



Pennsylvania 2016 Family Group Decision Making Statewide Conference



**“Coloring Outside
the Lines...”**

**April 26 and 27, 2016
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA**



Mission of Family Group Decision Making Leadership Team

The mission of the leadership team is to guide and support best practice in the implementation of Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania.

Vision of Family Group Decision Making Leadership Team

The Leadership Team envisions families being empowered through the use of Family Group Decision Making as the standard for cross-system service delivery in Pennsylvania.



You are invited to the Pennsylvania 2016 Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) Statewide Conference presented by the FGDM Leadership Team. The Pennsylvania FGDM Leadership Team is hosting this conference from April 26 - 27, 2016 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA. FGDM is a strength-based empowerment model designed to join the wider family group, including relatives, friends, community members, and others, to collectively make decisions to resolve an identified concern. Currently, over 98% of Pennsylvania's counties are utilizing FGDM to engage families in planning and service delivery.

“Coloring Outside the Lines...” will showcase an array of possibilities for FGDM. Please join us at this event to learn, re-energize, build on your existing strengths, and share ideas with others. The Pennsylvania Family Group Leadership Team looks forward to seeing you there!

Keynote Speaker

Michael Nerney



Michael Nerney is a consultant in Substance Abuse Prevention and Education with over 32 years' experience in the field. As the former Director of the Training Institute of Narcotic and Drug Research, Inc. his responsibilities included the management of a statewide training system which delivered more than 450 training programs to substance abuse treatment and prevention professionals annually.

Mr. Nerney's particular areas of expertise include Psycho-pharmacology, Adolescent Chemical Dependency, Relapse Prevention, Gender Differences in Communication, and Managing Violent Incidents. He has written both participant and trainer manuals for the programs mentioned above, as well as a number of others.

Mr. Nerney has been a consultant for two television networks and has appeared on the ABC program "20/20". An internationally known lecturer, he has served as a consultant to federal and state agencies, including the federal Office of Substance Abuse Prevention and the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the New York State Education Department, Department of Social Services, Division for Youth, Department of Correctional Services, Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives, Division of Parole, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Capital Defender's Office and Governor's Office of Employee Relations. Mr. Nerney has provided consultation on drug courts and other areas of technical assistance to correctional systems in forty-nine states across the country.

Dinner Speaker

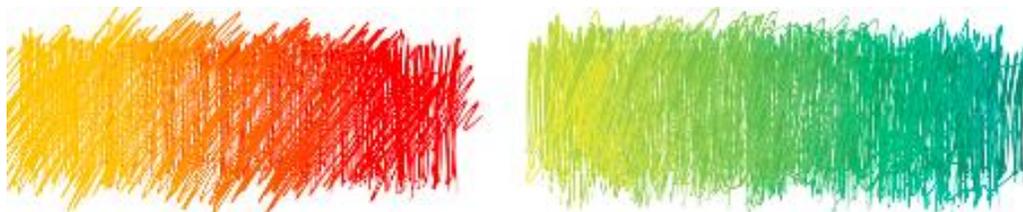
Honorable William A. Thorne, Jr. (ret.)



Judge William A. Thorne, Jr. (ret.), a Pomo/Coast Miwok Indian from northern California, was appointed to the Utah Court of Appeals in May 2000 by Gov. Michael O. Leavitt. He retired in September of 2013. He was a judge in the Third Circuit Court for eight years, having been appointed by Governor Norman Bangerter in 1986, and then served in the Third District Court for six years, having been appointed by Governor Leavitt in 1994. Judge Thorne received a B.A. from the University of Santa Clara in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1977.

Judge Thorne has served for over 34 years as a tribal court judge in Utah, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nevada, California, Nebraska, and Michigan. He is the former president and current vice-president of the National Indian Justice Center (a nonprofit that trains tribal court and other personnel around the country), and a former member of the Board of Directors for National CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, a nonprofit group that provides volunteer representation for abused and neglected children in court). He was formerly a member of the PEW Commission on Foster Care, the Board of Directors for the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute (a nonprofit seeking to improve the level of research and practice related to adoptions), a former member of the Board of Trustees for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and a former member of the ABA Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children. He is a former member of the Utah Judicial Council, the Board of Circuit Court Judges, and the Board of Directors for the National American Indian Court Judge's Association. He is also a former chair of the Utah Juvenile Justice Task Force of the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, former vice-chair of the Utah Board of Youth Corrections, former co-chair of the Judicial Council's Committee on Improving Jury Service, former chair of the Judicial Council's Bail Bonding Committee, former chair of the Court Technology Committee, former member of the Salt Lake County Domestic Violence Advisory Committee, and a former member of the steering committee for the Judicial Council's Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness.

He is currently Chair of the Board for Child Trends, Inc. (a non-profit devoted to research dealing with children and families), a member of the board for WestEd Inc. (a non-profit focusing on excellence and equity in education), the board of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the Advisory Council for the Capacity Building Center for Tribes of the U.S. Children's Bureau. Since his retirement from the bench, Judge Thorne continues to work to improve the lives of children and their families.



“Coloring Outside the Lines...”

