



California Permanency for Youth Project
2009 Annual Conference
February 26-27, 2009
Waterfront Hotel, Oakland, CA

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, February 26, 2009

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| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration/Breakfast Buffet – lobby outside Spinnaker Room | |
| 9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome & Introductions – Spinnaker Room | |
| 9:15 – 9:35 | Keynote:– Pat Reynolds Harris - Spinnaker Room | |
| 9:35 – 9:55 | Jennifer Rodriguez | |
| 9:55 – 10:15 | Questions and Answers | |
| 10:15 – 10:35 | BREAK | |
| 10:35 – 11:35 | Keynote: Moving Toward Legal Permanency for All Youth - Barry Chaffkin – Spinnaker Room | |
| 11:45 - 1:00 | LUNCH –lobby outside Spinnaker | |
| 1:00 - 1:52 | Group A – Spinnaker Room | Group B – Regatta Room |
| | Workshop - Barry Chaffkin | Sibling Issues - Cindy Roe,
Kinship Center |
| 1:53 - 2:45 | | LGBTQ Youth – Carolyn Reyes,
Legal Services for Children |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | BREAK | |
| 3:00 - 3:52 | Group A – Regatta Room | Group B – Spinnaker Room |
| | Sibling Issues - Cindy Roe,
Kinship Center | Workshop - Barry Chaffkin |
| 3:53 – 4:45 | LGBTQ Youth – Carolyn Reyes,
Legal Services for Children | |

Friday, February 27, 2009

- 8:30 - 9:00 Sign-in and Breakfast Buffet – lobby outside Spinnaker Room
- 9:00 - 9:30 Evaluation – Bob Friend, Craig Evans, Mardi Louisell, Cheryl Jacobson
Spinnaker Room
- 9:30 - 10:30 **Group A – Regatta Room** **Group B – Spinnaker Room**
Grief and Loss – CeCe Anthony, Searching/GenoPro – Mia Estrada,
Aspiranet and Angela Look, Kern Seneca Center
County
- 10:30 - 10:50 BREAK
- 10:50 - 11:50 **Group A – Spinnaker Room** **Group B – Regatta Room**
Searching/GenoPro – Mia Estrada, Grief and Loss – CeCe Anthony,
Seneca Center Aspiranet and Angela Look, Kern
County
- 11:50 - 1:00 LUNCH – lobby outside Spinnaker Room
- 1:00 - 2:30 County Round Tables – Spinnaker and Regatta Rooms
Four sessions: 1:00, 1:22, 1:44, 2:06

Spinnaker

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| Fresno | Steps in the Process - Veronica Salmeron |
| Humboldt | Lessons Learned in Starting the HOPE Project -
Carolyn Albee |
| Kern | Collaborations and Using Interns –
Kristie Esquivel |
| Los Angeles | P3 Program - Tiffany Collins |
| San Luis Obispo | Developing Permanency Teams for Each Youth -
Summer Frappier |

Regatta

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| San Francisco | A Contracted Agency-County Partnership:
Successes and Challenges - Laurie Sands, Family
Builders |
| San Luis Obispo | Permanency Database: Outcomes and Data -
Katie McCain |
| Sonoma | Funding Snafus for Youth on the Path to
Permanency - Bob Harper |

- 2:30 Hand in evaluations/wrap-up – Spinnaker Room

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote: Pat Reynolds Harris and Jennifer Rodriguez

Pat Reynolds-Harris, Founding Director of CPYP, will present an overview and history of permanency and the California Permanency for Youth Project. Jennifer Rodriguez, staff attorney at the Youth Law Center, will share what permanency means to her as a former foster youth.

