

2018 Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making Statewide Conference



“Growing FGDM through Leadership”

April 16 and 17, 2018

Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA



Mission of Family Group Decision Making Leadership Team

The mission of the Leadership Team is to expand Family Group Decision Making in Pennsylvania while assuring model fidelity.

Vision of Family Group Decision Making Leadership Team

The Leadership Team envisions the use of Family Group Decision Making as standard practice across all systems in Pennsylvania.

Sponsors: Office of Children and Families in the Courts, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Juvenile Court Judges Commission, Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center



You are invited to the Pennsylvania 2018 Family Group Decision Making Conference presented by the FGDM Leadership Team. The Pennsylvania FGDM Leadership Team is hosting this conference from April 16-17, 2018 at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey, PA. FGDM is a strength-based 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.

“Growing FGDM through Leadership” 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 FGDM Leadership Team looks forward to seeing you there!



Keynote Speaker



Harvey Alston: Considered one of the most dynamic, “high octane” speakers in America, Harvey Alston has been a full-time speaker since 1989. He has spoken to millions of people throughout the United States who have benefited not only from his knowledge, but also from the wisdom that Harvey Alston brings to the finish line.

Harvey Alston's unforgettable words of individual responsibility for achievement have improved spirits, spurred growth, and changed lives. His powerful, soul-searching presentations uplift audiences to a higher standard, and to a level where they strive only for the best. Harvey Alston believes in solitary achievement, shared accomplishment and the dignity of human beings.

As one of the most in-demand speakers in America, Harvey Alston's career has spanned positions from head football coach of Columbus East High School in Ohio in 1968, to assistant director of student financial aid at the university level. As an educator he's taught English, biology, health, life sciences and math curricula. Over the years, Harvey Alston has received recognition and awards from such diverse groups and organizations as the Ohio House of Representatives as one of

Ohio's Finest Citizens, the City of Columbus declared a Harvey Alston Day, DECA Hall of Fame, Ohio High School Athletic Association, Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, he was commissioned a Kentucky Colonel, and has received numerous national recognitions and awards.

Harvey Alston's enterprise is called Best Inc., based on his philosophy and his book titled "Be the Best." He is the Coordinator for the Ohio High School Athletic Association Student Leadership Conferences, the largest Athletic conference in the country, serves on the advisory board to the National Federation of High Schools, the Upper Valley Joint Vocational School and many civic boards, panels, and commissions, a contributing writer and photographer for the N2Publishing Magazines, and a member of the National Speakers Association.

Guest Speaker

Judge Charles Pratt: Judge Charles Pratt was elected judge of the Allen Superior Court - Family Relations Division after having served as the court's magistrate since 1985. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from Indiana -Purdue University at Fort Wayne in 1976 and graduated cum laude from Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis in 1979. He is a member and past chair of the Indiana Judicial Center's Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee. He is also a member of the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges and the Indiana Council of Juvenile Court Judges.



Judge Pratt has led several juvenile court reform initiatives and as a result has been called upon to speak at numerous national and state conferences. He has provided training on court reform for judges in Indiana and other states. He serves as co-chair of the Indiana Cross Systems Youth Task Force for the Commission for the Improvement of the Status of Children in Indiana and is one of five judges piloting the implementation of the new Dual Status Youth legislation.

Judge Pratt founded Allen County's positive youth development initiative *Great KIDS make Great COMMUNITIES* which provides training and research services to youth and family professionals. *Great KIDS* hosts an Annual Conference on Youth each year that attracts over 900 participants from Allen County and northeast Indiana.

Judge Pratt has been recognized as the Indiana's outstanding juvenile court judge through the *Kinsey Award* in 2002. He was named *Indiana Judge of the Year* by the Young Lawyers Section of the Indiana Bar Association in 2009 and was honored by Lt. Governor Becki Skillman with the *Partners in Progress Award* that same year. He was presented with the *Passing the Torch Award* by the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Commission and the Civil Rights Commission in 2012.