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

- 1:00 - 1:30 Welcome, Opening Remarks
*Honorable Max Baer, Justice,
Pennsylvania Supreme Court*
*Cathy Utz, Deputy Secretary,
Office of Children, Youth and Families*
- 1:30 - 3:00 Keynote Presentation
Michael Nerney
- 3:00 - 3:15 Break
- 3:15 - 4:45 Keynote Presentation (continued)
- 6:30 - until Dinner
Honorable William A. Thorne, Jr. (ret.)

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

- 7:30 -8:45 Breakfast (continental)
- 9:00 - 10:30 Breakout Session A
- 10:45 - 12:15 Breakout Session B
- 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:45 Breakout Session C
- 3:00 - 4:15 Family Panel
*Moderator: Keith Snyder, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission*





WORKSHOP SESSION SCHEDULE

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Presenter(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| [A1] FGDM & Family Finding Making the Connection | Colleen Cox |
| [A2] Domestic Violence Part I: The Positive Impact of FGDM for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence | June Fisher |
| [A3] The Adolescent Brain and the Role of Trust in Planning and Decision Making | Michael Nerney |
| [A4] Engaging Individuals with Mental Health Concerns in the FGDM Process | Lynn Notestine, Myka Piatt |
| [A5] Merging FGDM and Juvenile Justice in Restorative Reporting Centers: A Creative Approach to Engaging Families | Elizabeth Smull, Jerry Bradley |
| [A6] FG & the Parallel Process Using FGDM to Engage Staff in Decision Making | Christina Fatzinger |
| [A7] Creating a Trauma Informed Court through Servant Leadership: The Role of the Judge in Fostering FGDM and Other Family Driven Practices | Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas |

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Presenter(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| [B1] Using the FGDM Model to Decrease & Eliminate Truancy | Whitney Berrio |
| [B2] Completing the Circle: Concurrent Planning Using Family Finding, Blended Perspectives Meetings and FGDM as Best Practice | Chasity Murphy |
| [B3] Domestic Violence Part II: Planning for a Safe Conference | June Fisher |
| [B4] The Use of Motivational Interviewing to Improve Engagement and Outcomes | Barb Orr |
| [B5] Values, Roles & Responsibilities that Impact Father Engagement in FGDM | Nathaniel Gadsden |
| [B6] Reducing Implicit Bias: Improving Family Engagement | Dr. Walter Smith, Chereese Philips, Jacki Hoover, Lisa Ford |
| [B7] Family Engagement...What Have We Learned? | Honorable Eleanor L. Bush, Judge, Allegheny Court of Common Pleas
Rick Saylor |

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Presenter(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| [C1] Using FGDM Model to Enhance Youth Transition Plans | Amy Carr, Jacklyn Conklin, Julia Sullender |
| [C2] FGDM's Positive Effects on Kinship Care | Ahmad Kamara, James E. Coston, |
| [C3] Engaging Families in their Work Using 3-5-7 Model© Guided Practice Approach | Darla Henry, Stephanie Wolfe |
| [C4] Supervision & Making FGDM the Way We Do Business | Rebecca Kennedy, Lynne Rainey, Debra Murphy, Diane Meyer |
| [C5] The Role of FGDM in Successful Recovery Planning | Kristin Noecker, Darren Hoffer |
| [C6] Overview of Data from the Statewide FGDM Evaluation | Jennifer Zajac, Eliza White |
| [C7] FGDM and the Court: A Diverse Role Perspective | Christy Stanek |

Workshop Session A

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Session A1 – FGDM & Family Finding - Making the Connection

Presenter: *Colleen Cox*

This presentation explores basic guidelines for each model, showing intersections that can make a difference for families. This will highlight the benefits of using these processes together, with a discussion around successes, particularly when a child has little to no solid family connections.

Session A2 – Domestic Violence Part I: The Positive Impact of FGDM for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence

Presenter: *June Fisher*

Throughout the world and Pennsylvania, Family Group Conferencing (FGC) has been utilized to safely engage and plan with families experiencing domestic violence. Attend this workshop and you will review the safety concerns that exist as well as the positive outcomes that can be achieved associated with safely coordinating a FGC.

Session A3 – The Adolescent Brain and the Role of Trust in Planning and Decision Making

Presenter: *Michael Nerney*

This presentation will examine the research linking adolescent brain development with the ability for adolescents to successfully engage in future planning and decision making. A major finding regarding effective prevention, intervention and treatment, identifies social/emotional connections or a therapeutic alliance as a critical element of good outcomes. For adolescents, this often comes down to whether they trust the adults in their lives. Participants will learn the three components of trust and the language and behaviors that create trusting relationships with adolescents.

