



RESOURCE & ADOPTIVE PARENT TRAINING

**Small Pieces,
Big Picture**





Eric J. Holcomb, Governor
Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

Indiana Department of Child Services

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Dear resource parents,

Welcome to the 2021 Resource and Adoptive Parent Training conference. After the year we've had, I think we can all agree it's more important than ever to wrap our arms around the children in DCS care - and we can't do it without you! So let me begin by extending my sincere thanks to all of you for joining us in our efforts.

At DCS, we talk a lot about our practice model, the cornerstone of our work. It depends on building trust-based relationships with those we serve. We do that through openness and honesty, through exercising empathy in all we do. You are all examples of this kind of selflessness in action. You open your hearts and your homes to those who need you most, even when it requires great sacrifice on your part.

We have so many exciting things to share with you this year, including information about the rollout of the Family First Prevention Services Act, legislation that will help us keep families together whenever possible and address risks before a child is harmed.

I hope after this conference, you feel energized and informed as you continue your journey of supporting Hoosier children. We value every single one of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Stigdon".

Terry Stigdon, MSN, RN
Director, Indiana Department of Child Services

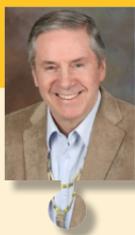


Indiana children will live in safe, healthy and supportive families and communities.

AGENDA

2021 RAPT CONFERENCE / SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

8:30am - 8:45am	Welcome Rodnie Bryant & Terry Stigdon
9:00am - 10:15am	Keynote Dr. Larry Brendtro, PhD
10:15am - 10:25am	Break & Sponsor Commercial
10:30am - 11:45am	Workshops Session I
11:45am - 12:25pm	Luncheon 1 st Prize Drawing Rodnie Bryant
12:30pm - 1:45pm	Workshops Session II
1:45pm - 1:55pm	Break, 2nd Prize Drawing, & Music
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Workshops Session III
3:15pm - 3:25pm	Break, Sponsor Commercial, & Stress Relief Moment
3:30pm - 4:15pm	Closing Keynote Dr. Lori Desautals
4:15pm - 4:25pm	Closing Remarks & Final Prize Drawing



Dr. Larry Brendtro, PhD

Director, *Resilience Resources*

BIOGRAPHY

Larry K. Brendtro, PhD, has decades of direct experience developing strength-based approaches in education, treatment, and youth work. He holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of Michigan and has taught at the University of Illinois, The Ohio State University, and Augustana University. He is president emeritus at Starr Commonwealth in Michigan serving troubled youth in residential, community-based, and alternative schools. Dr. Brendtro is co-author of 18 books and over 200 articles that provide practical strategies for reaching youth at risk. He currently resides in South Dakota and directs the research and training organization Reclaiming Youth at Risk.

PRESENTATION

Raising Resilient Kids – Circle of Courage Model

9:00am – 10:15am

Stress reigns with families in isolation, schools struggling to engage students, children experiencing trauma, and communities being disrupted. But adversity also can also build resilience, even in the era of COVID. The Circle of Courage taps Native American wisdom on meeting universal needs for Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. The presenter is co-author of *Reclaiming Youth at Risk*, which explores research and practical strategies for developing strengths in four key areas:

Belonging—Building trusting bonds with persons in distress

Mastery—Conducting talent hunts to foster the thirst for learning

Independence—Cultivating responsibility and self-discipline

Generosity—Creating climates of respect based on concern for others



The Ugly Topic of Suicide

10:30am - 11:45am

April Bordeau

Care to Change Counseling

For more than two decades, April Bordeau has focused on helping families overcome challenges in their lives. In 1997, she earned her Master's Degree from the University of Michigan and began working as a clinical in-patient therapist in a Detroit psychiatric hospital helping suicidal youth who had histories of complex trauma and abuse. After moving to Indianapolis, April worked as a wrap-around therapist and later became the manager at a residential treatment facility for youth.

