serving programs? Join this informative session that will provide an array of strategies to build partnerships using CBCAP funds. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about developing thoughtful outreach, planning culturally responsive programming, sharing capacity building resources and the involvement of one of the migrant CBCAP grantees in the Prevention Mindset Institute.

Tené D. Marion, Arizona Department of Child Safety; Roger Sherman, Idaho Children's Trust Fund; Ashley Schlichenmayer-Okroi, South Dakota Department of Social Services; and Juan Ramirez, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Day 2 Session Descriptions

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

This year's CBCAP Grantee meeting will feature six discussion groups, two during each of the three breakout sessions. These table talks 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 20 participants.

Thursday, May 25th: 9:45 -11:00 am

Tipping Systems Change: Primary and Secondary Prevention to Transform Child Welfare (Discussion Group)

Facilitatorz:

Alex Morales, Retired President and CEO, Children's Bureau of Southern California; Board Member, Child Welfare League of America

Community, Staff, and Family Wellness: How Can We Move Towards Collective Wellness? (Discussion Group)

Facilitator:

Dana Fields-Johnson, Prevention Institute

Building the Table Together: The Importance of Strengthening Parent and Practitioner Relationships

Parent partners have a vital voice that should be included in any efforts to develop primary prevention focused systems. Authentic and intentional engagement involves inviting parents to participate in planning efforts from the very beginning to understand what families need to thrive, and then collaborating to co-create a continuum of supports together. Join this facilitated conversation with FRIENDS PAC members and state leads from Alabama, Arizona and Montana as they share their experiences developing and strengthening parent and practitioner relationships in their states. Gain insights and hear examples about the mutually beneficial relationships between parents and practitioners, the importance of valuing parents' time and intellectual property, the power of having diverse parent voices that represent the demographics of the community at the table, and the impact of true parent engagement.

Panelists: Vadonna Williams, AL, FRIENDS PAC Member; Bailey Waller, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention; Heather Stenson, MT, FRIENDS PAC Member; Josh Kendrick, Montana Children's Trust Fund; Melissa Zimmerman, AZ, FRIENDS PAC Member, and Tené Marion, Arizona Department of Child Safety

Tools and Resources to Reinvigorate Anti-Racism Work

What do diversity, equity, and inclusion practices have to do with the weather? Is it possible to assess equity in organizations? And how do we reinvigorate staff who have grown tired of transformation? Ms. Cardoza will lead participants through a climate exercise, share assessment tools, and talk about re-energizing those who have grown weary.

Nicole Cardoza, Reclamation Ventures, and the newsletter, Anti-Racism Daily

General Information

Exhibits

The exhibit area will be in the South Foyer on the 2nd Floor. Please stop by to view and pick up copies of the latest and most popular FRIENDS materials.

Internet Info

Wi-Fi is available in hotel sleeping rooms and general areas like the lobby and foyers. Wi-Fi is not available in meeting rooms. Participants will need to use their personal cell phone service to access the internet while in meeting rooms.

Lunch Options within the Hotel

Pendulum 401 offers breakfast, lunch, dinner, and drinks.

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf offers gourmet coffee, loose-leaf tea, pastries, and sandwiches.

Fresh Connection offers carry-out options for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

A map of more area restaurants can be found on page 16.

CBCAP 101

CBCAP Leads who are new to their role have the option of participating in this in-person orientation to CBCAP, providing participants with the opportunity to learn more about their role and resources to get better acclimated to their position. The session will

include a review of the 2023 New State Lead Manual and an introduction to the Federal Project Officers, FRIENDS TA staff, and FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council. Feel free to bring your breakfast to this early morning session.

Meet and Greet

Please join us at the Diamond Tavern restaurant in the hotel from 4:30-6:00 pm on May 24th for a chance to network with your CBCAP peers, FRIENDS staff, FRIENDS PAC, and Federal staff. Light refreshments will be available.

