

MANAGING PLACEMENT TRANSITIONS PRESENTER BIOS

Denise Goodman, Ph.D.

Denise is an independent trainer and consultant from Ohio. Her areas of expertise are the topics of foster care and adoption. She has been a foster parent and has worked in child welfare as a childcare worker, ongoing protective worker, and coordinator of residential treatment.

Denise has been working in child welfare for more than 44 years, including 36 years understanding the art and science of foster parent recruitment and retention as a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, and numerous states, counties and agencies in the United States and Canada. Denise also serves as the Board President for the North American Council for Adoptable Children.

Robyn Harvey

Robyn Harvey is a Foster Parent Advocate who has been organizing and supporting foster and adoptive parents for the last two decades. Assisting parents and youth in living the protective factors by hosting real conversations with those journeying through child welfare energizes her days. Robyn lives in Northern Illinois with her husband, Rob, and nine sons and one daughter. In their 22 years of fostering, their house has been home to numerous children. Some have returned home to their parents, some have moved on to adulthood, and four of them found their forever family with the Harveys.

Robyn has been very active in the fostering community in Illinois. She supported other foster parents as a DCFS Foster Parent Support Specialist, served as the Northern Region Foster Parent Advisory Council Chair, and was appointed to the Statewide Foster Care Advisory Council as chair for 2 years. Robyn is a certified master trainer for the PRIDE program, and trained new CASA advocates. Robyn and her husband were honored to be named Illinois *Foster Parent of the Year* in 2004. Robyn joined the Be Strong Families Team in 2011 and has served as Foster Parent Consultant, Foster Parent Statewide Coordinator, Statewide Manager of the Youth Advisory Board, and Child Welfare Services Manager. She is currently a senior trainer and Western Program Manager.

Christina Brackett

Christina Brackett is the Clinical Director at Plummer Youth Promise. Christina began her career in social work in 2001 and then graduated with her MSW from Salem State University's School of Social Work in 2009. Since obtaining her master's degree, Cristina has devoted her career to working with youth in Massachusetts' Foster Care System, first as an adoption social worker and then as a social worker at Plummer

Youth Promise. She has worked at Plummer Youth Promise since 2014 and is currently the Clinical Director. Christina specializes in working with older youth and has worked with numerous youth living in Plummer's residential program who are moving to a foster and/or adoptive home. Christina has experience preparing both the youth and the family for this type of transition. Christina has presented on Plummer's work achieving permanency for teens in foster care both within the state and nationally. Christina is also an adjunct professor at Salem State University's School of Social Work.

Deborah Gray, MPA, LICSW

Deborah Gray specializes in children's attachment, grief, and trauma issues. Her passion is in helping families to develop close, satisfying relationships. Deborah advises on Child Welfare Issues of Permanency on a National and State level. She was the Henry Meier Practitioner in Residence at the University of Washington School of Social Work and has taught in Post-graduate Certificate Programs at the University of Washington and Portland State University on the topics of trauma, grief, and attachment. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Deborah is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for Training on Attachment and Trauma in Children. Deborah has written 4 books on the topics of attachment and trauma. Her latest book is *Promoting Healthy Attachments: Hands-on Techniques to Use with Your Clients*. She teaches in the Attachment/Trauma-Focused Therapy Certificate Program. Deborah can be reached at Nurturingattachments@gmail.com.

Phyllis Hackman

Phyllis lives in Manchester, Missouri with her husband. They are currently the proud foster parents to five young men who range from eleven to seventeen; however, they have fostered over 110 young men over the last eighteen years. Phyllis and her husband stress the importance of education and are proud to say that all of the young men have graduated from high school and several of the young men have either graduated from or are currently in college. They believe that all of the young men that have lived in their home deserve to know that they are loved, respected and always have adults that they can go back to for assistance and support. Phyllis served on the Missouri State Board and on task forces through the Children's Division.