



# Paving the Way to Educational Success

October 5-7, 2021 | Virtual Conference

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Visit the Virtual Exhibit Hall (opens 8 AM) [bit.ly/ptwexhibits](https://bit.ly/ptwexhibits)

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

### Reflect and Refresh: Mindful Movement and Meditation

Ludy Soderman, Reiki Master and Yoga Instructor, Natural Healing: Body, Mind, and Soul LLC, Ardmore, PA

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

### PAVING THE WAY INSTITUTES

#### Enhancing Resilience Through a Trauma-Skilled Social and Emotional Learning Model of Support

Stephanie Colvin-Roy, Training and Organization Development Associate, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

Alison Kreitzer, Ph.D., Project Specialist, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

Elizabeth Hoffer, Youth Development Coordinator, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

#### Exploring Educational Issues Impacting Students in Foster Care

Alyssa "AK" Holstay, Esq., Attorney and Legal Training Specialist, Voce, Harrisburg, PA

#### McKinney-Vento 101: Game Day Edition

Christina Endres, Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education, SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina, Browns Summit, NC

Sonia Pitzzi, Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, New Oxford, PA

Andrea Sheesley, Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, ARIN Intermediate Unit 28, Indiana, PA

#### Naming, Seeing, and Solving the Problem: Racial Inequities for Youth Experiencing Homelessness and in the Foster Care System

Bonita Allen, Parent and Family Engagement Consultant, Division of Federal Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pittsburgh, PA

Cindy LaCom, Ph.D., Founder and Chief Diversity Officer, Transforming Culture Consultants, New Castle, PA

Maria Searcy, Parent and Family Engagement Consultant, Division of Federal Programs, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pittsburgh, PA

#### Reengaging Students, Building Belonging, Well-being, and Connectedness in Educational Environments

Erin Reed, Well-being, Healing, and Resilience Educator, Starr Commonwealth, Albion, MI

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

### Meet the Exhibitors | Attend for a chance to receive a giveaway

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

### Lunch Break

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

### Remarks and Keynote Address

Carmen Medina, Chief, Division of Student Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg, PA

Amanda Dorris, Director, Bureau of Policy, Programs, and Operations, Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Harrisburg, PA

#### Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Updates

Storm Camara, ECYEH State Coordinator, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg, PA

#### Keynote Address: CinderGirl: My Journey Out of the Ashes to a Life of Hope

Christina Meredith, Abuse and Homelessness Survivor, Youth Advocate, and Author of CinderGirl, Austin, TX/Jacksonville, FL



2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

### Regional Caucuses Networking



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Visit the Virtual Exhibit Hall anytime [bit.ly/ptwexhibits](https://bit.ly/ptwexhibits)

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

### Reflect and Refresh: The Healing and Educational Qualities of Art-Making

Danyah Subei, Art Therapist, Phoenix, AZ

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

### Foster Care Updates and Panel Conversation

#### Educational Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care Program Updates

[Matthew Butensky](#), Youth Development Managing Coordinator, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

[Jillian Schreib](#), Human Services Analyst, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Harrisburg, PA

#### Connecting the Dots: Moving Towards Recovery, Reengagement, and Accelerating Learning

##### Panelists

[Jorge Verlenden, Ph.D.](#), Behavioral Scientist, Division of Adolescent and School Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

[Serena Holthe](#), Senior Director of Programs and Strategy, American Youth Policy Forum, Washington, DC

[Kenneth Chancey](#), Policy Manager, National Foster Youth Institute, Los Angeles, CA

[Shirley Fan-Chan](#), Post-secondary Education Committee Chair, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, Boston, MA

##### Moderator

[Sarah Wasch](#), Program Manager, Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice and Research, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

### SKILL BUILDERS

#### Connecting with Families in Poverty

[Wendy Kinnear](#), Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4, Grove City, PA

#### Foster Strong: Strategies for Supporting Students in Foster Care to Succeed in School

[Constance Iannetta](#), Founder and Executive Director, FosterStrong, Glenside, PA

[Colin McShane](#), Co-Founder and Board Member, FosterStrong, Glenside, PA

#### Housing Collaboration in Our Community is Key

[Sonia Pitzzi](#), Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, New Oxford, PA

[Christina Kapp](#), Coordinated Entry Systems Manager, Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Carlisle, PA

#### McKinney-Vento Monitoring Tips and Tricks: Preparing for ECYEH Program Monitoring

[Alfred Quarles, Ph.D.](#), Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

[Jeff Zimmerman](#), Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, Kingston, PA

[Anne Salerno](#), McKinney-Vento Program Monitor, Scranton, PA

*(More Skill Builders on next page.)*

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6 (CONT.)