He is an elder at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne. He presently serves on the board for the Lutheran Foundation. He is married to Roxanne (Hill). She is employed at Emmanuel-St. Michael Lutheran School. They have two children, Katie and Andrew. Katie is a rostered Lutheran school teacher living with her husband and three children in New York. Andrew is married and resides in Lafayette, Indiana. He recently received his Master's Degree in aeronautical/astronomical engineering from Purdue University and is employed at a Purdue University affiliated laboratory.





“Growing FGDM through Leadership”

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, April 16, 2018

- 1:00 – 1:30 Welcome, Opening Remarks
Honorable Max Baer, Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court
Cathy Utz, Deputy Secretary, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
- 1:30 – 2:30 Keynote Presentation
Harvey Alston, Educator and Author of “Be the Best”
- 2:45 – 4:15 Workshop Session A
- 5:30 Dinner

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

- 7:00 – 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 8:15 – 8:30 Opening Remarks
Richard D. Steele, Executive Director, Juvenile Court Judges Commission
- 8:30 – 9:45 Pennsylvania Leaders from East to West
Moderator: Sandra E. Moore, Director, Office of Children and Families in the Courts
- 10:00 – 11:30 Workshop Session B
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:15 – 2:45 Workshop Session C
- 3:00 – 3:15 Closing Remarks



WORKSHOP SESSION SCHEDULE

Session A – 2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

- [A1] Application of Evidence-Based Practices in Court Reform (**Judges/HO only**)
- [A2] Creating a Kin First Culture through Leadership
- [A3] Utilizing FGDM to Enhance Youth Transition Plans for Adolescents
- [A4] Strategies for Expediting Family's Voice in Decision Making
- [A5] Widening the Circle through Family Finding – A Court and Agency Partnership

Presenter(s)

Honorable Charles A. Pratt

Shara Saveikis, Brian Bornman, Esq., Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW

Amy Carr and Jacklyn Conklin

Fred Blankenburg and Nadine Miller

Clay Cauley, Esq. and Cindy Scott

Session B – 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- [B1] Application of Evidence-Based Practices in Court Reform (**open to all participants**)
- [B2] FGDM and Its Impact on Disproportionality in the Child Dependency System
- [B3] Pennsylvania State Roundtable's Family Engagement Initiative
- [B4] Innovations in Assessing Fidelity to Different Family Engagement Models
- [B5] Mitigating Trauma through Family Engagement
- [B6] Collaboration and Partnership for Leaders: How FGDM and SWAN Intersect to Enhance Best Practice and Older Youth Participation in FGDM

Presenter(s)

Honorable Charles A. Pratt

Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, and Clay Cauley, Esq.

Angela Sager

Marlo Perry and Mary Beth Rauktis

Honorable Robert J. Mellon, William J. Cisek, Esq., and Lynne Napoleon (Panel Presentation)

Colleen Cox and Brenda Lawrence

Session C – 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

- [C1] Educational Success Through the Use of FGDM with Truancy Elimination Plans
- [C2] Why Does Judicial Leadership Matter
- [C3] Pilot to Practice: Implementing FGDM on a 30/90 Day Model
- [C4] Reducing the Use of Congregate Care through FGDM
- [C5] Developing Safe Plans of Care for Babies and Families Affected by Opioid Addiction
- [C6] From Beginning to End: How to Use FGDM and Family Finding throughout the Case

Presenter(s)

Thomas Linko and David Clark

Honorable Jennifer L. Rogers

Morgan Henson and Ellen Miller

Honorable Michael Sholley, Clay Cauley, Esq., Stephanie Salvatori

Jennifer Wallis, Kerin Kohler, Valerie Chandler

Patti Noss

Workshop Session A – Day 1

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

Session A1 – Application of Evidence-Based Practice in Court Reform (Judges/HO Only)

Presenter: *Honorable Charles A. Pratt, Administrative Judge, Allen Superior Court, Indiana*

The Allen Superior Court, through the support of the Indiana Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project, has combined research on poverty, strengths-based practices, resilience development, servant leadership principles, and Family Group Decision Making practices in child dependency cases. This presentation will outline the principles of evidence based practices to improve court outcomes. The Court has applied the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, Dr. Ruby Payne's research on poverty, and dependency mediation techniques in its broad Court reform. This Workshop will also highlight how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) may be addressed by the court. Indiana has recently passed sweeping legislation on crossover youth. A brief presentation on Indiana's dual-status legislation will be also be provided.