In 2001, April became the executive director of a shelter that served women and children whose lives were shattered by domestic violence. She has also served children at several orphanages in China and has worked with America World Adoption Agency completing home studies and providing pre/post-adoptive support to families. April is licensed as a clinical social worker.

Workshop Description

Understand who is at risk for suicide, know how to recognize signs of suicide, learn what the difference between suicidal ideations and self harming behaviors are, and learn what you can do to prevent suicide.

We can all do something. Learn practical steps you can take and what you can do and say to save a life.



Kinship Navigation - A Path to Permanency

10:30am - 11:45am

Karen Hayden & Harmony Gist

Indianapolis Department of Child Services

Karen Hayden has worked for the Department of Child Services since 1994 and have been a Public Assistance Case Manager, Family Case Manager in Assessment and Permanency, Foster care Licensing and Adoptions. She has been a Local Office Director for six years and then became the Kinship Navigator in October 2019.

Karen obtained her MSW in 2007 and completed her Licensed Social Worker (LSW) in 2013. Kinship is a passion for Karen with the goal of bringing awareness and increase relative placements within the child welfare realm.

Karen believes strengthening the family bond should be the main priority for children who cannot live with their biological parents.

Harmony Gist has been working in Child Services since 2005. She received her BSW (2005) from IU followed by her MSW (2010) from IU through the Scholars program at DCS. Harmony started as an assessment FCM, then Permanency FCM follow by Supervision and Local Office Director.

Harmony then shifted gears to work in Central Office and now works as an Assistant Deputy Director in Staff Development, focused on the Practice Model and Leadership Capacity at DCS. She has experience licensing foster homes, working on the implementation of the Family Preservation and Services Act and developing curriculum to train external and internal stakeholders.

Harmony has experience being a kinship caregiver to her niece and nephew, which guides her work at DCS and ensures best practice and advocacy for placements and the unique dynamics it brings. Additionally, Harmony taught Child Welfare for 4 years at IU School of Social Work to undergrad students interested in working in Child Services.

Workshop Description

This presentation will provide kinship caregivers a connection to resources in their communities. It will enhance their learning on how to provide for youth in their care and challenges they face as well.



Cybersecurity and Online Presence: You Are Your Worst Enemy

10:30am - 11:45am

Alyssa Rogers

Reveal Risk

Alyssa grew up in rural Alaska during the age of information and when internet access was instrumental to communication and community. She is a licensed attorney and cybersecurity consultant. Besides serving as General Counsel for Reveal Risk, a cybersecurity consulting firm, she works to galvanize organizations from privacy and cybersecurity threats--primarily focusing on regulatory compliance, policies and standards, Third Party Risk Management, and Workforce Awareness.

Workshop Description

The presentation describes the risks our children face in a digital world. Various apps and websites will be discussed and we'll discuss case studies involving child pornography, sextortion and cyberbullying. The subject matter is troubling and the presentation is direct, but nothing graphic is shown.



Biology of Trauma and Building Block of Resiliency

10:30am - 11:45am

Robin Donaldson

Indiana Youth Services Association

Robin Donaldson is the Chief Operations Officer at Indiana Youth Services Association, a member organization that provides training and support for Youth Service Bureaus in Indiana. She is also the founder and Chief Executive Officer at Collective Impact Training and Consulting, LLC. Ms. Donaldson has been in the field of youth work for 28 years and has been teaching psychology classes at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana since August 2001.

Robin has a Master's Degree in Counseling and Social Psychology and is a Ph.D. candidate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Adler University. She is also working on a graduate certification in educational neuroscience. She has been a licensed Mental Health Counselor and a licensed foster parent. She is the mother of four sons, ages 34, 32, 28, and 19, and has one granddaughter.

Workshop Description

Having a positive impact necessitates a true understanding of the youth with whom you are working. This workshop will help facilitate that understanding with an introduction to the biological impact of trauma. The workshop will explore trauma and its impact on development and the brain, youth behaviors explained in the context of trauma, how trauma impacts attachment, self-regulation, and competencies, and provide practical examples of trauma-informed interactions in youth work.



