

OHIO FAMILY CARE ASSOCIATION 2024 COLUMBUS CONFERENCE AGENDA

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES: BRIDGING GAPS IN POLICIES AND PRACTICES

JUNE 29, 2024

8:30-9:00 Breakfast and Registration

9:00 – 10:45 Keynote: Lawrence Funderburke

Join us for an inspiring keynote address by Lawrence Funderburke, a former NBA player turned motivational speaker and financial literacy advocate. Lawrence will share his personal journey and insights on the importance of strong family foundations, resilience, and the role of effective policies in supporting families. His unique perspective will set the tone for a day dedicated to bridging gaps and strengthening families.

10:45-12:15 Kinship Caregiver Perspective

Kinship Caregivers Connect: Angela Tobin, Yaya Lumpkin, Darlene Roberson

Kinship caregivers play a critical role in providing stability and love to children within their extended families/communities. This session will delve into the unique challenges and rewards of kinship care, featuring firsthand accounts from caregivers. Participants will gain an understanding of the support systems and policies needed to assist kinship families, as well as practical strategies for navigating the complexities of this caregiving role.

12:15-12:45 Lunch

12:45-2:00 Primary Parent Perspective

SAFY Primary Parent Partner: Jolinda Wesley, Moderator: Ella Kulma

In this session, primary parents will share their experiences and insights on being involved in the child welfare system. The discussion will focus on the day-to-day challenges, the impact of policies on family life, and the practical strategies they employ to create a nurturing environment for other parents involved in the system. This workshop aims to highlight the strengths and needs of primary parents, offering valuable lessons for professionals and policymakers and examining the good, bad, and ugly of being a primary parent in child welfare.

2:00-3:30 Foster Care Perspective

OFCA Leadership

Foster care is a vital component of child welfare, yet it comes with its own set of challenges. This workshop will feature stories from foster parents who have experienced the child welfare system over several decades. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the rules, standards and complexities, and discuss ways to improve the system through better policies and practices to support foster families.

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-5:00 Adoption Perspective

OFCA Leadership

Adoption can be a complex and transformative journey for families. Topics will include the complexities of adoption, the impact of adoption policies, and the long-term effects on family dynamics. Participants will leave with a greater appreciation of the adoption experience and ideas for fostering supportive environments for adoptive families with the other family groups.