Session A2 – Creating a Kin First Culture through Leadership

Presenter: *Shara Saveikis, Brian Bornman, Esq., Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW*

Strong child welfare leadership is key to enhancing the use of kin in a family's case planning and decision making. In this workshop participants will learn how changing an agency's culture, to prioritize Kin in every aspect of the case life, will create sustainable change and a foundation upon which to strengthen Family Group Decision Making.

Session A3 – Utilizing FGDM to Enhance Youth Transition Plans for Adolescents

Presenter: *Amy Carr and Jacklyn Conklin*

This workshop will provide guidelines toward best practices to implement the Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) model into adolescent transition planning for those youth moving into adulthood. The Youth Transition Conference (YTC) framework encourages adolescents to take the 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 future. This workshop will help participants see the importance of the supportive network identified and engaged during conferences, demonstrating the benefits of combining an established evidence-based model with a solid framework to enhance and ensure quality plans for youth for a successful transition to adulthood.

Session A4 – Strategies for Expediting Family's Voice in Decision Making

Presenters: *Fred Blankenburg and Nadine Miller*

Child welfare professionals are often driven by emergency placements and quick decision-making. Rapid response conferences provide an option for families to ensure inclusion and encourage involvement in the decision-making process. Hear how Montgomery County uses a variety of strategies and a coordinated family engagement process to quickly bring families to the table.

Session A5 – Widening the Circle through Family Finding – A Court and Agency Partnership

Presenters: *Clay Cauley, Esq. and Cindy Scott*

This workshop will provide participants with a clear view of how the courts and the county child welfare agency can work collaboratively using Family Finding to widen the circle of those able to support the youth or family and what it takes to change practice at the agency level. We will also address the important role of supervision/coaching plays in developing a culture that values family inclusion in practice.

Workshop Session B – Day 2

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Session B1 – Application of Evidence-Based Practices in Court Reform (Open to all participants)

Presenter: *Honorable Charles A. Pratt, Administrative Judge, Allen Superior Court, Indiana*

The Allen Superior Court, through the support of the Indiana Supreme Court's Court Improvement Project, has combined research on poverty, strengths-based practices, resilience development, servant leadership principles, and Family Group Decision Making practices in child dependency cases. This presentation will outline the principles of evidence based practices to improve court outcomes. The Court has applied the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, Dr. Ruby Payne's research on poverty, and dependency mediation techniques in its broad Court reform. This Workshop will also highlight how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) may be addressed by the court. Indiana has recently passed sweeping legislation on crossover youth. A brief presentation on Indiana's dual-status legislation will be also be provided.

Session B2 – FGDM and Its Impact on Disproportionality in the Child Dependency System

Presenter: *Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark, Allegheny Court of Common Pleas and Clay Cauley*

Disproportionality continues to create disparities for African American children in the child dependency system. FGDM is a natural culturally competent approach to working with African American families. In many African American families, extended family/kin already play a big role in the lives of their children. This workshop will examine national and statewide disproportionality and show how FGDM can help African American children remain within their family and culture.

Session B3 – Pennsylvania State Roundtable's Family Engagement Initiative

Presenter: *Angela Sager*

The Family Engagement Initiative (FEI) is designed to assist select Pennsylvania Counties in furthering efforts to enhance the inclusion of family in the child welfare process. The FEI focuses on three core areas that promote meaningful family engagement: (1) Enhanced Family Finding; (2) Crisis and Rapid Response Family Meetings; and (3) Enhanced Legal Representation. This workshop will introduce the audience to the three components of the FEI with specific emphasis on Crisis and Rapid Response Family Meetings and how these meetings are helping to keep families united, thereby decreasing family trauma.

Session B4 – Innovations in Assessing Fidelity to Different Family Engagement Models

Presenters: *Marlo Perry and Mary Beth Rauktis*

Presenters will describe the different family engagement models, with a focus on FGDM utilized in Pennsylvania's Title IV-E Waiver project, discuss the measurement and design strategies to assess fidelity when multiple models are being used, and discuss findings from the first three years of the waiver. Implementation and evaluation implications will be discussed. A county representative from the project will share her experiences.

