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*Building Strong Families Together!*

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**RECENT TRAININGS AND SPEAKING EVENTS**

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**I. Keynotes and Trainings**

**Keynotes**

**October 2022-Oklahoma Children’s Court Improvement Conference -Norman/Tulsa, OK**  
Keynote: “Nothing About Us Without Us!”

**June 2022-National Council for Adoption- National Adoption Conference-Indiana**  
Keynote: Navigating Adoptive and Birth Family Relationships

**June 2022- Reunification Celebration-Fairfax County DFS, Fairfax County, VA**  
Speaker: Lifting Families Together

**February 2022- Baltimore City DSS 2022 Child Welfare Conference: “Safe, Engaged, Ready”- Staff Conference Baltimore**  
Keynote: Effective Family Engagement: Key Strategies to Promote Families Working Together

**November 2021- MD Child Welfare Academy Resource Parent Conference (Virtual)**  
Keynote Speaker: Teaming with Uncertainty: Working Together During Difficult Times

**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

## **Reunification**

**December 2022- VDSS 2022 Permanency Conference, Hampton, VA**

Panel Moderator: Reunification A Personal Journey

**November and December 2022- Connecticut DCF/ Plummer Youth Promise (Virtual)**

Trainer: Achieving Permanence Through Reunification

**June 2022- Supporting and Celebrating Reunification (Virtual)**

Trainer: [First Tuesday Resources - Maryland Resource Parent Association \(mrpa.org\)](https://www.mrpa.org/)

**June 2022- National Reunification Month Webinar: (Virtual)**

Host/Moderator: [Supporting Families through Reunification and Beyond \(americanbar.org\)](https://www.americanbar.org/)

**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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

**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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

## **Kinship Care**

**February 2022- Connecticut Department of Social- Staff Training Virtual**

Training: The Unique Dynamics of Kinship Care and Permanency

**September 2021- GA-National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series- Virtual**

Workshop Presenter: *Setting Family Boundaries – A Conversation for Kin Caregivers*

**September 2021- GA-National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series- Virtual**

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

**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**

### **November 2021- Barker's 2021 Virtual Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference**

Moderator: Openness in Adoption – Exploring the Importance of Birth Family Connections

### **November 2021-- Virginia DSS 2021 Adoption Month Event- (Virtual)**

Workshop Presenter: Every Conversation Matters: Unpacking the “No” of Teen Adoption

### **May 2021 VA 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- 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/3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Adoption Conference, Charlottesville VA**

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

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

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

## **Youth and Alumni Engagement**

### **December 2022- VDSS 2022 Permanency Conference, Hampton, VA**

Workshop Presenter: A Youth Welfare Approach: Practical Ways to Engage Youth and Young Adults In Foster Care

### **December 2022- Teens R 4 Me 2022 Independent Living Conference, Atlanta, GA**

Workshop Presenter: Building Social Capital – Helping Youth Develop and Maintain Positive Adult Connections

### **December 2022- Teens R 4 Me 2022 Independent Living Conference, Atlanta, GA**

Workshop Presenter: Authentic Youth Engagement Strategies for System Improvement

### **October 2022- Oklahoma Children's Court Improvement Conference -Norman and Tulsa**

Panel Facilitator: “Nothing About Us Without Us!”

### **July 2022 Georgia Youth Advisory Board GPAC- Youth Training**

**Workshop:** Strategic Sharing

### **December 2021 First Home Care - Social Worker Training-Virtual**

Trainer: A Youth Welfare Approach: Practical Ways to Engage Youth In Foster Care

**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

**November 2020- 4th Annual Virginia Adoption Conference- Virtual Panel**  
Moderator: Youth/Young Adult Panel "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn"

**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

## **Families Working Together**

**February 2022- Frederick County DSS- Foster Parent Training- Virtual**  
Trainer: Promoting Partnership: Families Working Together- Comfort Calls and Icebreakers

**January 2022 Richmond City DSS- Foster Parent Virtual Training**  
Trainer: Families Working Together-Icebreakers: What to Expect

**November 2021 Richmond City Department of Social Services- Staff Virtual Training**  
Trainer: Using Icebreakers to Bridge The Gap of Family Engagement

**September 2021--- 2021 Kempe International Virtual Conference:**  
Workshop Presenter: Bridging the Gap: Foster Parents- Birth Parents Building Connections