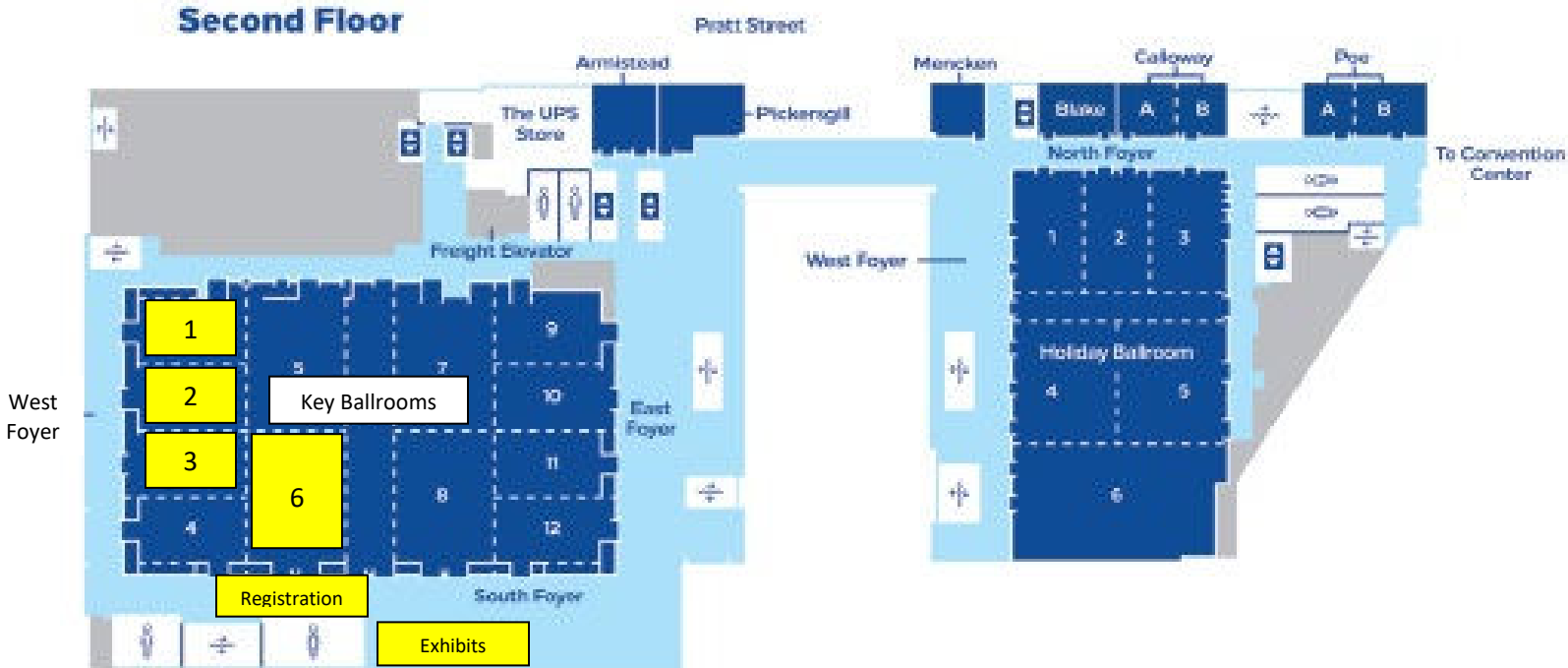
Parent Dinner

Calling all parent leaders! The FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council is coordinating a dinner for participants attending the Grantee Meeting as parent representatives. This event is an opportunity to network with each other and learn about parent leadership efforts across the country. Please meet in the lobby on Wednesday, May 24th at 6 pm (immediately following the Meet and Greet).

Evaluation Reminders

Please complete the evaluation forms included in your packet and those at the sessions you attend. Your input is imperative to the content and design of next year's CBCAP Grantee Meeting.

Second Floor



Keynote Speaker Bios



Vida Khavar, LMFT has 25+ years' experience in child welfare. She has assisted many organizations in developing programs that serve children and families. Vida was a consultant for the federal project: RISE, which

aimed at improving the lives of LGBTQ+ youth in foster care in Los Angeles County. She is currently the Clinical Director at Family Builders. As such, she collaborates with the California Department of Social Services in developing and implementing affirming policies and practices for LGBTQ+ children in foster care. Vida also leads the Youth Acceptance Project and provides her clinical expertise to several jurisdictions throughout the country.