Session B5 – Mitigating Trauma through Family Engagement

Presenter: *Honorable Robert J. Mellon, William J. Cisek, Esq., and Lynn Napoleon (Panel Presentation)*

Participants in court hearings, both children and parents, have often faced multiple traumas prior to involvement with the child welfare system. We want to be sensitive to their trauma histories and help them have stable, secure and productive lives. How do we do this? This workshop will offer insight and practical ideas that could help to reduce the effects of trauma in their lives. It will also identify ways to engage families in creating and utilizing networks through the use of FGDM.

Session B6 – Collaboration and Partnership for Leaders: How FGDM and SWAN Intersect to Enhance Best Practice and Older Youth Participation in FGDM

Presenters: *Colleen Cox and Brenda Lawrence*

Leaders at every level need to understand how partnerships can increase success and lead to positive outcomes around safety, permanency, and well-being. A cornerstone of the PA Practice Model in Child Welfare is the ability to effectively team with families, providers, and stakeholders toward best practices. This presentation explores the intersection between FGDM and SWAN units of service, how partnering the two can foster clarity for youth about the FGDM process, widen the circle of potential lifelong connections, give youth a voice in their own lives, and provide relational permanence, particularly for older youth.

Workshop Session C – Day 2

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

Session C1 – Educational Success Through the Use of FGDM with Truancy Elimination Plans

Presenters: *Thomas Linko and David Clark*

This workshop will explore the relationship of FGDM in developing a Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP) to promote school success. The Truancy Intervention Program model encourages families to identify strengths and supports for their student in improving school attendance. We will look at how FGDM used in conjunction with the TEP can be both a truancy preventative and intervention strategy. Practice outcomes will be addressed.

Session C2 – Why Does Judicial Leadership Matter

Presenter: *Honorable Jennifer L. Rogers*

The court provides judicial oversight of dependency proceedings to ensure child safety, permanency and well-being. At each and every hearing, the Court must make judicial findings. This workshop will focus on identifying how FGDM can assist in both judicial oversight and findings. In addition, this workshop will provide practical tips that can be used to lead FGDM in the courtroom.

Session C3 – Pilot to Practice: Implementing FGDM on a 30/90 Day Model

Presenters: *Morgan Henson and Ellen Miller*

The 30/90 day model has demonstrated successful outcomes for children and families through the use of teaming, engagement and planning. The foundation of the 30/90 Day Model is implementing a rapid response meeting within 72 hours of agency involvement. We will also discuss the importance of ongoing family engagement that is crucial to follow-up meetings occurring at 30, 60 and 90 days and in conjunction with the FSP/PPP. This model, a partnership between Adams County Children and Youth Service and JusticeWorks YouthCare, has been effective in both in-home and placement cases.

Session C4 – Reducing the Use of Congregate Care through FGDM

Presenters: *Honorable Michael Sholley, Clay Cauley, Esq. and Stephanie Salvatori*

Connections for youth are critically important, yet many of Pennsylvania's older youth in congregate care settings have little connection with family and kin. This presentation will share findings from the State Roundtable's Transitional Youth Workgroup's congregate care analysis and how FGDM can not only impact the use of congregate care, but also ensure that older youth remain connected.

Session C5 – Developing Safe Plans of Care for Babies and Families Affected by Opioid Addiction

Presenters: *Jennifer Wallis, Kerin Kohler, Valerie Chandler*

Opioid addiction is a public health crisis impacting child welfare across the nation. BCCYS is partnering with the Reading Hospital to offer FGDM to opioid affected families. Mothers are identified as early as 36 weeks of gestation. The goal is for each family to create (via FGDM) a sobriety plan to address possible relapse and assure child safety and care. Join us to learn a proactive way to develop safe plans of care for babies and families affected by this epidemic.