**September 2021- 2021 Wisconsin Parents Supporting Parents Summit - Virtual**  
Workshop Presenter: Icebreaker Meetings

**September 2021- Wisconsin Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: A New Way Forward- Virtual Staff Training**

Workshop Presenter: Bridging the Gap: Foster Parents - Birth Parents Building Connections

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

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

**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

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

Panelist: Family to Family Discussion- Bridging The Gap

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

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

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

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

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

**Trauma**

**May and June 2022- The Barker Foundation Training Series (Virtual)**

Trainer: Trauma Informed Parenting Part 1 and 2

**May 2022- People Places Foster Parent Training (Virtual)**

Trainer: Training & Discussion: Trauma Informed Parenting

**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

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

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

## **Permanency**

**December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisor Training Virtual**

**Trainer:** Being a Permanency-Driven Organization

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

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

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

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

**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

## **Recruitment**

**June 2022- GA Statewide Adoption Match Meeting Atlanta, GA**

**Workshop Presenter:** Keeping the "Youth" in Child-Specific 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

## **Supervisors and Managers**

**December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisors Training-Virtual**

**Trainer:** The Accountability Pathway

**December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisors Training- Virtual**

**Trainer:** Being a Permanency-Driven Organization

## **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

## **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

## **II. Consulting**

- **Currently- National Quality Improvement Center for Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY)- Curriculum Development**
  - Filming video on engaging youth in finding permanency. **Curriculum Development** Working on a team for the QIC-EY, to outline and construct developed for the child welfare workforce training to create a detailed outline on the assigned topics, Art of Engagement and the Benefit of Engagement.

- ***Currently-Consultant Richmond City DSS***
  - Coaching-Family Engagement: Effectively implement the Virginia Department of Social Services Practice Profiles through coaching and supervision for all programs. The goal is to assist with an organizational culture change regarding improving family engagement using the Virginia Practice Profiles. **Key Elements:** Review and evaluation of the work with the Reunification and Permanency Program, including an action plan for an ongoing focus on supervisor development. Guidance of the initial work with the CPS and In-Home Prevention Services Programs. Delivery of supporting training interventions to include Family Search and Engagement, Icebreaker and Permanency Trainings
  
- ***Currently- Consultant Georgia Division of Family & Children Services***
  - **Youth Advisory Board Development-GPAC** Provide Technical Assistants to develop and implement the Georgia Youth Advisory Board (YAB). **Key Elements:** Plan and facilitate initial and ongoing Focus Groups; Review and create documents needed for the YAB; Assist youth with developing Leadership Skills; Facilitate training for youth and workers; Engage community partners as appropriate; Assist with other youth events as needed.
  
- ***Currently- Consultant/Liaison Virginia Department of Social Services***
  - Youth Advisory Board-SPEAKOUT
  - Implementation of Youth Welfare Approach
  - Planning Team for Foster, Adoption and Reunification Month
  - Normalcy Training
  - Youth Exit Survey
  
- ***Currently- Trainer/Consultant Plummer Youth Promise***
  - The Unique Dynamics of Kinship Care and Permanency-CT
  - Achieving Permanence Through Reunification-CT
  - Expedited Permanency Meetings-SC
  
- ***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
  
- ***2021-2022- Consultant Information Gateway***
  - **Incorporating Lived Experience:** Provide a full assessment and develop a plan to integrate alumni voices (those with lived child welfare experience) into Information Gateway's work and products. **Key Work Elements:** Understand



Information Gateway's overall business processes; Interviews and planning sessions with identified leadership, staff, and stakeholders (as appropriate) to identify common goals and intended outcomes; Evaluate and develop a plan to integrate the alumni voice for product development.

- **2017-2020- AdoptUSKids**
  - Child Specific Recruitment

### **III. Curriculum Development**

- National Quality Improvement Center for Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY)- The Art of Engagement and the Benefit of Engagement
- The Unique Dynamics of Kinship Care and Permanency-CT
- Achieving Permanence Through Reunification-CT
- Sibling and Relative Connections, NM
- Bridging the Gap: Families Working Together
- Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families, VA
- Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care, VA
- Placement Stability for Youth in Foster Care, Center For States
- Unpacking the No of Older Youth Permanency

### **IV. National Projects**

- Reunification Month Planning Committee
- Foster Care Month Planning Committee