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

### SKILL BUILDERS (CONT.)

#### Reaching Students with Evidence-Based Comprehensive Afterschool Programs and Summer Enrichment Programs

Jodi Grant, J.D., Executive Director, Afterschool Alliance, Washington, DC

Kristal Moore Clemons, Ph.D., National Director, Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools, Washington, DC

Shaquite Pegues, Director, Ella Baker Leadership Development, Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools, Washington, DC

#### Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Support Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Across Pennsylvania

Barbara Duffield, Executive Director, SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DC

Erin Patterson, Director of Education Initiatives, SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DC

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

### Lunch Break

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

### WORKSHOPS

#### Accounting for Gender: Supporting Gender Diverse youth in Child Welfare Settings

Carla Peña, Program Manager, Gender Spectrum, Professional Development, San Leandro, CA

#### Back on Track: Education Advocacy for Students in Foster Care

Sneha Barve, J.D., Staff Attorney, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Kathleen McNaught, J.D., Director-Education Projects, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

Emily Peeler, J.D., Staff Attorney, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

#### Connecting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness to Quality Early Learning Programs

Tracy Duarte, Director, Pennsylvania Head Start Association, State Office, Harrisburg, PA

Joe Willard, Vice President of Policy, People's Emergency Center, Philadelphia, PA

#### Multidimensional Wellness: Refueling Our Spirits with Self-Care and Promoting Social Justice

Rajni Shankar-Brown, Ph.D., Professor and Endowed Chair of Social Justice Education, Stetson University, DeLand, FL

#### On the Road Again: A Collaborative Approach to Crafting Foster Care Transportation Plans that Address More Than Transportation

Leigh Dalton, Esq., Ph.D., Attorney, Stock and Leader, York, PA

Missy Gosnell, Program Liaison and Foster Care Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12, New Oxford, PA

#### Reframing Family Engagement: Self-Reflection for Stronger Relationships

Rijelle Kraft, Family Support Managing Coordinator, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

Katherine Noss, Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator, Center for Schools and Communities, Camp Hill, PA

#### Virtually Engaging and Uplifting Young People in Our Pandemic Affected Nation

Bellis Furlin, Youth Catalyst Member, Youth Collaboratory, Normal, IL

Maria Kelly, Youth Catalyst Consultant, Youth Collaboratory, Storrs, CT

Mirielle Milne, Youth Catalyst Member, Youth Collaboratory, Spokane, WA

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

### Meet the Exhibitors | Attend for a chance to receive a giveaway

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

Visit the Virtual Exhibit Hall (closes at 5 PM) [bit.ly/ptwexhibits](https://bit.ly/ptwexhibits)

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

**Coffee Talk Networking**

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

**Advocate Awards Ceremony and Keynote Address**

**Presentation of 2021 Advocates of the Year Awards**

**Keynote Address: Finding Your Inner Voice When Life Happens**

Logan Taylor, Founder and CEO, Y.B. Normal?, Chattanooga, TN



11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

### BRIEFINGS

**American Bar Association's Education Barriers Project**

Emily Peeler, J.D., Staff Attorney, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

**Bring Voices of Our Homeless Students and Families to the Front of the Room**

Jani Koester, TEP Resource Teacher, Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, WI

Julie Ratekin, Vice President, National Association of the Education Homeless Children and Youth, Westland, MI

Kelly Jo Shebeck, National Association for the Education Homeless Children and Youth Board Secretary, Homeless Liaison, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV

Nicole Steward, Homeless Liaison, Radical Tendencies, San Jose, CA

**Conflicts, Collaboration, and Compliance**

Christina Endres, Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education, SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina, Browns Summit, NC

**Meet Pennsylvania KinConnector!**

Tia-Maria Smith, Program Director, Pennsylvania KinConnector, Harrisburg, PA

Alex Maasdam, Kinship Navigator, Pennsylvania KinConnector, Harrisburg, PA

**The Office for Dispute Resolution — An Overview**

Samantha Pudloski, Program Manager, The Office for Dispute Resolution, Harrisburg, PA

**United for ALICE: Generating Solutions for Family Financial Stability**

Rebecca O' Shea, Advocacy Engagement Coordinator, United Way of Pennsylvania, Lemoyne, PA

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**Lunch Break**

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

### WORKSHOPS

**Best Practices on the Pathway to Higher Education: Perspectives from the Field**

Melissa DeMotta, Program Specialist, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Berks County Intermediate Unit 14, Reading, PA

Susan Mangold, Assistant Dean of Students, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA

Leanne Eckenrode, School Social Worker and Families in Transition Coordinator, Reading School District, Reading, PA

Lindsay Gregg, Coordinator of Parent Involvement and Families in Transition, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA

Lisette Rivera, Site Coordinator Families in Transition, School District of Lancaster, Lancaster, PA

**Early Intervention: Navigating Homelessness and Sexual Violence**

Tatiana Piper, Community Advocacy Coordinator, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Harrisburg, PA

Jackie Strohm, Prevention and Resource Coordinator, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Harrisburg, PA

(More workshops on next page.)

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 (CONT.)

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

### WORKSHOPS (CONT.)

**Human Trafficking: Equip Yourself to Help End Exploitation of Youth in Pennsylvania**

Joy Lenzi, Founder, Mission Delco, Glenolden, PA

**Our Girls, Our Communities: The Experience of Black Girls and Adolescents in Foster Care**

Jamerika Haynes-Lewis, CEO and Founder, Clever Jam Communications, Seattle, WA

**Partnerships for Migrant Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness: Plan of Action**

David Baird, Program Director, Migrant Education Program, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Lees Chevere, Team Leader, Migrant Education Program, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Amanda Guzman, Team Leader, Migrant Education Program, Millersville University, Millersville, PA

Kristen Hoffa, Regional Coordinator, Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness, Berks County Intermediate Unit 14, Reading, PA

**Supporting Highly Mobile Children and Youth in the Special Education Process**

Amira Hill-Yancy, Ed.D., Educational Consultant, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network, Malvern, PA

2:45 PM - 3:30 PM

### SKILL BUILDERS

**Fostering Higher Education: Tools to Promote Higher Education Success for Youth with Experience in the Foster Care System**

Nadia Mozaffar, J.D., Senior Attorney, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

Tiara Greene, J.D., Staff Attorney, Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia, PA

**Promising Practices: How the American Rescue Plan Can Support Students in Foster Care**

Kathleen McNaught, J.D., Director of Education Projects, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC

**Rethinking Supports for Youth: Building Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations to Help Underserved Youth Thrive**

Brandi Gilbert, Ph.D., Managing Associate, Community Science, Gaithersburg, MD

**Reviewing Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program Reporting**

Leslie McConnell, Program Director, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, Homestead, PA

Jim Ross, Evaluation Specialist, Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3, Homestead, PA

**Serving the Whole Student and Family: A Model of Engagement and Human Services Connection**

Samantha Murphy, Resource Services Manager and Education Liaison, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, PA

Kelly Protho, Applied Learning and Development Specialist, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, PA

Ashley Varrato, Prevention Services and Education Analytics Manager, Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, PA

**Understanding and Supporting the Educational Rights of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**

Patricia Julianelle, J.D., Senior Strategist for Program Advancement and Legal Affairs, SchoolHouse Connection, Washington, DC

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM

**2021 Conference Closing Activity | Reflect and Refresh: The Power of Expressive Writing**

Nancy Scherlong, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Poetry and Journal Therapist, Founder, Change Your Narrative, Norwalk, CT