Rebecca Jones Gaston is the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), at the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ACYF manages the Children's Bureau and the

Family and Youth Services Bureau.

Before joining the Biden Administration via confirmation by the U.S. Senate in December 2022, Gaston was the child welfare director for the state of Oregon's Department of Human Services that oversees child protection, foster care, and adoption services, a position she held since 2019. During her time as director, Oregon launched a major transformation built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered, and culturally responsive programs and services.



Nicole Cardoza is an award-winning serial social entrepreneur, investor, author, and public speaker making wellness accessible to everyone. She is the founder of *Anti-Racism Daily*, a media platform

with 300,000+ subscribers that has helped to raise over 2 million dollars for causes that dismantle white supremacy. She is a 2017 Forbes 30 Under 30 and has been recognized as one of the most influential changemakers in wellness. She's taught yoga across the globe, performed magic shows across the U.S., and speaks regularly on the intersection of wellness, entrepreneurship, and anti-racism.

Nicole identifies as a queer, cisgender Black woman.

Speaker Bios



Becky Berk, as the Impact and Evaluation Director at the NH Children's Trust, Becky oversees efforts to measure, analyze, and report on the organization's internal and external impact and

organizational effectiveness and builds an organizational culture that uses data to improve programs and practices. With a degree from Swarthmore College, Becky started her career as a biology and physics teacher in Cairo, Egypt but soon morphed into all aspects of non-profit management, serving with several organizations dedicated to the support and success of children and families. This is Becky's second "tour of duty" with the NH Children's Trust, having worked from 2010-2014 as the agency's Quality Improvement Director, returning in 2020 as the Data Administrator before assuming her current role.



Sarah Connelly is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University of Oklahoma. Her research focuses on how services impact the well-being of youth involved in the child welfare system. She is a full-time Research Assistant

for the Educational Training, Evaluation, Assessment, and Measurement Department at the University of Oklahoma. Her research has been published in the *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* and she has presented at multiple national conferences.



Marion Eckersley has over 20 years of experience working with various federal programs supporting children, youth, and families. She currently works as the Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager at the Utah

Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services where she manages the CBCAP and Children's Trust Account grants while also supporting the Family Support Centers of Utah. Marion has recently been working on outreach strategies to engage underserved populations within Utah.

Prior to coming to the Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Marion worked at the Utah Department of Workforce Services as a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Specialist. In this position she was instrumental in the development and implementation of several TANF Intergenerational Poverty Pilot programs using a two-generational case management approach. She developed strategies that involved strengthening families with individualized plans focusing on early childhood development, education, health services, and family economic stability.



Tina Gorin is the Family Support and Connections (FS&C) and Prevention Coordinator for the Oregon CBCAP lead agency, the Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Program in Oregon. With more than 15

years of working in social services, Tina brings experience in program development and service delivery for children, youth, and families. Tina has worked in various systems serving survivors of domestic violence, families experiencing poverty, and families navigating recovery and involvement with Child Welfare. Tina has a Master's in Social Work

Speaker Bios

degree from Eastern Washington University and is licensed as a clinical social worker. Tina is the mom and scheduler extraordinaire for two amazing (and active) daughters, to whom she credits as her most influential teachers.



Karsten Hartman is the new Director of Prevention and Community Support for the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services. He has over 25 years of child welfare experience; the last 9 employed with the Division. He is excited about this new chapter in prevention and is looking forward to contributing to an increased positive impact in the lives of Georgia families and communities across the state. Karsten is also excited about the privilege of collaborating with other CBCAP state leads and is thrilled about opportunities to learn how others are impacting families across the nation.



Josh Kendrick has been with the Montana Children's Trust Fund since Spring 2022. Prior to joining the Children's Trust Fund he served in program management in early intervention (Part C of IDEA). He also served in ministry in his home state of South Dakota before moving to Montana.



