

# OHIO FAMILY CARE ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

## FAMILIES TOGETHER: ALL SYSTEMS ON BOARD JUNE 23-24, 2023

**Friday June 23, 2023**

**8:00-9:00 Breakfast and Registration**

**9:00 – 12:00 Families Together**

*OFCA Leadership Team: Veronica McNair, Sherritta Woods, Mia Sanders, Georgetta Lake, Whitney Yarberry, Bobbi Pedersen, Theresa Johnson, Megan Allbright-Campos.*

*Coordinator: Dot Erickson Anderson*

Primary, Kinship, Foster, Respite and Adoptive families have a long history of involvement and advocacy within Ohio's Child Welfare system. The Leadership Team will review the 50 years of development of family involvement within the Child Protective System, examine with participants where we are today, and begin to look at where we must go to ensure that Ohio's children and families thrive.

**12:00-1:00 Lunch**

**1:00-2:45 Session One**

**1)OhioRISE Program: Prioritizing the Voice and Choice of Youth and Caregivers**

*Kelly Smith, External Affairs Administrator of OhioRISE and Shannon Hunter, Family Engagement Director for OhioRISE*

OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence) is a specialized Medicaid managed care program that focuses on children and youth who have complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. The OhioRISE program covers behavioral healthcare services and supports, one of which is care coordination that puts the youth and caregiver at the center of their care. Young people with multisystem needs often require supports from multiple systems including the educational, developmental disability, child protection, juvenile justice, and/or mental health and addiction along with natural supports. OhioRISE care coordination helps to bring all of these systems together with the youth and family at the center to support their needs that lead to better outcomes.

OhioRISE care coordination uses wraparound approaches that prioritizes the family and youth perspectives, planning is based on family and youth's choices and preferences and is strengths-based, utilizes community and natural supports, and the process respects family and youth's beliefs, cultures, and identity by putting them at the center of their care.

## **2)Meet Your Family Ombudsman!**

*Jennifer Sheriff, Ohio Family Ombudsman*

The mission of the Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office is to receive, review, and resolve complaints to improve service delivery and outcomes for Ohio youth and families involved with the children services system. The Family Ombudsman is authorized to independently investigate unresolved issues reported by any concerned adult, including current and prospective caregivers, and has discretion to present recommendations to appropriate local and state government officials. Attend this presentation to learn more about how the Family Ombudsman investigates specific allegations and strives to resolve conflict within a complex legal arena of “competing” interests.

## **3)World Café Topic: Mandated Reporting**

*Dot Erickson-Anderson and members of the OFCA Leadership Team.*

This practice of the World Café uses the concepts of talking together to discover our common interests and concerns, to share our knowledge and imagine future processes that can be used to co-create solutions for the conflicts currently seen with the child welfare mandated reporting practices, rules, and laws. Background information on the status of Mandated Reporting in Ohio will be presented as the participants work together to create solutions that can be pursued in a system change that values and strengthens connections for families and their children who are involved with Ohio’s child welfare services.

**2:45-3:00 Break with snack**

**3:00-4:45 Session Two**

## **4)The Girls Are Not Alright: What Caregivers Need to Know About the State of Adolescent Girls’ Mental Health**

*Lauren Morosky, Manager of Content Development & Community Programs, MA, LSC (Ruling Our eXperiences-ROX)*

The world is more complicated than it has ever been for girls. Today’s girls are living in an environment where happiness is defined and experienced as a direct result of constant feedback from others. Pair this with academics, pressure to fit in with their peers, the desire to please parents or teachers and expectations to look, act and perform everything flawlessly, girls are under constant pressure that “adults just don’t understand.”

Findings from the February 2023 CDC report from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) reveals that nearly 60% of high school girls report feeling persistently sad or hopeless, 30% report serious consideration of suicide and 1 in 5 report experiences of sexual violence within the past year. Now, more than ever, families and systems must come together for the good of girls. Research has shown that positive relationships with caring adults protect adolescents from a range of poor health-related outcomes and promote

positive development. This CDC report reveals that youth-adult connectedness is foundational for adolescent health and well-being and that we must move forward with a level of urgency to ensure that girls have access to safe and supportive spaces of connection.