They Did What? Now What Do We Do?

10:30am - 11:45am

Amanda Pryor

IN-AJSOP & Indianapolis

David Reed

Department of Child Services

Amanda Pryor, MSW, LCSW, CSAYC is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over twelve years of experience. She is a graduate of Indiana University School of Social Work and obtained an undergraduate degree from Indiana State University Social Work Program. Her experiences include psychosexual risk assessments, outpatient, and residential treatment. Her specialty is working with adolescent sexually maladaptive behavior. She is the Director and is credentialed with IN-AJSOP, Indiana's Initiative to Advance the Treatment of Sexually Maladaptive Youth. She provides training for clinicians in the process of obtaining credentialing through IN-AJSOP. Currently, as the director of IN-AJSOP she facilitates credentialing services for professionals in field of sexual maladaptive behaviors.

David Reed currently serves as the Deputy Director of Child Welfare Services for the Indiana Department of Child Services, and has been in that role since September 2017. Prior to his employment at DCS, he was a Conflict Guardian ad Litem and Trainer at Child Advocates, Inc. for two years, and also worked for 17 years at The Villages of Indiana, Inc. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has worked in the social work field since 1995 in a range of settings including residential and acute treatment centers, group homes, outpatient counseling centers, and private practice. He is a nationally-certified Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) therapist, and has been a Credentialed Sexually Abusive Youth Clinician (CSAYC) since 2007. He was a faculty member of the Indiana Association of Juvenile Sex Offender Practitioners (IN-AJSOP) and regularly trained therapists and other social work professionals on how to best work with youth who exhibit sexually maladaptive behaviors.

Workshop Description

After sexual abuse is identified, come learn how to safety plan and prevent future abuse.

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AINMKT-0388-19



Kids Who Outwit Adults: Connecting with Adult-Wary Youth

12:30pm - 1:45pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Dr. Larry Brendtro

Director, Resilience Resources

Larry K. Brendtro, PhD, has decades of direct experience developing strength-based approaches in education, treatment, and youth work. He holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of Michigan and has taught at the University of Illinois, The Ohio State University, and Augustana University. He is president emeritus at Starr Commonwealth in Michigan serving troubled youth in residential, community-based, and alternative schools. Dr. Brendtro is co-author of 18 books and over 200 articles that provide practical strategies for reaching youth at risk. He currently resides in South Dakota and directs the research and training organization Reclaiming Youth at Risk.

Workshop Description

Children who have experienced relational trauma develop defensive coping strategies for dealing with distrusted adults.

Building connections is an even bigger challenge in the age of COVID. While they hunger for positive attachments, their behavior operates to keep caring persons at bay. This workshop draws from the book *Kids Who Outwit Adults* coauthored by Larry Brendtro and John Seita—a former youth at risk who is now a resilience researcher at Michigan State University. Participants will learn to decode the private logic of these challenging youngsters and develop effective strategies for building bonds of trust and draw out their positive potential.



Behavioral Interventions and Supports for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and/or Mental Health Diagnoses

12:30pm - 1:45pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Megan Lauman

Life Coaching & Behavior Special Projects Tangram

Megan Lauman have been a social worker for 19 years. She has worked with individuals with developmental disabilities for the last 12 years. Those services include teaching individuals how to self advocate, equipping staff, individuals, and families to address problematic behaviors and utilize positive replacement behaviors, and help individuals live their “best life possible.” Prior to Megan’s employment with Tangram, She was employed at the Marion County children’s guardian home working with children involved in DCS and/or the juvenile justice system. Megan also has experience working with homeless and run away youth and young adults.

Workshop Description

In this presentation participants will learn proactive strategies to prevent unwanted behaviors from occurring, reactive strategies to get them to stop, and emergency interventions for dangerous behaviors.