Session A4 – Engaging Individuals with Mental Health Concerns in the FGDM Process

Presenters: *Lynn Notestine, Myka Piatt*

Mental health issues often interfere with relationship building, specifically; family engagement that is key to successful FGDM conferences. This workshop will explore the stigma associated with mental health and mental illness and provide practical approaches for engaging adults and children with mental health concerns. Throughout the stages of FGDM (including referral coordination, facilitation, planning and following)

Session A5 – Merging FGDM and Juvenile Justice in Restorative Reporting Centers: A Creative Approach to Engaging Families

Presenters: *Elizabeth Smull, Jerry Bradley*

This workshop will focus on how Community Service Foundation (CSF Buxmont) incorporates FGDM into their community based programming. We will look specifically at The Restorative Reporting Center, which involves youth from juvenile justice. We will share how this program uses a restorative framework by practicing FGDM principles for the life of the case, creating a partnership with families, juvenile justice, and community organizations.

Session A6 – Leadership and the Parallel Process: Using FGDM to Engage Staff in Decision Making

Presenter: *Christina Fatzinger*

When leaders interact with their staff using the engagement skills inherent in FGDM; they model for staff the practice to use with the families. These skills support workers in assessing needs, identifying strengths and concerns, and developing a plan with families.

Session A7 – Creating a Trauma Informed Court through Servant Leadership: The Role of the Judge in Fostering FGDM and Other Family Driven Practices

Presenters: *Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Judge, Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas*

The presentation focuses on the need to recognize and understand the role trauma plays in the court process. Judges, child welfare and juvenile justice professionals and court staff need to work together to become a trauma informed court. Servant leadership moves us to serve first. What is the judge's role in this? How do we balance service and leadership? I would also like to highlight the Trauma Audit of the Allegheny County Family Court which was completed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Workshop Session B

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Session B1 – Using the FGDM Model to Decrease and Eliminate Truancy

Presenter: *Whitney Berrio*

This workshop will provide FGDM coordinators with best practices to implement the FGDM model to address truancy concerns. Recognizing that children and families experiencing the multitude of issues that cause truancy need more than consequences to effect change, FGDM offers a unique approach to strengthen natural supports to decrease and eliminate truancy. Additionally, the use of the Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) will be discussed as well as tips for better engaging schools as part of the solution.

Session B2 – Completing the Circle: Concurrent Planning Using Family Finding, Blended Perspectives Meetings and FGDM as Best Practice

Presenter: *Chasity Murphy*

Family Finding, Blended Perspective Meeting and Family Group Decision Making are part of successful concurrent planning for permanency. This three pronged approach starts at the beginning to help children in care find permanency. Families become decision makers and allow involvement in making change. Participants will gain knowledge in Mobility Mapping, the Connect-o-Gram and a mock Blended Perspective Meeting. They will see the implementation of concurrent planning early on in the planning process.

Session B3 – Domestic Violence Part II: Planning for a Safe Conference

Presenter: *June Fisher*

Positive outcomes CAN BE achieved by coordinating and facilitating a Family Group Conference for families experiencing domestic violence. Attend this workshop and learn the critical areas and tasks related to assessing and planning (during all phases of coordinating and facilitating) an emotionally and physically safe Family Group Conference.

Session B4 – The Use of Motivational Interviewing to Improve Engagement and Outcomes

Presenter: *Barb Orr*

Motivational Interviewing is a goal-oriented, client-centered and non-adversarial communication style for eliciting behavior change. This presentation will introduce the evidence-based approach that is particularly helpful with resistant clients. These strategies will be especially helpful in engaging families during referral, coordination and facilitation phases of FGDM.

Session B5 – Values, Roles and Responsibilities that Impact Father Engagement in FGDM

Presenter: *Nathaniel Gadsden*

The workshop will address the values and biases that affect our practice, whether in the courtroom or in the field with families that can often limit participation of fathers and paternal family. The idea is not to eliminate those values and biases, but to manage and inform them so they do not interfere with the best interest of the children and families we serve. The workshop will address our perceptions and the steps we must take to balance them with our professional obligations, and further discuss the significance of including fathers/paternal family in FGDM.

Session B6 – Reducing Implicit Bias: Improving Family Engagement

Presenters: *Walter Smith, Chereese Philips, Jacki Hoover, Lisa Ford*

This workshop will articulate the way in which implicit bias affects staff decision making, family engagement and ultimately case outcomes. Best practices related to hiring and training staff to engage families in a culturally competent and ameliorative fashion will be presented.

Session B7 – Family Engagement...What Have We Learned?

Presenters: *Honorable Eleanor Bush, Judge, Allegheny Court of Common Pleas, Rick Saylor*

This presentation is a follow-up to *From Research to Application* which was presented at the 2014 FGDM Statewide Conference. *From Research to Application* suggested the need for a two-tiered approach to FGDM. The first tier meeting includes family members who can be gathered together rapidly (within hours or a day), and is designed to make an immediate decision about child safety or removal at a point of crisis. Second, once the child's immediate safety and care is addressed a second-tier meeting may be necessary for longer term permanency planning and entail more extensive planning and coordination. The Permanency Practice Workgroup took up where this research left off...collecting information regarding the use of 2-tiered models across the United States. This workshop will focus on what was learned from these conversations and subsequent recommendations for Pennsylvania. Finally, we will discuss the required elements that all successful family engagement meetings must have to truly engage families.

