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*Building Strong Families Together!*

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**RECENT TRAININGS AND SPEAKING EVENTS**

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**I. Virtual Events**

**June 2021 Maryland Social Services Administration**

Webinar Trainer: Promoting Partnerships between the Family of Origin and Resource Parents

**June 2021- Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast “Reunification**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-64/>

**May 2021 Regional Post Adoption Consortium Services Program-- Adoptee Expert Series**

Workshop Trainer: Why We Search: An Adoptee’s Journey

**May 2021 VDSS Foster Care Month Lunch and Learn**

Webinar Presenter: Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents

**May 2021 Newport News DHS- Staff Training**

Trainer: Unpacking the “No” of Older Youth Adoption

**May 2021 Prince George CSA Retreat 2021**

Trainer: “Social Workers are Essential” In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

**April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices**

Workshop Presenter: Unpacking the “NO” of Permanency for Older Adolescents- An Overview

**April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices**

Workshop Presenter: Understanding the Culture of Foster Care and Family Privilege-An Overview

**March 2021 Reunification Month Webinar**

Presenter: All In for Reunification 2021- [All In For Reunification 2021 - YouTube](#)

**March 2021 First Home Care - Social Work Appreciation Month**

Trainer: “Social Workers are Essential” In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

**March 2021- Plummer Youth Promise/South Carolina Child Welfare Court System**

Trainer: Expedited Permanency Meetings-Legal Orientation

**January 2021 Shenandoah Valley Social Services Foster Parent Trainer**

Trainer: Helping Caregivers Effectively Address Trauma

**December 2020-Mission West Virginia -Foster Parent Virtual Training**

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

**November 2020 New Mexico CYFD Train the Trainers -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families

**November 2020- 4th Annual Virginia Adoption Conference- Virtual Panel**

Moderator: Youth/Young Adult Panel "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn"

**November 2020- Barker's 2020 Virtual Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference**

Moderator: Search and Reunion Stories: How Birth and Adoptive Families Can Support Important Connections

**September 2020- National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series- Virtual Training**

Workshop Presenter: The Importance of Self-Care When Serving as a Kinship Caregiver

**September 2020- Maryland Independent Living Coordinator-Virtual Training**

Trainer: Strategic Sharing- Telling Your Story Effectively

**July 2020 Georgia Division of Family and Children Services YAB-Virtual Facilitation**

Facilitator: Youth Advisory Board Focus Group

**June 2020-Mission West Virginia -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

**June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Virtual Panel**

Panelist: Family to Family Discussion- Bridging The Gap

<https://www.nfpati.org/courses/family-panel>

**June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Coffee with Caregivers- Virtual Webinar**

Presenter: National Reunification Month-Celebrating Reunification

[Coffee with Caregivers // Special Guest Chauncey Strong // Episode Nine - YouTube](#)

**April 2020 New Mexico CYFD Placement Summit -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

## **II. Consulting**

- *Currently- Information Gateway*

- Incorporating Lived Experience
- **Currently-Richmond City DSS**
  - Family Engagement
  - Coaching and Supervision
- **Currently- Consultant Georgia Division of Family & Children Services**
  - Youth Advisory Board
  - Virtual Youth Event Series
- **Currently- Capacity Building Center for States -**
  - MD-Resource Parent Recruitment and Retention
  - MD-Strengthening the Youth Advisory Board
  - NM Improving Sibling Connections and Engaging Relatives
  - Racial Equity Workgroup
  - MO- Developing a Parent Advisory Board- 2019
- **Currently- Virginia Department of Social Services-Currently**
  - Youth Advisory Board
  - Reunification Month
  - Normalcy
  - Youth Exit Survey
- **Currently- Plummer Youth Promise**
  - Expedited Permanency Meetings
- **2017-2020- AdoptUSKids**
  - Child Specific Recruitment
- **2017-2019 The Annie E. Casey Foundation**
  - 2018 Extended services for older youth in foster care
  - 2018 Teen Connect Training
  - 2017 Kentucky Kinship Care Practices
- **2018-2019 Wake County Human Services- Wake County, NC**
  - Foster Parents Peer to Peer Support Groups

## **Keynotes**

**February 2020 CYFD Placement Summit, Albuquerque, NM**  
 Keynote Speaker: Engaging Foster Parents to Support Bio-Families

**November 2019- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Post Adoption Conference: Connect, Expect, Reflect: Bringing Adoptive Families Together, Catawba County, NC**

Keynote Speaker: Self Care: Put on Your Oxygen Mask

**October 2019- Loudoun County Youth Forum, Loudoun County, VA**

Keynote Speaker: Building Resiliency

**October 2019- MD Resource Parent Conference -Baltimore, Maryland**

Keynote Speaker: Effective Teaming: Bridging the Gap to Help Youth in Foster Care

**July 2019- New Mexico Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM**

Keynote Speaker: "One Team, One Fight, and Victory for All": Effectively Making Changes in Foster Care