Our Adoption Journey: How It Started and How It's Going

12:30pm - 1:45pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm

Alfreda Singleton Smith

Retired Ombudsman

Simone Fontaine

Bespoke Cake Boutique Owner

Alfreda Singleton-Smith is a social worker with over 45 years of Child Welfare experience in the public and private sectors. She recently retired from the position of Ombudsman of the Department of Child Services Ombudsman Bureau where she served for 7 years. She was previously employed by The Villages of Indiana, Inc. where she served as Senior Director of Client services, responsible for providing statewide support to agency stakeholders in the areas of program planning and management, foster care, adoption, and kinship care. Alfreda's public child welfare experience includes a thirteen-year tenure with Marion County DCS in field and leadership positions.

Alfreda holds a BS from Western Kentucky University and a MSW from Indiana University. She is a licensed social worker certified in resource parent training, adoption competency, and ombudsman practice on topics specific to racial inclusion and equity, transracial/transcultural adoption, kinship care, adoption competency, and child welfare best practice and policy. An adoptive parent, Alfreda is the proud mother of three children, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She has dedicated her life work to ensuring the well-being of families and children.

Simone Mallory Fontaine is a native of Indianapolis, IN and a graduate Broad Ripple High School for the Performing Arts. She followed in the footsteps of her parents and attended their alma mater, The Western Kentucky University, Home of the Hilltoppers. Simone focused her studies on politics and public policy and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a Master of Public Administration. During her time in graduate school, Simone discovered her passion for baking as she created gourmet style cupcakes to fund her study abroad trip to China. Simone now works civil service and is the owner/designer for a Bespoke cake boutique, Sweet by Simone. She began her adoption journey at the age of two, but never considered it as a matter of difference but a matter of unique identity.

Workshop Description

Each Adoption Journey is different yet the same. All families will experience great challenges and opportunities. Join the presenters as they share their personal adoption experience within the context of the Core Issues of Adoption.

Participants will learn the core issues and how they continue to impact members of the adoption triad throughout the Adoption Journey. Strategies for response will be discussed.



A Retrospective Look at IL Services: Was or is it Enough?

12:30pm - 1:45pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm

**Sierra Glover, Sara Breining,
& Christopher Hill**

Sara Breining aged out of Foster care and earned an associates in Human Services from Ivy Tech. She has worked within the community for many years and has homeschooled her son. She now has guardianship of a 16 year old girl.

Sierra Glover spent her entire childhood and early teens in foster care, She was emancipated at 18. She is currently a stay at home mother to 3 boys & 3 girls and truly enjoys being a mother. The foster care system and how it benefits children has always been important to Sierra. She's had great and bad experiences but in all it's made her who she is. Sierra looks forward to meeting you and answering any questions you have.

Christopher Hill is a senior majoring in Informatics with a Cognate in Human-Centered Computing at Indiana University Bloomington. He is 23 years old and working part time as a cashier until graduation. Christopher was placed in Foster care after his parents passed away in high school, and lived with his older sister while receiving services. He believes there are some areas that could always be improved. Christopher states that he would have given up on his dreams and goals a long time ago if it had not been for the support he received from case managers

Workshop Description

The young adults will be speaking and answering questions about their personal experience aging out of the foster care system.



Keena Zinn, MSW, LSW

KCZ Consulting, LLC

Panel Moderator

Keena Zinn has extensive experience working with government, for-profit, and non-profit clients to develop programming, plan implementations, evaluate initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance in areas including older foster youth initiatives, social services, and health care.



A Time to Heal: A Guide & Discussion for Resource Parent Self-Care After a Child has Left the Home

12:30pm - 1:45pm or 2:00pm - 3:15pm

LaKesha Thomas

Indiana Department of Child Services

LaKesha Thomas is the statewide Foster Parent Support and Communication Liaison for Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS).

She has worked in child welfare for 13 years and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Indiana Wesleyan University.