Keynote: Moving Toward Legal Permanency for All Youth - Barry Chaffkin, CT Wocat

- the challenges of working on several plans at the same time for each child and some strategies to engage all parties whether they are plan A, plan B, or plan C
- the nuances of when/how to ask about more commitment from the adults identified for each youth
- the types of supports that are helpful to both the adults and the youth
- always involving the youth in the process
- transparency in this work
- dealing with ambivalence from any of the parties involved

Siblings Issues Workshop – Cindy Roe, Kinship Center

Sibling relationships are our most enduring through life. Most of us take for granted that our siblings will always be there. Children and youth in out-of-home care don't often have that luxury. Social workers, advocates, attorneys, foster parents and adoptive parents and the youth in care themselves can work together to minimize loss, support and sustain sibling connections. This presentation will provide participants with information and insight about the unique nature of the sibling relationship, with particular emphasis on the impact of trauma, loss and separation on the sibling bond. The presenter will provide participants with information to help them compare the long-term benefits versus potential safety and attachment risks inherent in the decision to separate or keep siblings together. Participants will be provided with tools and resources to support families as they care for and raise siblings who have been traumatized by loss, abuse, neglect and abandonment. Areas covered will include relationship enhancement activities, behavior challenges unique to traumatized siblings, therapeutic interventions, extended family issues, safety concerns, and maintaining connections when siblings are not placed together. Finally, the presenter will share her personal story as the adoptive parent of two brothers who were separated and have since reunited, as a former foster child separated from her sister, and as the re-united biological sibling of a brother who was placed for adoption as an infant. Resources to support and enhance their children's sibling relationships will be provided for participants.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth Workshop – Carolyn Reyes, Legal Services for Children

Learn how to assess the needs of LGBTQ youth, develop an emotionally safe working relationship for the youth, and improve services and outcomes for this population. Strategies for permanency planning will be discussed. Methods of creating an inclusive organizational culture and of promoting healthy adolescent development will be explored. Information regarding community resources will be available.

Panel Discussion: Evaluation – CPYP Staff

The panel will provide a brief overview of the findings of a CPYP evaluation completed in 2008. They will then focus on a few areas in which many of the counties struggled while implementing the project and offer ideas about how the current counties might overcome these challenges. After giving a status report of the project (and the evaluation) in the current CPYP counties the panel will lead a discussion inviting attendees to talk about implementation challenges, data collection and evaluation, and related topics.

Grief and Loss - CeCe Anthony, Aspiranet, and Angela Look, Kern County

A key factor in achieving permanence with youth is grief and loss work. Too often, foster youth have grown accustomed to feeling that they have no chance for permanence, and initially refuse to consider permanence as an option so as not to be once again abandoned and hurt. Dr. Darla L. Henry has developed a practice model for grief and loss work, the 3-5-7 model. This workshop will provide an overview of the implementation of the 3-5-7 process in Kern County. The two presenters, one from Kern County Department of Human Services and the other from Aspiranet in Kern County, will discuss how the county has utilized a public-private collaboration in its implementation, as well as the role the county administrative team has played, steps for future expansion of the program, and the county's vision for the future.

Searching/GenoPro – Mia Estrada, Seneca Center

Family finding and engagement work requires a great deal of information gathering. GenoPro is a comprehensive software program for creating family trees and genograms. The presenter will give a brief introduction and overview of the genogram (what it is, what kind of information it contains, and how to create one), then show how GenoPro software can be used to easily create genograms, as well as how it can be used to track search efforts and help social workers. The workshop will also include a live demonstration of how to build a genogram and track search efforts, along with using specific GenoPro tools and features that can be applied in the field of social work.

County Round Tables

Representatives from CPYP Pioneer II counties will give a brief presentation on a topic that their county has implemented well. Each of the counties will be presenting at the same time at tables around the room; after about 15 minutes attendees will rotate to hear a different county's presentation. There will be opportunity to hear four different presentations (attendees choose from among the eight).

PRESENTERS

CeCe Anthony

CeCe Anthony, MA, is Program Director for Aspiranet, Bakersfield office. She graduated with a Master's Degree in Human Relations (therapy track) from the University of Oklahoma in 1997. She began working in the helping field through her internship with a family-based counseling agency in Oklahoma. She then began her work in child welfare services where she investigated allegations of abuse and neglect. In 1999, Ms. Anthony moved from Oklahoma to California where she started her career in the foster and adoption fields. She has worked for Aspiranet since 2000 and has worked in both the Visalia and Bakersfield Offices. She began as a social worker, was promoted to a supervising social worker and then promoted to her current position. Ms. Anthony has also worked as a forensic interview specialist for Tulare County, where she was responsible for interviewing Tulare County victims and witnesses of crime.