Session C6 – From Beginning to End: How to Use FGDM and Family Finding Throughout the Case

Presenter: *Patti Noss*

FGDM and FF can be used as a means to divert the need for placement or keep children with family/kin when placement is necessary to ensure safety. FGDM and FF are often overlooked as a means to assist in many other areas of case planning. This workgroup will provide insight into other ways counties are using FGDM and FF to support child safety, permanency and well-being. Participants will hear from professionals and family on how creative use of FGDM and FF helped their case.

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 16, 2018, continental breakfast and lunch on April 17, 2018.

Credit cards are accepted for payment. A \$2.50 per person convenience fee will be added to credit card transactions.

Any payments by check **must be received by March 26, 2018**. Please make checks payable and mail to: It Takes A Village, 128 S. 27th St., Harrisburg, PA 17103, Attn: Laurie Capogreco

Registration will be online. To register, visit [FGDM Biennial Conference Registration](#)

Deadline for registration is March 16, 2018

We regret that we are unable to refund registration fees, however; accommodations will be made for substitutions. All requests for substitutions must be made by April 9, 2018 by contacting Ina Wertz at 888-793-2512 x148.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS:

Continuing Education credits (CE's) will be available.
Continuing Legal Education credits (CLE's) have been requested.
Continuing Judicial Education credits (CJE's) have been requested.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All questions regarding the conference should be directed to: Christy Stanek at Christy.Stanek@pacourts.us or 412-616-1079.

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

All payments must be received prior to the conference in order to attend.

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 \$169.00 per night, double/single, available until March 16, 2018. Please reference Pennsylvania Family Group Decision Making when making your reservation.

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

**Registration and lodging for this conference will fill up quickly.
Please make your reservations as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you!**



Biographies

Honorable Max Baer was elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in November of 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 9½ of those years in Family Division, and was the Administrative Judge of the Division for 5½ years. During this 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 2002 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. 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. In 2004, Pennsylvania's Council of Mediators recognized him as most valuable peacemaker. In 2005, he was awarded the Three Rivers Youth Nellie Award for Civic Leadership, and in 2010, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC presented him with the Champion of Hope and Healing Award. In 2012, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers presented Justice Baer with an award in recognition of his years of commitment to family law and Pennsylvania's children. In 2012, 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."

Justice Baer has been a frequent lecturer to professional and lay groups throughout the nation on various issues. He is now leading far-reaching reforms to Pennsylvania's courts and child welfare system's efforts to assist its most vulnerable citizens - our abused and neglected children. Since these innovations began, through the Supreme Court's establishment of the Office of Children & Families in the Courts, Pennsylvania has safely reduced the number of children in foster care, giving these children permanent homes and a far better chance at life. Because of these successes, which continue unabated, Pennsylvania has become nation

Fred Blankenburg, MS has over 30 years of experience helping families and is the Family Engagement Unit Supervisor at Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth. Fred has facilitated hundreds of family meetings including FGDM and TDM. Fred is also a published songwriter, musician and founding member of Fathers Matter coalition in Montgomery County.

Brian Bornman, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association (PCYA). Mr. Bornman's experience in child welfare and mental health service includes positions as a caseworker for CPS in Arizona, a child therapist, and a solicitor for a county child welfare agency. Mr. Bornman has a Bachelor's in Psychology, Master's in Education, and Law Degree from Widener University School of Law.

Amy Carr is an FGDM Coordinator for JusticeWorks YouthCare providing coordination for families and training new FGDM coordinators for nine years. She has been in the social service field for 21 years holding various roles while working with at-risk children and families. Amy is an active member of the FGDM Statewide Leadership Team, as well as the planning committee for the FG Statewide meetings.

Clay Cauley, Sr., Esq. is the Dependency Hearing Officer for Chester County. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from West Chester University and Law Degree from Howard University. Hearing Officer Cauley previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and as a Court Master in Philadelphia.

Valerie Chandler is a graduate of Kutztown University. She has been working in the addictions and mental health fields for almost 25 years. Valerie is currently the project manager of the Opiate Use Disorder Center of Excellence at the Reading Hospital.