**May 2019- Wake County 2019 Foster, Kinship & Adoptive Parent Forum Raliegh, NC**

Keynote Speaker: Self-Care While Caring for Others

**November 2018- Adoption Day Celebration- Richmond, VA**

Keynote Speaker: Celebrating Adoptions

**August 2018- New Mexico Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM**

Keynote Speaker: Reaching Your Rainbow After the Storm

**June 2018- Loudoun County DFS-Fatherhood Initiative Loudoun County, VA**

Keynote Speaker: The Importance of Engaging Fathers

**May 2018- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families 23rd Annual Conference Groton, Connecticut**

Keynote Speaker: If We Only Knew..... The life of a youth in foster care

**March 2018 – Barker's 24th Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference, Rockville, MD**

Keynote Speaker: Adoption: Navigating the Challenges and Growing Stronger

## **Permanency**

**May 2021 Prince George CSA Retreat 2021- Virtual**

Trainer: "Social Workers are Essential" In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

**April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices Virtual**

Workshop Presenter: Unpacking the "NO" of Permanency for Older Adolescents- An Overview

**March 2021 First Home Care - Social Work Appreciation Month -Virtual**

Trainer: "Social Workers are Essential" In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

**March 2021- Plummer Youth Promise/South Carolina Child Welfare Court System-Virtual**

Trainer: Expedited Permanency Meetings-Legal Orientation

**December 2019- "Teens R 4 Me" Conference: Beyond the Moment, Stone Mountain, GA**

Workshop Presenter: The Importance of Connections

**May 2018- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families 23rd Annual Conference, Groton, Connecticut**

Facilitator: Life in Limbo- A Role Play About Life in Foster Care

**May 2018- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families 23rd Annual Conference Groton, Connecticut**

Presenter: Unpacking the "No" Of Permanency for Older Youth in Foster

**January 2018- Children's Law Institute, Albuquerque, NM**

Featured Presenter: Unpacking the "No" Of Permanency for Older Youth in Foster Care

**Reunification**

**June 2021- Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast "Reunification**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-64/>

**March 2021 Reunification Month Webinar- Virtual**

Presenter: All In for Reunification 2021- [All In For Reunification 2021 - YouTube](#)

**June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Coffee with Caregivers- Virtual**

Presenter: National Reunification Month-Celebrating Reunification

[Coffee with Caregivers // Special Guest Chauncey Strong // Episode Nine - YouTube](#)

**Kinship Care**

**September 2020- National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series: Virtual**

Workshop Presenter: The Importance of Self-Care When Serving as a Kinship Caregiver

**September 2019- Georgia Kinship Summit 2019: Stone Mountain, GA**

Workshop Presenter: Self-Care Matters: Putting on Your Oxygen Mask

**Adoption**

**May 2021 Regional Post Adoption Consortium Services Program-- Adoptee Expert Series (Virtual) Workshop Trainer: Why We Search: An Adoptee's Journey**

**May 2021 Newport News DHS- Staff Training (Virtual)**

Trainer: Unpacking the "No" of Older Youth Adoption

**November 2020- 4th Annual Virginia Adoption Conference- Virtual Panel**

Moderator: Youth/Young Adult Panel "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn"

**November 2020- Barker's 2020 Virtual Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference**

Moderator: Search and Reunion Stories: How Birth and Adoptive Families Can Support Important Connections

**November 2019- C.A.S.E. Strengthening Your Family Webinars Series/3rd Annual Virginia Adoption Conference, Charlottesville VA**

Webinar/Workshop Presenter: Unpacking The "No" of Adoption

**November 2019- 5th Annual Post Adoption Conference: Connect, Expect, Reflect: Bringing Adoptive Families Together, Catawba County, NC**

Workshop Presenter: Why We Search: An Adoptee's Journey

**March 2019- The Barker Foundation 25th Annual FC & Adoption Conference Rockville, MD**

Workshop Presenter: Navigating the Complexity of Birth Family Relationships

## **Families Working Together**

**June 2021 Maryland Social Services Administration- Virtual Webinar**

Webinar Trainer: Promoting Partnerships between the Family of Origin and Resource Parents