Barry Chaffkin

Barry Chaffkin, LCSW, is CEO and co-founder for CT Wocat (Changing The World One Child At a Time). Mr. Chaffkin has worked in child welfare for over 17 years and has directly supervised the reunification of over 900 children with their families as well as the finalized adoptions of over 900 children from the New York foster care system. Mr. Chaffkin is a nationally recognized speaker and trainer and was named Adoption Activist of the Year in August 2005 by the North American Council on Adoptable Children. He is also an adjunct lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work in New York City and has guest lectured in Family Counseling at St. Joseph's College, Patchogue, NY. Mr. Chaffkin believes strongly that every child deserves a safe and permanent family. All of those who work with children can . . . Change The World One Child At a Time . . . so that one child can change the world.

Mia Estrada

Mia Janine Estrada, BA, is an employee of Seneca Center. Ms. Estrada was hired in 2003 as a counselor at Seneca's residential treatment program in San Francisco. Currently, she works with Seneca Center as a Family Finding Specialist as part of a national research study on the Family Finding model. (Family finding is a set of strategies and practices aimed at identifying and engaging with family members and children in the foster care system who often become estranged from relatives due to many years of separation.) Launched September 2, 2008, the San Francisco Family Finding Project is a collaborative partnership among San Francisco's Family and Children's Services, Seneca Center, Child Trends (a national child welfare research organization), and Kevin Campbell (a leading expert and consultant on the family finding model and youth permanency). The study is a groundbreaking effort to measure the impact of utilizing the family finding model at the start of a child's entrance into the foster care system. Ms. Estrada received her undergraduate degree in Forensic Psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York and is expected to complete her Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from Notre Dame in May of 2009.

Angela Look

Angela Look, MA, is a social worker for the SB163 Wraparound unit in Kern County. She has been working for the Department of Human Services since October of 2004. Before working at the county, she worked for Koinonia Foster Homes as a social worker for two years. Angela received her BA in Psychology and Sociology from California State University Bakersfield in 2000, her MA in Clinical Psychology from Rosemead School of Psychology in 2002, and is currently working on her PsyD in Organizational Development from Alliant International University.

Carolyn Reyes, Legal Services for Children

Carolyn Reyes, JD, MSW, is a staff attorney at Legal Services for Children, where, in addition to providing direct legal representation to youth in dependency, education, immigration and guardianship matters, she coordinates the Model Standards Project, which aims to improve the care of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. She has been serving children, youth and their families in the Bay Area for the past 17 years in various capacities, including child welfare worker, school counselor, social worker, children and family therapist, and attorney.

Jennifer Rodriguez

Jennifer Rodriguez, JD, is a staff attorney at the Youth Law Center. She grew up in California's foster care system, and personally experienced the impact of institutionalization, inappropriate mental health services, and inadequate educational support. Ms. Rodriguez also has personal experience with the juvenile justice system, and the issues faced by youth without family or support systems. Prior to joining the Youth Law Center in 2007, Ms. Rodriguez was the Legislative and Policy Manager and a youth organizer for the nationally-recognized foster youth advocacy organization, the California Youth Connection, leading policy efforts to make the child welfare system responsive to foster youth. Ms. Rodriguez brings these experiences to the Youth Law Center with hopes of improving conditions for other young people in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. She is currently working on projects to improve services for infants and toddlers in foster care, to increase incarcerated and foster youths' access to their children, to improve the quality of caregivers and to address issues with the quality of congregate care. After her first educational achievement, receiving her GED from San Jose Job Corps, Jennifer then received her BA in Sociology from UC Davis, and her JD from UC Davis Law School in 2004.

Cindy Roe

Cindy Roe, LCSW, is currently working as a clinical supervisor for the Kinship Center Adoption Clinic in Santa Ana, California. Ms. Roe has worked with children and families impacted by abuse and neglect, foster care and adoption, as well as prospective and current foster and adoptive families. Ms. Roe is both a former foster youth and an adoptive parent. She has been able to reconnect with her birth siblings, as well as enjoy an open relationship with the birth mother and siblings of her adopted sons. Because of her own experience of being separated from her siblings and her sons' experiences of being separated, Ms. Roe is particularly committed to training, supporting and encouraging placement professionals to keep siblings together and to utilize creative means of maintaining connections between siblings when placement together is not possible.