Workshop Session C

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Session C1 – Using FGDM Model to Enhance Youth Transition Plans

Presenters: *Amy Carr, Jaclyn Conklin, Julia Sullender*

This workshop will provide Family Group Coordinators with best practices to implement the FGDM model into adolescent transition planning for those youth moving into adulthood. The Youth Transition Conference (YTC) framework encourages adolescents to take a leadership role in their own planning, recognizing that they do have supportive adults who will be available as permanent connections in their life. YTC allows youth to set and plan for goals to ensure a successful transition to adulthood and the future. This workshop will further explore strategies to widen the circle for older youth, the value of follow-up conferences, and the importance of re-approaching youth if initially they reject a conference.

Session C2 – FGDM's Positive Effects on Kinship Care

Presenters: *Ahmad Kamara, James E. Coston*

A Second Chance Inc. is an organization deeply committed to the practice of kinship care with more than two decades of experience. The relevance of kinship care is a documented trend in child welfare today. This workshop will focus specifically on the unique attributes of kinship caregivers and the critical role that FGDM plays within the practice.

Session C3 – Engaging Families in their Work Using the 3-5-7 Model© Guided Practice Approach

Presenters: *Darla Henry, Stephanie Wolfe*

Complex emotions stemming from losses and strained relationships impact all aspects of child welfare work, from casework practice to judicial decision making. The 3-5-7 Model© framework is a guided directional approach to helping families recognize and grieve losses, so that successful engagement and family well-being is achieved.

Session C4 – Supervision and Making FGDM the Way We Do Business

Presenters: *Rebecca Kennedy, Lynne Rainey, Debra Murphy, Diane Meyer*

Bucks County Children and Youth began utilizing FGDM as a tool for family engagement and case planning in 2005. This presentation will trace the development of the practice from its initial planning stages to the benefits and challenges that we have seen as an agency as we integrate it into “the way we do business”.

Session C5 – The Role of FGDM in Successful Recovery Planning

Presenters: *Kristin Noecker, Darren Hoffer*

This workshop will begin with a focus on understanding the differences between treatment and recovery support. We will further outline the stages of the recovery process ranging from those seeking help for the first time through those leaving treatment. Regardless of where the person falls on this spectrum, incorporating FGDM as the recovery planning process can lead to more successful outcomes. We will further address the advantages of recovery support in our community and how it can be positively impacted by FGDM. Additional topics such as goal setting, trust building and enabling behavior, often common place in families with those attempting to recover from substance abuse, will be highlighted.

Session C6 – Overview of Data from the Statewide FGDM Evaluation

Presenters: *Jennifer Zajac, Eliza White*

Over half of the counties in Pennsylvania have some level of participation in the FGDM Statewide Evaluation. This presentation will provide participants with a high-level overview of the FGDM Statewide Evaluation data from fiscal year 2014/2015.

Session C7 – FGDM and the Court: A Diverse Role Perspective

Moderator: *Christy Stanek*

Professionals within the courtroom play a critical role in the support and use of family/kin resources throughout the life of a dependency case. Family/kin can reduce the trauma of a placement, enhance a family's visitation options, assist with transportation to court ordered services and ensure connections are maintained for children and older youth. This session will demonstrate how each diverse role in the courtroom (i.e. Judge, Hearing Officer, Guardian ad Litem, Parent Attorney, Child's Attorney and Solicitor) uniquely promotes the use of family/kin in their daily practice to ensure better outcomes for Pennsylvania's children and families.

REGISTRATION:

The registration fee is \$99.00 (Pennsylvania agencies) and \$159.00 (out-of-state agencies).

Registration fee includes: the conference program, dinner on April 26, continental breakfast and lunch on April 27.

This year, we will be accepting credit cards for payment. A \$2.50 per person convenience fee will be added to credit card transactions.

Payment by check must be received before the start of the conference and mailed to: It Takes A Village, 128 S. 27th St., Harrisburg, PA 17103, Attn: Laurie Capogreco

Registration will be online. To register, visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/3rqb21>

Deadline for registration is April 2, 2016

*We regret that we are unable to refund registration fees.
However, accommodations will be made for substitutions.*



CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:

Continuing Education credits (CE's) will be available.

Continuing Legal Education credits (CLE's) have been requested.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All questions regarding the conference should be directed to: Stephenie Strayer at stephenie.strayer@pacourts.us or 717-231-3300 ext. 3828.

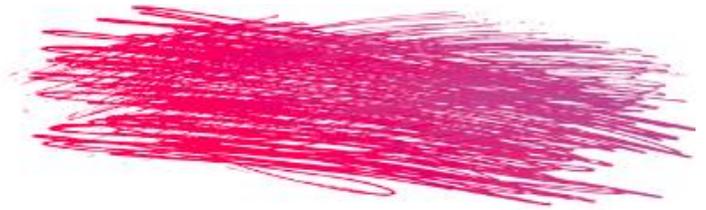
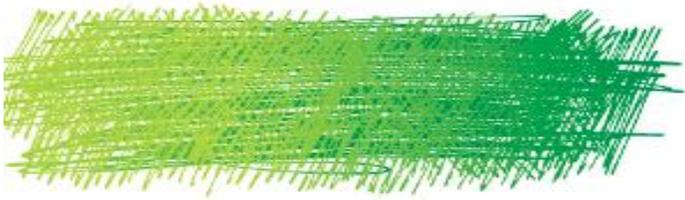
The FGDM Leadership Team cannot assume responsibility for changes beyond their control.