As leaders in research, education and programming for girls, Ruling Our eXperiences (ROX) is committed to building generations of confident girls who rule their own relationships, experiences, decisions and futures. This workshop will utilize first-of-its-kind ROX research from The Girls' Index™, to shed light on the complex experiences of today's girls. Participants will gain a new understanding of how girls' experiences uniquely impact their mental health and what girls say they need most from the adults in their lives. Participants will leave equipped with practical strategies for supporting and connecting with girls such as; tips for getting girls to talk, how to offer support that girls actually want, and what to do to help girls build resilience.

### **5) Family & Worker Relationships - Behaviors that Drive Outcomes**


*Mike Kenney, Director of Strategic Initiatives, PCSAO*

PCSAO is currently 1.5 years into the research and development phase of a shared practice model for all Ohio public children services agencies. The model, named Practice in Action Together (PACT), was co-created by a diverse group of stakeholders, including youth and parents with lived experiences within the child welfare system. PACT is a relational framework focused solely on "how" workers and families work together to achieve shared outcomes, and not on the "what" or "why" of their role. As an example, there are rules that determine how often a worker must visit with a family - PACT is designed to help drive the values and behaviors of the worker while they are out on the visit and not on the process or documentation of the visit.

This highly interactive workshop will provide an overview of the PACT model and give the audience an opportunity to give input and feedback regarding the behaviors they feel are most aligned with the relational outcomes they want to achieve. In addition, the audience will have the opportunity to discuss the model components with one another and reflect on their own experiences and needs. The following four values are a key component of the model and will help to drive the presentation and discussion:

- WE BELIEVE families define "family", and they are experts on their culture, beliefs, and experiences
- WE BELIEVE families have diverse needs, and by partnering with them, we can work together to address those needs
- WE BELIEVE families develop trust when we are honest and inclusive in the decision-making process
- WE BELIEVE families can recover, heal, and grow

The session will also include group discussion and opportunities for input regarding the current efforts to design an implementation framework for the



model, which is rooted in everyday behavioral change, and not rely solely on classroom learning. One of the most unique aspects of the model is the focus on relational outcomes and not just system-level permanency and safety outcomes. The following five family outcomes will be reviewed and discussed during the workshop:

1. Increased trust with worker & agency
2. Improved motivation for change
3. Increased sense of power and control in decision making
4. Reduced fear and resistance
5. Increased transparency about needs, strengths, and challenges

At the conclusion of the session, the audience will have a sound understanding of the PACT model and will have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to the future direction of implementation.

### **6)World Café Topic: Transitions**

*Dot Erickson-Anderson and members of the OFCA Leadership Team.*

This practice of the World Café uses the concepts of talking together to discover our common interests and concerns, to share our knowledge and imagine future processes that can be used to co-create solutions for the conflicts currently seen with the child welfare practices, rules, and laws that cause movements of children through the system. Background information on the status of Transition in Ohio will be presented as the participants work together to create solutions that can be pursued in a system change that values the strengthening and connections for families and their children who are involved with Ohio's child welfare services.

**Saturday June 24, 2023**

**8:00-9:00 Breakfast and Registration**

**9:00 - 12:00 How to Effectively Advocate and Hold the System Accountable**

*Whitney Yarberry, self proclaimed foster care disrupter, social media activist and founder of Be the Village, instructional designer of child welfare training, foster caregiver and OFCA leadership team member*

Were you silent? Or were you silenced? We all have experienced moments in our lives where we have been made to feel unseen and unheard. The first step in unleashing the powerful advocate inside of you is to recognize the impact of these moments and to transform pain into purpose. Before we can advocate for children and families, we must first know what it means to advocate for ourselves. In this session, participants will reflect and have discussion around our own experiences on this topic. You will connect your personal experiences with the impact it has had on your ability to effectively cause change in the child welfare system. We will then address the obstacles we face in holding the system accountable and identify solutions and action steps that can be taken to spark real change.