William J. Cisek, Esq. graduated from Penn University with a BS in International Business & Economics and later, the Duquesne University of Law. After clerking for the Honorable Oliver J. Lobaugh, Mr. Cisek entered private practice with the law firm, Wilson & Thompson, becoming a full partner in January of 2005. In 2007, Bill became Solicitor for Venango County Children, Youth and Families. After attending the International Family Group Decision Making conference in June 2008, Bill has become an avid supporter of this and other strength-based, inclusive child welfare practices. Together with President Judge Lobaugh, Mr. Cisek is leading change in Venango County's child welfare system.

David Clark was a caseworker for ten years with Beaver County Children and Youth Services and has been a co-coordinator of the TIP program for the past five years. David received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's degree in Adult Learning from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Honorable Kim Berkeley 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. Judge Clark has most recently had the honor of receiving the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence by the NCSC.

Jacklyn Conklin is a former FGDM Coordinator for JusticeWorks YouthCare serving the families of Northeastern PA. After relocating to Southern PA, Jacklyn was promoted to Supervisor in the York County branch. While in York, Jackie worked closely with the nearby Adams County branch to train new FGDM coordinators. In June of 2016, Jackie transferred to Supervisor of the Chester County branch and was promoted to Director in April 2017 where she is supervising FGDM in Chester and Delaware Counties.

Colleen Cox, MSW, LSW is a Practice Improvement Specialist with The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC), University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, in the Southeast Region. She is fully trained in both FGDM and Family Finding, and has trained social workers across the state extensively in both arenas. 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 and youth.

Heidi Redlich Epstein, JD, MSW is the Director of Kinship Policy and Assistant Director of State Projects at the ABA Center on Children and the Law. Previously, she was a Law Guardian and a residential social worker. Heidi has a BS from Binghamton University and a JD and MSW from SUNY Buffalo.

Morgan Henson, a Family Engagement Caseworker, graduated from Shippensburg University of 2010 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice, and in 2015 with a Master's in Administration of Justice.

Kerin J. Kohler is the social worker at The Women's Health Center at Reading Hospital since 2006. The Women's Health Center is the largest Obstetrics and Gynecology practice in Berks County and primarily serves individuals who are uninsured or have Medicaid coverage. Patients are seen by nurse practitioners; as well as, the 16 OB/GYN residents. Kerin has been instrumental in the development of a bereavement program for families who lose a baby during pregnancy or shortly after birth and is active with the neonatal palliative care program at Reading Hospital. She has also participated in the development and management of a transgender care specialty clinic. Kerin is also the co-manager of the hospital's Opiate Use Disorder Center of Excellence grant. She co-chairs the Pregnant and Parenting Substance Use Disorder Consortium, which is comprised of professionals in the community who work with women with substance use disorder. She has her Bachelor of Social Work from Millersville University. Prior to employment at Reading Hospital, Kerin had 16 years of Child Welfare experience. She was a former Child Protective Services investigator for Berks County Children and Youth Services, with a primary focus on sexual abuse investigations. Kerin had also been a policy writer and Program Specialist with the Office of Children, Youth and Families, with a primary policy focus on foster care and permanency, operations of county and private children and youth social services programs and transition of youth with disabilities to adulthood.

Brenda Lawrence, LSW, MSW is the co-founder of Family Design Resources, Inc. and program administrator for the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network. Brenda is trained in FGDM. She received her bachelor's degree in social welfare from Pennsylvania State University and her Master's of Social Work from West Virginia University. Brenda's service to children and families spans more than 40 years.

Tom Linko was a caseworker for ten years with Beaver County Children and Youth Services. For the past seven years, he has worked as co-coordinator of the TIP program. Tom received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Geneva College.

Honorable Robert J. Mellon In July 1992, Judge Mellon was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. He served from July 1992 through January 1994. He returned to private practice at Mellon, Webster & Mellon in Doylestown, Pennsylvania as a partner. There he represented clients in professional negligence, products liability and negligence litigation. In November 2001, he was elected to serve a 10 year term in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas, beginning January 2002. Currently Judge Mellon is a Judge in Dependency Court. Prior to his return to the bench in January 2002, Judge Mellon assisted attorneys in resolving their cases as an arbitrator/mediator. He has been an Adjunct Faculty member of the Rutgers University Law School, Camden since 1985. He has taught Evidence I, Advanced Evidence, Pre-Trial Advocacy and Trial Advocacy. Judge Mellon received his B.S. in Sociology from LaSalle University, 1974 and his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, 1977. He serves as co-chair of the Trauma Workgroup which was commissioned by the State Dependency Roundtable.