LODGING:

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations by calling the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center at 1-800-HERSHEY (437-7439). A room block has been reserved with the special rate of \$165.00 per night, double/single, available until April 2, 2016. Please reference Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making when making your reservation.

The Lodge is located at 325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033 www.hersheyloodge.com



Biographies

BAER, HONORABLE MAX was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in November 2003, assumed his duties on January 5, 2004 and was retained in 2013. Prior to his elevation to the Supreme Court, Justice Baer served on the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County from January of 1990 to December of 2003. He spent the first nine and one half years of those years in Family Division, and was the Administrative Judge of the Division for five and one half years. During his tenure, Justice Baer implemented far-reaching reforms to both Juvenile Court and Domestic Relations, earning him statewide and national recognition. Justice Baer eventually was assigned to the Civil Division, where he continued to distinguish himself until assuming his new duties on the Supreme Court.

In acknowledgement of his innovations in family court, in 1997, Justice Baer was named Pennsylvania's Adoption Advocate of the Year. In 1998, the Federal Department of Health and Human Services presented him with the Adoption Excellence Award for judicial innovation. He was honored for receipt of this award at a White House ceremony presided over by President and Mrs. Clinton. Also in 1998, the Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania honored Justice Baer for his years of dedicated service to Pennsylvania families, and in 2000, the Pennsylvania Bar Association named him Child Advocate of the Year. In 2003, the Justice accepted the Champion of Children's Award from the Homeless Children's Education Fund, and in 2004, was recognized as "most valuable peacemaker" by Pennsylvania's Council of Mediators. In 2005, he was awarded the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Award for civic leadership.

Justice Baer is the former Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committee, and an ex-officio representative to the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. He has served on the Joint State Government Commissions on Adoption Law and Services to Children and Youth, and is the former chair of the Pennsylvania Conference of Trial Judges Family Law Section and a former member of the Conference's Education Committee. The Justice has served as a guest professor at Carnegie Mellon University for years, and has been a frequent lecturer to professional and lay groups throughout Pennsylvania on various issues. He has also served on numerous boards, including Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, Catholic Charities and the Consumer Credit Counseling Corporation.

Justice Baer was recognized for his leadership in helping dependent children find permanent, loving families in the Casey Family Program Report, "How are the Children Inspiring Hope. Renewing Vision. Influencing Action." (May 2010).

Justice Baer wrote two chapters for the Judge's Book, a publication of the National Conference of State Trial Judges; authored "Custody Wars - The Creation of a New Weapon of Mass Destruction," 21 PA Family Lawyer, Issue No. 4, 1999, and "Family Law and Civility; Can They Coexist?," 24 Family Lawyer, Issue No. 1, 2002; and was a guest columnist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, commenting on the Elian Gonzales case.

BERRIO, WHITNEY is a FGDM Coordinator for JusticeWorks YouthCare providing coordination for families, and training new coordinators. She has been in the social service field for at least 10 years. Whitney is an active member of the Lehigh County Implementation Team Meeting, as well as the Outreach Committee.

BRADLEY, JERRY CADC, CCDP began his career with Community Service Foundation in 1989. He is the Supervision Program Coordinator. He supervises both the Intensive Program, which provides in-home individual, group and family counseling for at-risk youth, as well as the Restorative Reporting Center Program (RRC). Jerry is well versed in restorative practices and utilizes FGDM in each of the programs he supervises.

BUSH, HONORABLE ELEANOR L. was elected to the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in November 2013 and serves in the Family Division. Previously she practiced child welfare law for approximately 20 years. During that time, she represented individual children in juvenile court, supervised attorneys who represented abused and neglected children, consulted to Pennsylvania counties, trained hundreds of social workers and worked collaboratively on the state and local levels with government agencies, child advocates and providers of services. Judge Bush's previous positions have included work with Pennsylvania's Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, KidsVoice, Juvenile Law Center, the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Judge Bush holds her law degree from Yale Law School and a Master's Degree in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management. Judge Bush currently co-chairs the Permanency Practice Initiative Workgroup of the PA State Roundtable.

CARR, AMY is a FGDM Coordinator for JusticeWorks YouthCare providing coordination for families and training for new coordinators. She has been in the social service field for 19 years. Amy is an active member of the FGDM Statewide Leadership Team, Planning Committee for the Statewide Meetings, and the Evaluation Committee. Amy is also a member of the Monroe County Roundtable.