After completing her undergraduate degree from Indiana University, LaKesha immediately began her career in child welfare, working for a Licensed Child Placing Agency (LCPA). She eventually joined DCS as a Family Case Manager on the Permanency Unit and on to a role as a Regional Foster Care Specialist for several years. The various positions awakened her passion to resume a more hands-on role in engaging and collaborating with DCS stakeholders who impact foster and relative care in the State of Indiana.

Workshop Description

This workshop gives any foster, kinship, or adoptive parent both tools and empowerment in dealing with grief after children leave their homes. Resource parents will learn to identify when additional help is needed, become familiar with services available through DCS, and learn how other resource parents have coped.



- We specialize in serving children who have experienced trauma and attachment disruption.
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**Dr. Lori Desautels***Revelation in Education/Butler University***BIOGRAPHY**

Dr. Lori Desautels has been an Assistant Professor at Butler University since 2016 where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate programs in the College of Education. Lori was also an Assistant Professor at Marian University in Indianapolis for eight years where she founded the Educational Neuroscience Symposium. Currently, the Symposium is in its eighth year and is now sponsored by Butler University College of Education. Lori has created a nine-hour graduate certification at Butler University in Applied Educational Neuroscience/Brain and Trauma. Lori is passionate about engaging students through the application of neuroscience and has conducted brain institutes and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, and Dubai.

Lori is co-author of the social and emotional competencies for the State of Indiana published in January 2018. She also has authored a series of articles for "Inside the School," an online publication providing strategies to administrators and educators alike. You can find Lori's work, presentation videos, and latest research on her website www.revelationsineducation.com. She graduated with a BS in Special Education from Butler University, an MS in Counseling Education from Indiana University, and earned her Ph.D. in Philosophy with an emphasis in early adolescence/ thought formation from Indiana University and American Institute of Holistic Theology. Lori resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, with her husband, Michael. She has three grown children, Andrew, Sarah, and Regan, and four rescue "fur babies."

PRESENTATION**How Our Brains Learn, Feel Behave and Socialize
When There is Adversity and Trauma****3:30pm - 4:15pm**

You will deepen your understanding of the science beneath behaviors and emotions that are affected by adversities much like the pandemic we are all experiencing at this time! Our brain's ancient system, the brain-stem, is a grand central station for all of the external and internal experiences we encounter. It immediately makes associations to past events or experiences that may be unconscious; and then we find ourselves feeling anxious, panicky, worried or shut down. This emotional experience can create behavioral challenges. Engage with Dr. Desautels to learn new brain-aligned strategies for meeting students in brain development promoting lasting behavioral changes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Friendly Reminders

To improve the atmosphere of the conference:

1. Virtually arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the conference to make sure your connections are working.
2. Remain on mute until speakers advise you to unmute.
3. Please utilize the chat feature to ask questions.
4. If two people are viewing the conference from one device, please be sure to change your name in the attendee box within zoom to reflect both individuals are present. (For example, if the attendee box says “John Smith” but both John and Jane are attending then change the name to “John & Jane Smith.”) **This is essential to those who need CEU's for tracking purposes.**
5. If you have any connectivity issues during the conference, please email Melissa Anderson-Traylor melissa.anderson-traylor@dcs.in.gov or Shaun Watkins swatkins@iupui.edu.

Evaluations

Evaluations will be distributed electronically via Zoho Survey at the conclusion of the conference.

Please take the time to fill it out when you receive it; it should only take a few minutes. Your input will be greatly appreciated and will assist us in making our next conference even bigger and better!

Thank you.

CEU Certificates

Certificates will be provided when you complete the conference online evaluation. You will be directed to download your certificate. Please DO NOT complete the evaluation from your smart device as the certificate can not be saved. It must be printed immediately. Complete the evaluation from a computer that is connected to a printer.

Presentation Materials

Please check the RAPT website (<https://www.in.gov/dcs/conferences/RAPT-Indiana/>) for presentation materials that may be available for download after the conclusion of the conference.

Thank you for attending the 2021 Virtual RAPT Conference!

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