Yaraseth Anaya-Lugo is a graduate of the University of Nevada Reno, with a degree in Political Science. She was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 12. The experience of immigrating to a new country has had a major impact on her life and sparked an interest in working with families. She has over 25 years of experience working with children

and families in the state of Nevada. Yaraseth had the opportunity to work with Latino families while working with the Carson City School District (CCSD), wherein she dedicated 10 years in providing and guiding parents through the education system while involving their participation in their children's lives. She has also worked for a non-profit organization, Nevada Hispanic Services, providing services to immigrant families.

These life experiences have enabled Yaraseth to assist Latino families through the assimilation process of adapting to a new environment, including the legal realm, accessing trainings, and accessing community resources while supporting the families in creating a literate home environment that would enhance the academic achievement of their children.

Yaraseth is committed to serving the needs of children and families in Nevada. Yaraseth has worked in several different divisions within Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services. Presently, she is working for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Grants Management Unit (GMU) wherein she is responsible for overseeing the Child Welfare grants including leading Nevada's Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP).

Yaraseth is focused on assisting all community members to ensure Nevadans have access to quality services when needed while also making sure that the prevention of child abuse and neglect is integral when developing, creating and/or restructuring any social service program regardless of the families' situation.



Tené Marion was born and raised in Detroit, MI and obtained her BSW at Eastern Michigan University. Tene' has been working in child welfare since 2000 and has been with the Arizona Department of Child Safety since 2011. While with DCS, Tene' has been an Investigator, Investigations Supervisor and Program

Speaker Bios

Manager. Tene' is now the Prevention Administrator with the DCS Office of Prevention. She is also the Chair of the Internal African American Racial Disparity Committee. When she is not working, she enjoys taking golf lessons from her Dad who has been golfing for 30 years. Helping children and supporting families is her passion and she loves working alongside individuals with the same drive and dedication.



Juan Ramirez is the Public Health Manager of the Health Education Department for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. Juan is bilingual and has experience in program implementation,

working with federal, state, and private grants and has vast knowledge collaborating with social service agencies, and school districts for social justice and health equity. Juan serves as Board Secretary for La Casa Hogar in Yakima, WA, is a member of the Prevention Mindset Institute led by FRIENDS, and one of eight Tribal & Migrant grantees in the U.S. Mr. Ramirez received his undergrad degree in Law from Universidad Interamericana para el Desarrollo, Mexico and a Master of Public Health degree from The University of Texas at El Paso. Juan enjoys hiking through the Pacific Northwest, taking trips to the coast, and spending time with his family.



Ashley Schlichenmayer-Okroi is a Program Specialist with the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Protection Services.

Ash's primary focus is prevention services for the state, including parenting education programs and development of the state's Family First Prevention Plan.

Her past experience has been as Children's Supports Manager for the South Dakota Department of Human Services.



Roger Sherman is the Executive Director of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, which is also the state affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse America. Under Roger's leadership, the Trust has greatly expanded its efforts to prevent child sexual

abuse, introduced new ways of preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, and engaged educators, physicians and others around trauma informed care, ACEs, resilience and strengthening families. He has worked with schools and other organizations statewide in his current role and previously as a community organizer from 1979-2007. Roger was named the Child Advocate of the Year 2017 as the recipient of the Jerry Hirschfeld Special Achievement Award from the Idaho chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He serves on the boards of the Idaho Resilience Project, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, and the Boise Farmers Market. Roger is married and has three daughters.



Nicole Sillaman is the Executive Director of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF). Ms. Sillaman has worked in the field of child abuse and neglect prevention for nearly a decade, where she has led numerous statewide projects and

initiatives designed to meet the needs of families prior to coming to the attention of the children services system. Prior to the Trust Fund, Ms. Sillaman worked at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center for seven years in program coordination for physician medical education programs. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management, as well as her Master of Business Administration at The Ohio State University. Ms. Sillaman is passionate about the Trust Fund's mission because she gets to come to work every day at an

Speaker Bios

agency whose core mission is to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.



Stef Sloan, PhD, is an Associate Researcher at the Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas. Dr. Sloan leads evaluation efforts on community-based child maltreatment prevention programs in Kansas

utilizing Participatory Research methods. Dr. Sloan also helps design innovative primary and secondary child maltreatment prevention strategies, particularly to bridge access to community supports that can help Kansas families avoid destabilizing crises.