**November 2020 New Mexico CYFD Train the Trainers -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families

**June 2020-Mission West Virginia -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

**June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Virtual Panel**

Panelist: Family to Family Discussion- Bridging The Gap

<https://www.nfpai.org/courses/family-panel>

**February 2020- New Mexico CYFD Placement Summit -Virtual Training**

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

**October 2019- MD Resource Parent Conference -Baltimore, Maryland**

Panel: Effective Teaming

**April- October 2018- Staff Training, Sandoval County, Hobbs, Albuquerque, Espanola, NM**

Trainer: "It's All Relatives": The Importance of Family Connections

**May 2018 Shenandoah Valley Department of Social Services Verona, VA**

Trainer: Bridging the Gap: Families Working Together

## **Siblings Connections**

**April- October 2018- Staff Training, Sandoval County, Hobbs, Albuquerque, Espanola, NM**

Trainer: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

**January 2018- Children's Law Institute, Albuquerque, NM**

Featured Presenter: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

**September 2017- New Mexico Annual Foster Parent Conference, Santa Fe NM**

Workshop Presenter: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

**August 2017- Train the Trainers, Albuquerque, NM**

Trainer: The Importance of Relationships for Youth in Foster Care

**May 2017 AEA Conference, La Vegas, NV**

Trainer: Exploring Life in Limbo- Siblings and Birth Family Connections

## **Family Engagement**

**January 2020 Georgia/RYSE Chafee Strategic Planning**

Trainer: Developing Effective Partnerships

**April 2016 - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Commitment for Change Conference Family Engagement and Empowerment, Winchester, VA**

Trainer: Partnering with The Family

**February 2016- Albemarle County DSS, Charlottesville, VA**

Trainer: Partnering with Families: Effectively Engaging Relatives

## **Father Engagement**

**June 2018 Loudoun County DFS-Fatherhood Initiative Loudoun County, VA**

Panel Moderator: The Importance of Engaging Fathers

**February 2017 Newport News Department of Human Services, Newport News, VA**

Trainer: Effective Father Engagement

**September 2016 – Albemarle County DSS, Charlottesville, VA**

Trainer: Effective Father Engagement

## **Youth and Alumni Engagement**

**April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices-Virtual**  
Workshop Presenter: Understanding the Culture of Foster Care and Family Privilege-An Overview

**July 2020 Georgia Division of Family and Children Services YAB-Virtual Facilitation**  
Facilitator: Youth Advisory Board Focus Group

**September 2020- Maryland Independent Living Coordinator-Virtual Training**  
Trainer: Strategic Sharing- Telling Your Story Effectively

**November 2019-Youth Voices: Engaging Children and Youth in Achieving Permanency, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Adoption Conference, Charlottesville VA**  
Panel Organizer: Young Adult Adoption Panel

**July 2019 Maryland Department of Human Services State YAB-Columbia, MD**  
Facilitator: Youth Advisory Board Focus Group

**July 2019- New Mexico Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM**  
Workshop Presenter: Strategic Sharing: Telling Your Story to Effectively Advocate for Change

**June 2019- FCN Foundation- Global Ambassador Convening- Windsor MD**  
Workshop Presenter: Effective Collaborations and Partnerships Development

**May 2019- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CSA Conference "Resiliency: Achieving the Possible,"- Roanoke, VA**  
Panel Moderator: Youth Voice: Building Resiliency through Advocacy

**May 2019- Elizabeth City State University- Social Work Program Elizabeth City, NC**  
Workshop Presenter: Advocacy Matters: A Focus on Child Welfare

**August 2018 New Mexico, Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM**  
Workshop Presenter: Strategic Sharing: Telling Your Story to Effectively Advocate for Change

## **Trauma**

**January 2021 Shenandoah Valley Social Services Foster Parent Trainer (Virtual)**  
Trainer: Helping Caregivers effectively Address Trauma

**November 2017- Adore Foster Parent Training- Arlington, VA**  
Trainer: Overview of ARC Reflection – Helping foster and adoptive parents work with children who have experienced trauma

**October 2017-AEC Austin Convening- Austin, Texas**  
Panelist: Promising New Practices in Trauma-Informed Foster Parent Training



**April 2017 CSA 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference- Roanoke, VA**

Panel Moderator: ARC Reflections: A Trauma-Informed Training for Foster Parents

**July 2016 – The ACEs and Community Resilience Summit, Richmond, VA**

**Keynote:** Practice approaches to permanency and building resilience for youth in foster care

**March-May 2016- Fairfax County DFS Foster Parent Training- Fairfax County, VA**

Trainer: ARC Reflections: A Trauma-Informed Training for Foster Parents

**Recruitment**

**October- December 2019- Diversity in CASA Recruitment-Multiple site Maryland**

Presenter: Targeted Recruitment -Recruiting in the Minority Community

**May 2019- GA Statewide Adoption Match Meeting: Partnering for Permanency, Atlanta, GA**

Workshop Presenter: Engaging Approaches to Child-Specific Recruitment

**February 2019- Georgia DFCS- CPA Partnership Meeting – Macon, GA**

Trainer: Recruitment and Retention Planning

**November 2018- 2018 Georgia DFCS- Resource Development Retreat- Buford, GA**

Trainer: Targeted Recruitment- Recruiting in the African American Community

**III. Curriculum Development**

- Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families
- Sibling and Relative Connections
- Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care
- Placement Stability for Youth in Foster Care
- Unpacking the No of Older Youth Permanency
- Bridging the Gap: Families Working Together

**IV. National Projects**

- Reunification Month Planning Committee
- Foster Care Month Planning Committee