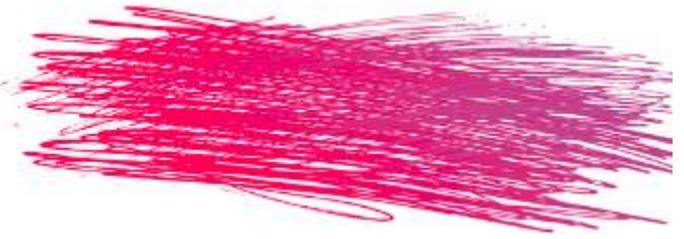
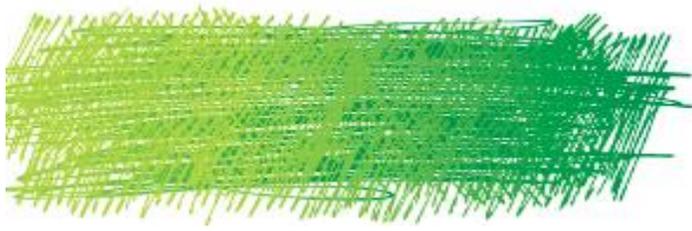
CLARK, HONORABLE KIM BERKELEY is the current Administrative Judge of the Family Division of the 5th Judicial District of Pennsylvania, where she hears primarily Juvenile Court cases. Judge Clark was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County by Governor Tom Ridge in March 1999. She was elected to a full ten-year term in November 1999. Judge Clark is the first African-American to be appointed as an Administrative Judge in Allegheny County. Judge Clark currently serves as the Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission and as the President of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Juvenile Procedural Rules and Domestic Relations Procedural Rules Committees; the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission on Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Fairness; the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee; the State Council for Interstate Juvenile Supervision; the Pennsylvania State Children's Roundtable (chair of the Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup and Dependency Benchbook Committee) and the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. In June of 2013, Judge Clark had the honor of moderating a panel discussion on the needs of caregivers of children of incarcerated parents at the White House.

CONKLIN, JACLYN is a former FGDM Coordinator for JusticeWorks YouthCare serving the families of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She relocated recently and was promoted to Supervisor in the York County branch. Jackie has been working closely training new coordinators in the Adams County branch as well. Jackie has been in the social service field for five years.

COSTON, JAMES was born and raised in Chester, PA, Delaware County. James has a BS in Education from Temple University and a MS in Human Services/Community Counseling Psychology from Springfield College. Currently, James works as a FGDM facilitation consultant for A Second Chance, Inc. He also has over 15 years' experience in mental/behavioral health as a counselor, therapist, and behavior specialist speaker, coach mentor and corporate trainer.

COX, COLLEEN MSW/LSW is the Family Engagement Specialist with Delaware County Children and Youth Services. She is fully trained in both FGDM and Family Finding. She is the current chair for the FGDM Statewide Leadership Team. Colleen earned her bachelor's degree from Cedar Crest College, master's degree from Rutgers University, and has more than 20 years in the social work field. Colleen is passionate about moving these practices forward for families in Pennsylvania to maximize success for children. She is a trainer with the PA Child Welfare Resource Center.

FATZINGER, CHRISTINA is a member of the Central Region Team at the Child Welfare Resource Center with responsibility for supporting Organizational Effectiveness across Pennsylvania by working with child welfare agencies to help them make changes to improve their services for kids and families. Christina has over 20 years of extensive experience providing mental health and drug and alcohol services, rape crisis and domestic violence counseling, family based services, juvenile sex offender counseling in a secure setting and Family Group Decision Making. Christina holds a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University and a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University. She has presented at numerous state, national and international conferences throughout the past 11 years and has published several articles, including "Awakening the Collective Power: The Implementation of FGDM in Pennsylvania."



FISHER, JUNE has been guiding families and educating social service professionals for over 25 years. She uses her education (BSW from Temple University and MSW from Widener University) and extensive experience as a case manager, supervisor/administrator, and adjunct professor to guide individuals and groups to achieve their desired outcomes. Ms. Fisher has also been a coordinator, facilitator, trainer and researcher for Family Group Decision Making.

FORD, LISA MSW is presently the Manager of Business Operations for the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families. Prior to this role, she served as a Senior Vice President at A Second Chance as well as a Regional Officer Director for Office of Children, Youth and Families. Ms. Ford serves on several boards and advisory committees.

GADSDEN, NATHANIEL is currently the Community Impact Manager and Director of the Fatherhood Academy at the United Way of the Capital Region. He is a graduate of the Philadelphia Family Institute and a graduate of Oasis Ministries Spiritual Directors Program. Further education includes Clinical Pastoral Education and credentialed as a Strength-Based Family Worker Temple University. Mr. Gadsden earned a B.S. at West Chester State College, an MA/Ph.D. at Columbia Pacific University and a M.R.Ed. from Andersonville Theological Seminary. He served on the Dauphin County Father Engagement Task Force and played a leadership role in delivering “New Daddy Packs” to first time fathers before they left the hospital. He is a trainer with the PA Child Welfare Resource Center on a host of topics for almost 20 years.

HENRY, DARLA PhD, MSW, MRS is a Social Worker, Trainer, Teacher and Consultant with extensive knowledge and experience in the Child Welfare field. With a mission to build a path toward healing and well-being for children, youth and families in the child welfare system, Darla established and authored the 3-5-7 Model©. Darla's doctoral research, which focused on resilience in maltreated children (Child Welfare, 1999) provides a foundation for understanding the life experiences of children, youth and families who are engaged in child welfare services.