Jessica Sprague-Jones, PhD, is an Assistant Director at the Center for Public Partnerships and Research at the University of Kansas. Dr. Sprague-Jones has partnered with FRIENDS for over eight years to develop tools and resources to support

the evaluation of child maltreatment prevention programs, including the Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2), and tools to conduct cost analysis.



Heather Stenson is the Montana representative for the National Parent Advisory Council and has recently obtained a full-time position with the Montana Children's Trust Fund as the new ARPA Program Specialist. As the

Program Specialist Heather will be overseeing the new Statewide Community Response Programs put in place to help families before becoming involved with the Department of Child Family Service by providing them with the specific resources that that individual

family needs to be successful and help prevent abuse and neglect for Montana's children.

Heather has also worked as a Social Services Manager, as a Montana SafeCare Trainer, Montana SafeCare Coach, and home visitor. Heather started working as a SafeCare home visitor in 2014 where she found her voice and peer support. Heather used her ability to start a local support group to help families in her community parenting children with special health care needs or mental health conditions. Heather, in partnership with the Montana Children's Special Health Services, created Montana Circle of Parents. Heather has a degree in Early Childhood Education and has received extensive training in areas that support child abuse and neglect prevention. Heather is a certified Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) trainer.

Heather often says that she has a "fire in her belly" to advocate for individuals who can't advocate for themselves. In 2018, Heather received funding from Montana Children's Special Healthcare Services to become a Circle of Parents (COP) Trainer and train new COP groups all around the state of Montana. She has since started thirteen new COP groups that support families with children who have special health care needs and mental health conditions, grandparents raising grandchildren, parents in recovery, foster families, and postpartum mental health.

Heather enjoys spending time with loved ones, learning new things, meeting new people with the same passions and goals, traveling, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, camping, skydiving, reading, and going on adventures.

Speaker Bios



Bailey Waller is the Program Manager for the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. Bailey manages the agency's Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) federal funding and coordinates the work of

Alabama's CBCAP grantees across the state. This includes leading the work of the Alabama Parent Advisory Council. Bailey received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology-Sociology from Birmingham-Southern College and a Master of Social Work degree from The University of Alabama. She is married to Griff and the proud mother of James (2 years old) and Lucy (9 months old).



Vadonna Williams On a national level, Vadonna serves as a steering committee member for the National Early Childhood Family Network. She also serves on the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council (PAC). As a PAC member, Vadonna provides

useful overall program direction and guidance to the activities of the National Center. She also shares her experience and expertise in child abuse prevention and family strengthening. On a state level, Vadonna also is currently serving as a PAC member for the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/The Children's Trust Fund and continues to serve on the Alabama Partnership for Children's Family Advisory Committee where she was a founding member. She became a dedicated advocate for children and families in Tuscaloosa and throughout Alabama after obtaining both a BS in Early Childhood Education and a MS in Human Development and Family Studies, from the University of Alabama. She is married to Leonard and is a devoted mother of Leonard (24) and Shai (16).



Melissa Zimmerman lives in Phoenix, Arizona with her 14-year-old daughter, Taylor, and her husband. She is a dedicated family advocate in her community. She was previously involved with the Department of Child Safety (DCS). She was able to

successfully navigate the child welfare system and behavioral health systems. She was successfully reunited with her daughter. She advocates for the parents that she works with to be their voice in advocating for their families. She also advocates for parents and foster parents to have a shared parenting relationship while their children are in care.

Today, Melissa has 10 years sobriety and is currently a Care Coordinator for Terros Health with the Families F.I.R.S.T (Families in Recovery Succeeding Together) program helping families reunite with their children. Her knowledge is crucial in helping individuals and families navigate the complicated public health and child protective system in Arizona. Melissa currently holds a master's degree in criminal justice, is currently enrolled in her Master of Social Work program and is a Certified Peer Support that includes Forensic Peer Support as well. She is a part of the Parent Advisory Collaborative for Arizona and is currently a part of the Birth Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) and the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN). Melissa has been with FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council for two years. Melissa seeks to empower parents to have a voice to advocate for themselves, their families and to be responsible for their successes.

NEIGHBORHOOD

DINING MAP