**12:00-1:00 Lunch**

**1:00-2:45 Session Three**

**7) Understanding the Role of CAPTA Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in Child Welfare Oversight**

*Sarah Parmenter, MSW, LSW*

The role of Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in protecting the well-being of children and families is crucial within the framework of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). This interactive workshop aims to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the purpose, functions, and impact of CRPs in the child welfare system.

During this workshop, participants will engage in a dynamic learning environment where they will gain knowledge about the significance of CRPs in promoting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement within child welfare agencies. Through a combination of presentations, case studies, and group discussions, participants will explore the following key aspects:

1. Overview of CAPTA and CRPs:
2. Functions and Responsibilities of CRPs:
3. Effective Participation in CRPs:
4. Best Practices and Case Studies:

By the end of this workshop, participants will have a deep understanding of the critical role played by CRPs in safeguarding child welfare. They will leave with practical knowledge, skills, and strategies to actively participate in

CRPs, contributing to the continuous improvement of child welfare systems and ensuring the well-being of children and families in their communities.

## **8) Let's Make Ohio the Best State for Families: State Budget Advocacy**

*Will Petrik, Project Director, Policy Matters Ohio*

Everyone, no matter where they live or what they look like, deserves safety, security and dignity. We all need to put food on the table, pay the rent, and pay for the basics to support ourselves and our family.

We pool our tax dollars to build the foundation: clean water, clean air, public schools; safe roads and bridges, public transit to get to work. We elect lawmakers to make decisions about how to prioritize public dollars to make Ohio a great place to live.

In order to make Ohio a better state for families, more Ohioans need to be a part of shaping the future priorities of our state.

You're invited to join this workshop to learn more about:

- why the state budget matters
- what the budget is
- the timeline for the state budget debate in the legislature
- budget priorities that support children and families
- how you can take action to shape the future of Ohio

Ohio has enough resources for all of us, whether we live in Lima, Athens, or Cincinnati, to live with dignity. Let's come together to rewrite the rules so everyone can live a good life. Join us!

## **9) World Café Topic: Building Connections between Foster/Adoptive Families and Kinship/Primary Families**

*Dot Erickson-Anderson and members of the OFCA Leadership Team.*

This practice of the World Café uses the concepts of talking together to discover our common interests and concerns, to share our knowledge and imagine future processes that can be used to co-create solutions for the conflicts currently seen with the child welfare practices, rules, and laws that separate foster and adoptive families from kinship and primary families. Background information on the status of Family connections in Ohio will be presented as the participants work together to create solutions that can be pursued in a system change that values and strengthens connections for families and their children who are involved with Ohio's child welfare services.

**2:45-3:00 Break with snack**

### **3:00-4:45 Session Four**

#### **10) Helping Your Student Achieve Success In Education and College**

*Ohio Gap Closers: Emily Ragland, Mark Bobo, Taylor Porter and Travis Porter*

Join us for an interactive and empowering workshop designed specifically for parents and workers to help students in foster care. Our team will be aiming to provide guidance, support, and resources to navigate the college admissions process and foster success beyond high school. We understand that transitioning from foster care to college and adulthood can present unique challenges, and our workshop aims to equip students with the necessary tools to overcome these obstacles and thrive in their educational journey and future endeavors.

#### **11) Ohio's Peer Support Models**

*Veronica McNair, Nellie Aguilar, and other peer support partners.*

Join us for an examination and discussion about the many Peer Support Models throughout Ohio. This workshop will feature a panel of peer support partners who are vital to this work. Attendees will hear about the many different models and exchange in discussion about the strengths and uniqueness of each. Many of these models are in their infancy so participants will gain knowledge of where Ohio is heading in its work to support primary families in the child welfare system.

#### **12) World Café Topic: Parenting Across the Racial & Economic Divides**

*Dot Erickson-Anderson and members of the OFCA Leadership Team.*

This practice of the World Café uses the concepts of talking together to discover our common interests and concerns, to share our knowledge and imagine future processes that can be used to co-create solutions for the conflicts currently seen with the child welfare practices, rules, and laws that are seen in parenting across our racial and economic divides. Background information on the status of our divides in Ohio will be presented as the participants work together to create solutions that can be pursued in a system change that values the racial and economic division present for families and their children who are involved with Ohio's child welfare services.