HOFFER, DARREN is the Director of Operations for The RASE Project. He is a graduate of Penn State University, and is currently conducting thesis research to complete his Masters in Applied Clinical Psychology.

KALINYAK, MARIE is a 27 year veteran of child welfare and currently supervises FGDM at Professional Family Care Services. She holds an undergraduate degree from Penn State and a Masters in counseling from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

HOOVER, JACKI LSW has over 18 years of experience in child welfare. Currently, she is the Assistant Deputy Director of Allegheny County Children Youth and Families. Mrs. Hoover earned her MSW from the University of Pittsburgh. She is an adjunct professor and serves on local and national boards.

KAMARA, AHMAD is the FGDM Director at A Second Chance, Inc. with a master’s degree in Educational Counseling and a BA in Psychology from Wilmington University. Ahmad has worked with FGDM since 2009. Prior to working at ASCI, Ahmad had several years of experience working in mental/behavioral health services in schools, homes and communities, and drug and alcohol counseling services in both outpatient and inpatient facilities.

KENNEDY, REBECCA has a BS in Sociology and Criminal Justice and works as an FGDM caseworker.

MEYER, DIANE has a BS in Psychology and works for Bucks County Children and Youth as a Quality Assurance Program Specialist II.

MURPHY, CHASITY received her Bachelors in Social Work from Mansfield University in 2000 and has been working with families and children ever since. She currently is employed with It Takes A Village, Inc. where she is the supervisor for Family Group Decision Making and Family Finding.

MURPHY, DEBRA has a BASW and works for Bucks County Children and Youth as a School Age Unit Supervisor and FGDM Supervisor.

NOECKER, KRISTIN is the Director of Education and Advocacy for the RASE Project. She is a graduate of Shippensburg University with a degree in Speech Communications, has been working with RASE for nine years and conducts all of the professional education for the Agency.

NOTESTINE, LYNNE LSW currently serves as the Associate Director of Temple University Harrisburg where she oversees professional development programs. Lynn is a professional social worker with over 15 years of practice experience in the areas of mental health with children, youth and families. She received her MSW from the University of Pittsburgh.

ORR, BARB is an adolescent and family therapist with over 30 years' experience in the field. Her work has included being a residential counselor, a juvenile probation officer, an outpatient therapist, and a family therapist at Lancaster County Juvenile Probation. She operates Orr Training Services, LLC and now spends most of her professional time training others in social services who work with children, adolescents and families. She is also an adjunct professor of Clinical Psychology at Millersville University. Barb is the mother of three adult children and resides in Lancaster County.

PHILIPS, CHEREESE is the Special Initiatives Officer at the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families. She previously worked at Casey Family Programs, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and the College Success Foundation. She earned her Ph.D. in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

PIATT, MYKA currently serves as the Program Manager for the Strength-Based Family Worker Training and Credentialing Program at Temple University, Harrisburg. She is a seasoned trainer and curriculum developer in the areas of strength-based work and interpersonal communication. She received her BS from Murray State University.

RAINEY, LYNNE LSW, ACSW is the Director of Bucks County Children and Youth.

SAYLOR, RICK is the is the Children's Services Director for Lycoming Joinder Board, overseeing Lycoming County Children and Youth and Lycoming/Clinton Counties Children's Targeted Case Management Unit. Before this position, he was a Juvenile Probation Officer in Lycoming County for five years, and before then he administered a day treatment program shelter care facility and partial hospitalization program for 18 years. He is a former chairperson and remains a member of the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) Advisory Committee. Mr. Saylor is a member of the State Roundtable through the Office of Children and Families in the Court, which is under the auspices of the AOPC. He also serves on the Legal Services Advisory Committee. He was recently invited to represent Pennsylvania at the National Convocation on Commissions on Children at Salt Lake City. Mr. Saylor is a graduate of Penn State University. Additionally, Mr. Saylor co-chairs the Permanency Practice Initiative Workgroup of the PA State Roundtable.

SMITH, DR. WALTER is the Clinical Director and the Deputy Director of the Allegheny County Office of Children Youth and Families. He retired from Family Resources after serving the organization since 1987. Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist with a private practice that specializes in treating children, couples and families.

SMULL, ELIZABETH CADC, MS, is the Supervision Program coordinator at CSF Buxmont, where she supervises the Conferencing Program, which includes FGDM. Elizabeth received her undergraduate degree from Millersville University and her Master's Degree from the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP). She is now a lecturer for the IIRP and is coauthor of the book *Family Power*, which offers practical guidance for engaging and collaborating with families.

