

PREPARING FOR AND MANAGING VISITATION PRESENTER BIOS

Kimberlee Shoecraft

Kimberlee works as the training and curriculum manager for Partner's for Children (POC) at the University of Washington's School of Social Work. She currently trains the Strive program and develops and monitors quality assurance processes for Strive. Strive is a parent education and support program that aims to engage parents in the visitation process, assist parents in preparing for high quality visits with their children, and promote child safety. Strive uses a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach to help parents create a positive environment for nurturing their relationship with their child (ren) within the context of supervised visitation. Parents are connected with a "Visit Navigator" (visit supervisor trained in Strive) who meets with them weekly during the program to cover session content and to support them in visits to "try out" new knowledge and skills.

In addition to working for POC, she has spent the last ten years training social service professionals nationally and internationally in other evidence-based programs, as well as providing clinical supervision and consultation for social service professionals working with children and families. In the past, Kimberlee has worked in Washington state's child welfare system. In the last 3 years of her career with Washington State, she helped to transition in several evidence-based parenting programs.

Ashely Albert

Ashely is a Parent Engagement Coordinator at Children's Home Society of Washington where she provides training to staff in the development of Parents for Parents Programs across the state of Washington. In this role, she does training for foster parents, staff and birth parents on visitation along with other themes. Ashely helps to coordinate parent advocates who are parents who had their children removed from their care and then later returned to them. The parent advocates mentor parents who currently have their children in the foster care system. Ashley was in the foster care system herself as a youth and later had her children removed from her care as a parent. She speaks passionately about the importance of visitation from both the perspective of a child that was in foster care and as a parent who had her children removed. In addition to being able to highlight the importance of these visits, Ashley can provide concrete tips on how foster parents can help to manage the visits so that they are effective and meaningful for both the child and the birth parent.

Taylor Bernardi

Taylor Bernardi has spent the past three years as a parent ally in Washington State for King County Superior Court. She works with those involved with Family Treatment Court and supports reunification with families in the system. Taylor is obtaining a trainee

license to work in facilities that serve those struggling with chemical dependency. She is studying to pursue a license as a substance use disorder professional.

Dr. Sharon McDaniel, MPA, Ed.D.

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel is the founder, president and CEO of A Second Chance, Inc. (ASCI), the nation's leading nonprofit voice on kinship care. She has more than 30 years of professional experience as an award-winning child welfare leader in Pennsylvania.

Notable affiliations include: Casey Family Programs; Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative; Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth; Quality Improvement Center on Post Permanency Services through HHS and Spaulding for Children; Federal Quality Child and Family Services Review; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Advisory Kinship Panel; National Center on Grandfamilies Council for Generations United; Casey National Center for Resource Family Support Advisory Board; Children's Defense Fund; Pennsylvania Quality Assurance Committee for Child and Family Service Review; Allegheny County Children's Cabinet.

Civically, she is the president of Black Administrators in Child Welfare, on the board of Coro Pittsburgh and is the founding president of the African American Strategic Partnership.

Dr. McDaniel notably served as a co-investigator and author of "Subsidized Legal Guardianship: A Permanency Planning Option Study for Children Placed in Kinship Care" and "Subsidized Legal Guardianship Update." Her research supported the development of a subsidized legal guardianship proposal for Pennsylvania, which, at that time, had no such legal status in its legislation.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. McDaniel has authored several articles and papers on child welfare and has received numerous local and national honors and awards. Additionally, as a sought-after lecturer, she has presented at the University of Barcelona, Oxford University, Howard University and others.

Anne Ward

Anne began providing foster care in 2012 and has since cared for 29 children ages 0-18. She has adopted two children who are now 3.5 and 18 years old. She continues to support both of her adopted children in having contact with their families of origin. Many of the children she has fostered were put into her home for short term placements. Through these placements she has had a variety of experiences with supporting visits with birth families. These experiences range from visits with families who are warm and appreciative to parents who are angry and more difficult to engage during visits. She has supported a wide variety of visitation including having parents join her in taking the child to a medical appointment and facilitating visits within the community. Anne has learned how to engage birth families so that they feel more comfortable with her role in caring for their child.