Ellen Miller, a FGDM Coordinator through JusticeWorks YouthCare, graduated from York College in 2008 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

Nadine Miller, MSS has worked with children and families for over 28 years; the past 26 years committed to child welfare. She is a social services division administrator at Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth. She holds a BS in elementary education from Kutztown University and a MSS from Bryn Mawr College.

Sandra Moore assumed the position of Administrator for the Office of Children & Families in the Courts (OCFC), Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in January 2008. In this role, Sandra works closely with the Honorable Max Baer, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Justice overseeing the state's Dependency Court Improvement Project. This oversight includes providing leadership for Pennsylvania's Children's Roundtable Initiative, the overarching structure of the state's court improvement initiative. Additionally, the office coordinates specific court improvement activities including the creation of a Statewide Dependency Court Management/Data system, a Dependency Bench Book, the Dependency Mission/Guiding Principles, the Permanency Practice Initiative, a graduated educational curriculum for Dependency Judges, and training for Guardian ad Litem and Parent Attorneys.

Lynne Napoleon joined the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts in the Office of Children and Families in the Courts in February 2009 as a Judicial Programs Analyst. Her primary responsibility in this position is the provision of technical assistance to 15 counties in the north western and north central regions of Pennsylvania. In addition, Ms. Napoleon is responsible for observing court proceedings and facilitating

communication between Dependency Judges, Children and Youth Administrators and both local and regional Children's Roundtables. Ms. Napoleon directly oversees Pennsylvania State Roundtable's Drug and Alcohol and Trauma Workgroups.

Ms. Napoleon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science degree in Applied Developmental Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She brings with her almost 20 years of experience working with children, families and professionals in the Child Welfare System.

Patti Noss is the CEO of It Takes A Village, Inc. Since 2000, Patti has had extensive expertise in the implementation, facilitation, coordination and training of the Family Group Conferencing (FGC) practice. Patti started her own company; It Takes a Village, Inc., in June 2005. As the Executive Director, she oversees staff in various counties utilizing FGC and Family Finding (FF). She is a member of numerous county and state wide FGC leadership teams. She has been a leader and educator in advancing the FGC and FF practice throughout Pennsylvania. Patti graduated from Shippensburg University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work. She has worked with at-risk youth, women and families throughout her career. Patti lives in Dauphin County with her husband Bob, their four children, and grandchildren. She strongly believes in the family unit, which she promotes in her professional and private life.

Marlo Perry is a Research Assistant Professor in the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. Marlo earned her Ph.D. in School, Community, and Clinical Child Psychology and her M.S. Ed. in Psychological Services from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mary Beth Rauktis earned a PhD in social work and a Master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a BSN from Duquesne University. She is an Assistant Research Professor in the Child Welfare Education and Research Programs at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work.

Honorable Jennifer L. Rogers has served as Judge, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas since January 3, 2012. She is administrative Judge of Family Court and Dependency Court. Judge Rogers addresses cases involving child custody, divorce, dependency, Act 53, child/spousal support, termination of parental rights and adoption. She serves as co-chair of Leadership Roundtable Three; is a member of the state workgroup addressing caseworker recruitment and retention; and is a newly appointed member to the Dependency Benchbook committee.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Rogers was a sole practitioner and operated her law practice, The Law Offices of Jennifer L. Rogers, LLC from 2006-2012. Her practice addressed family law, general civil litigation, and estate planning, personal injury and real estate transactions. She also served as a part-time solicitor for Luzerne County Children and Youth Services from August, 2007 through September, 2010.

Prior to opening her law practice, she served for 9 ½ years as an associate at the law firm of Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, P.C. where her practice focused on commercial litigation.