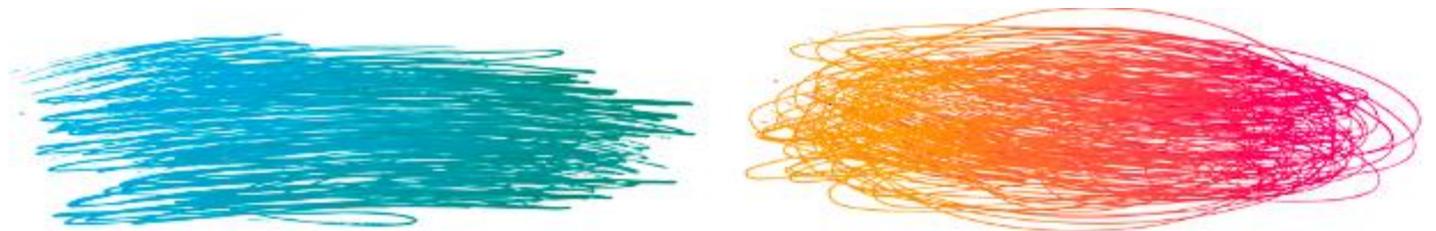
SNYDER, KEITH is the Executive Director of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Court Judge’s Commission (JCJC), a state agency that provides advice and consultant services to Pennsylvania’s juvenile court judges and juvenile probation departments. The agency also serves as a liaison between the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Snyder recently led several successful statewide juvenile justice reform efforts. Most recently, he served as the Coordinator of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), designed to enhance the capacity of Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to achieve its balanced and restorative justice mission by implementing evidence-based practices, with fidelity, at every state of the juvenile justice process. This comprehensive initiative resulted in a “staged” framework for implementing evidence-based practices, the development of the JJSES Monograph, and support for the implementation of several structured decision-making instruments and the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP).

Mr. Snyder also served as Chair of Pennsylvania’s Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Workgroup, developed in conjunction with Pennsylvania’s Models for Change initiative supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which resulted in a Juvenile Act amendment to provide children with self-incrimination protections for statements made during screening, assessment and evaluation, the implementation of the MAYSI-2 behavioral health screening instrument in twenty-five juvenile probation departments, the creation of the Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention Services Center (EPISCenter) at Penn State University to support the statewide proliferation of evidence-based programs. Mr. Snyder was awarded the 2009 Champion for Change Award by the MacArthur Foundation for his work in this area.

STANEK, CHRISTY joined the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Office of Children and Families in the Courts (OCFC) as a Judicial Analyst in September 2011. Prior to her current position, Ms. Stanek served as Deputy Administrator for Washington County Children and Youth, directly overseeing family engagement practices such as Family Finding and FGDM, quality assurance, training, ongoing department, Court operations and the County’s Permanency Practice Initiative. In 2010, Ms. Stanek partnered with a local parent advocate to create a legal collaboration team, with the focus of enhancing advocacy for children and parents, while implementing the values of Pennsylvania’s mission and guiding principles for Pennsylvania’s child dependency system. Also during this time, Ms. Stanek served as a member of the Truancy and Legal Representation State workgroups through the OCFC. In 2003, Ms. Stanek joined a small group across the state “pioneering” the FGDM process. Ms. Stanek served as an original member of the Pennsylvania FGDM Statewide Leadership Team. In addition, Ms. Stanek created the Western Region FGDM committee to help those counties, unable to travel across the state, receive information and guidance on implementing the FGDM practice. Ms. Stanek has done many presentations at local, statewide, national and international conferences on the topic of implementing and enhancing the FGDM practice. Ms. Stanek holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration and a Master’s degree in Social Work, both from the University of Pittsburgh.

SULLENDER, JULIA BSW, is an Independent Living (IL) Supervisor for Delaware County Children and Youth Services. Julie has been in child welfare for 19 years and has had many roles within the CYC agency. She has served children, youth and families as a County Social Aide 2 and 3 and as a County Caseworker 1 and 2. Over the past five years she has been able to expand the IL department in order to increase quantity and quality of services available to transitional age youth. Julie will graduate in August 2016 with her MSW from Widener University.



UTZ, CATHY is the Deputy Secretary for Children, Youth and Families. For the past 15 years, Ms. Utz has been responsible for providing oversight to numerous special children and youth initiatives and has been instrumental in formulating recommendations for needed policy, regulatory and statutory change to improve and enhance the Commonwealth's child welfare system. In addition, she has 11 years of county-level child welfare experience as a caseworker and manager.

WHITE, ELIZA MSW is the Family Engagement and Safety Assessment and Management Process Program Development Specialist with the Statewide Quality Improvement Department at the Child Welfare Resource Center. Eliza supports statewide efforts to advocate for policy and practice improvements, provide consultation and support, and coordinate team efforts. Eliza has been practicing in the Pennsylvania child welfare system since 2003. Prior to joining The Child Welfare Resource Center, Eliza's work has primarily focused on the strengthening of families and kinship support.

WOLFE, STEPHANIE MSW, LSW, SFW, LSW has been involved in child welfare practice in the public sectors for the past 20 years; focusing on service delivery in foster care, adoption and post-adoption areas of practice. She provides training, coaching and program development support to programs using the 3-5-7 Model.

ZAJAK, JENNIFER MA supervises the Research and Evaluation Unit at the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center in the Statewide Quality Improvement Department. Jennifer supports a team that engages in statewide and county-specific efforts, which includes the Title IV-E Child Welfare Demonstration Project and the Family Group Decision Making Statewide Evaluation. In addition, the Research and Evaluation Unit evaluates training offered through the Resource Center and supports other internal evaluation efforts. Jennifer has worked in program evaluation and research since 1998.