Judge Rogers received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English/Journalism from the University of Delaware. She received her J.D. from the Widener University School of Law where she was Notes/Comments Editor for the Widener law Symposium Journal, a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and the Student Bar Association. She is a member of the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association, the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Angela Sager began her career in public service in 1997. She is currently a Judicial Program Analyst for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, Office of Children and Families in the Courts. Her primary responsibilities in this position include technical assistance to dependency courts in 12 counties in the western and central areas of Pennsylvania. In 2009, Ms. Sager was appointed as lead staff person to the PA State Roundtable's Educational Success and Truancy Prevention Workgroup. In addition, Ms. Sager served as lead staff person to the PA State Roundtable's Dependent Children of Incarcerated Parents. Prior to her current position, Ms. Sager was employed by Cumberland County as the Coordinator for the Youth Aid Panel. Ms. Sager was also employed from 1997-2005 at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. During her tenure as Grants Manager, Ms. Sager was responsible for administering more than \$200 million in state and federal funds for Pennsylvania's Prison System.

Ms. Sager holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice and a Master degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Pittsburgh.

Stephanie Salvatori graduated from Lycoming College in 2008 with a B.A. in Business. It took little time to realize her heart belonged to Child Welfare. Stephanie worked at a residential facility and served as a mental health support staff to gain knowledge and experience needed to progress in the child welfare system. Stephanie has had the honor to serve as the Independent Living caseworker at Lycoming County Children and Youth Services since August, 2011. She is a former foster youth, entering care at age twelve, and “aged-out” at age twenty-one. Becoming an Independent Living worker is not just a profession but also Stephanie’s passion. Stephanie is a current member of the Transitional Youth workgroup, House Bill 4980 workgroup, and APPLA workgroup. She is this year’s recipient of the “Youth Advocate of the Year Award” presented during the 2017 SWAN Summer Statewide Conference.

Shara Saveikis has been the Executive Director of Westmoreland County Children’s Bureau since December 31, 2007. She received her Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. Over the past 23 years, her entire professional career has been devoted to child welfare serving in various capacities in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Saveikis participates in multiple committees at the federal, state and local level. She currently serves as the president on the board for the Pennsylvania Children and Youth Administrators Association.

Cindy Scott, LSW, is the Quality Assurance Manager for Chester County DCYF. Her BS in Individual and Family Studies is from Penn State and her MSSW is from the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She teaches in the MSW program at West Chester University and is a trainer for the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center.

Honorable Michael H. Sholley is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He began practicing law with the firm of Rudnitsky and Hackman in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and later opened his own offices in Middleburg and Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. He has represented parents in dependency cases and was later appointed as Snyder County’s guardian ad litem for all children in dependency cases in that county. Judge Sholley occasionally represented Children and Youth Services when the Agency’s solicitor had a conflict or was unavailable. He has served as the County Public Defender, the District Attorney of Snyder County, solicitor for the Snyder County Prison Board and is an adjunct professor at Susquehanna University. Currently, Judge Sholley hears all dependency and delinquency cases in the 17th Judicial District (Snyder and Union Counties).

Richard D. Steele, MS, is the Executive Director of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission. For over 38 years, Rick’s career has been dedicated to working with at-risk and delinquent youth and their families in the juvenile justice system. He has served in a variety of probation-related capacities, including that of chief juvenile probation officer, and later as an administrator in a residential facility for delinquent youth. He joined the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission in 2005 to assist with Pennsylvania’s activities with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s Models for Change efforts, initially concentrating primarily on aftercare reform. Since that time, his work has focused largely on juvenile justice system reform, providing leadership to the state’s Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), a comprehensive system reform plan designed to enhance the state’s ongoing Balanced & Restorative Justice implementation. Rick is a member of numerous committees, workgroups, and councils, all related to the juvenile justice system and various stakeholders. He received his bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Gettysburg College, and his Master’s degree in Administration of Justice - Juvenile from Shippensburg University. He is married to Lori and has four children, four grandchildren and two golden retrievers.

Cathy Utz is the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Children, Youth and Families. For the past 19 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.

Jennifer Wallis, MSW is a FGDM/In-Home Supervisor at Berks County Children and Youth Services. She has been involved in the Child Welfare field since 1997. Jennifer has supervised staff in the in-home services department since 2002, and transitioned to supervising FGDM staff in 2008. Jennifer is from the Southeast Region of Pennsylvania.