

Balance

DCYF Conference 2019

Radisson Hotel Nashua | April 18-19



Conference Schedule: Thursday | Day 1 _____

Time:	Description
7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	Exhibitors Arrive
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Registration Open – Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Keynote: Collaborative & Proactive Solutions: Understanding and Helping Kids with Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Challenges. – Dr. Ross Greene
AM Workshops	Topic and Presenter
10:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	1A01: Solving Problems Collaboratively and Proactively – Dr. Ross Greene 1A02: Maintaining Health and Hope in the Midst of Crisis: Self-Care for Child Protection & Juvenile Justice Professionals – Cassie Yackley 1A03: Safety Culture – Kate LeBell 1A04 / 2A04: TBRI® - Trust-Based Relational Intervention® – Candace Abood and Catherine Meister 1A05 / 2A05: Domestic Abusers as Fathers and How to Engage Them – Jeff Trahant 1A06: Negotiating the Prison System – Toni Viola 1A07 / 1P07: NH's Current Drug Trends – John DeLena 1A08: Time Management in DCYF Practice – Jennifer Archer, Jessica Kessinger, Ashley McKay, Benjamin Yolda
12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Plated Lunch – Exhibitors – Film: The Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation and Millennium Health Present: <i>If Only</i>
PM Workshops	Topic and Presenter
1:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	1P01: All Things Considered: An Ecosystems Approach to “Rebalancing” the Granite State’s Health & Human Serving System to Improve Outcomes – Chris Tappan 1P02: Basic De-escalation Skills – Michael Sullivan 1P03: Restorative Practices – Rich Sarette / Jennifer Archer / Eve Allen 1P04: Weapons ID and Safety While on the Job – Adam Painchaud 1P05: A Healthier You – Lori Hubbard 1P06 / 2P06: Gang Awareness – Eric Skillings 1P07 / 1A07: NH's Current Drug Trends – John DeLena 1P08: Emerging Technology and How it Impacts Today’s Youth – Allison Vachon
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	Networking Time (Reservations Required) – Sponsored by Granite State College: Hors d’oeuvres

Granite State College

Conference Schedule: Friday | Day 2 _____

Time:	Description
7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m.	Exhibitors Arrive
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.	Registration Open – Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.	Morning Remarks
8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Keynote: Changing the Culture of Mental Illness: It's Way Past Time – Chief Justice John Broderick
AM Workshops	Topic and Presenter
10:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	<p>2A01 / 2P01: Bridging the Gap to Effective Concurrent Planning – Bobbie Gaudette, et al</p> <p>2A02: Thriving in Stressful Times – Nancy Puglisi</p> <p>2A03: Strength to Succeed – Ginger Ross / Lori Hebert</p> <p>2A04 / 1A04: TBRI® - Trust-Based Relational Intervention® – Candace Abood and Catherine Meister</p> <p>2A05 / 1A05: Domestic Abusers as Fathers and How to Engage Them – Jeff Trahant</p> <p>2A06: Maintaining Safety while Providing Opportunity; a Balancing Act – Traci Smiley with Savannah Scott and Jillian Perriello</p> <p>2A07 / 2P07: Preparing for and Managing Difficult Interactions – Jennifer Schirmer</p> <p>2A08 / 2P08: Nurturing Fathers – John O'Neal and Jose Rodriguez</p>
12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Plated lunch – Exhibitors – Awards Ceremony
PM Workshops	Topic and Presenter
1:45 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	<p>2P01 / 2A01: Bridging the Gap to Effective Concurrent Planning – Bobbie Gaudette, et al</p> <p>2P02: Town Hall – Joe Ribsam Jr.</p> <p>2P03: Life Lessons in Health and Fitness: The Details that Matter – Todd Crumb</p> <p>2P04: Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the <i>upstream approach</i> in NH Child Welfare - CWST Prevention Workgroup</p> <p>2P05: Keep Calm. We Are Your Resource – Office of Health Equity</p> <p>2P06 / 1P06: Gang Awareness – Eric Skillings</p> <p>2P07 / 2A07: Preparing for and Managing Difficult Interactions – Jennifer Schirmer</p> <p>2P08 / 2A08: Nurturing Fathers – John O'Neal and Jose Rodriguez</p>

DR. ROSS GREENE

Collaborative & Proactive Solutions: Understanding and Helping Kids with Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Challenges

Dr. Ross Greene's evidence-based Collaborative & Proactive Solutions model – as described in his books *The Explosive Child* and *Lost at School* -- has transformed the understanding of treatment of kids with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges in countless families, schools, and therapeutic facilities. With the release of his most recent book, *Raising Human Beings*, Dr. Greene has turned his attention to all kids, with a particular focus on teaching the skills that define the better side of human nature: empathy, appreciating how one's behavior is affecting others, resolving disagreements without conflict, taking another's perspective, and honesty. These skills have never been more important, and research indicates that solving problems collaboratively and proactively teaches these skills with any kid. That's something that caregivers have boundless opportunities to teach, model, and practice every day.



Dr. Greene served on the faculty at Harvard Medical School for over 20 years and is now founding director of the non-profit Lives in the Balance (www.livesinthebalance.org), which aims to disseminate the CPS model through no-cost, web-based programming; advocate on behalf of behaviorally challenging kids and their parents, teachers, and other caregivers; and encourage the use of non-punitive, non-adversarial interventions. He is currently on the adjunct faculty of the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech and on the adjunct Faculty of Science at University of Technology Sydney in Australia. Dr. Greene is the Creator and Executive Producer of the forthcoming documentary film *The Kids We Lose*.

Dr. Greene's research has been funded by the Stanley Research Institute, the National Institutes of Mental Health, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. He lectures and consults extensively to families, general and special education schools, inpatient psychiatry units, and residential and juvenile detention facilities throughout the world.

Workshop Descriptions

THURSDAY AM WORKSHOPS

1A01: Solving Problems Collaboratively and Proactively – Dr. Ross Greene

Once a child's unsolved problems have been identified and prioritized it's time for caregivers and kids to solve those problems together. In this breakout, Dr. Greene will describe the three steps involved in doing so.

1A02: Maintaining Health and Hope in the Midst of Crisis: Self-Care for Child Protection & Juvenile Justice Professionals – Cassie Yackley Psy.D., PLLC

Child protection and juvenile justice professionals work directly with those impacted by trauma and substance use problems in our communities. They are dually responsible for rehabilitating those with criminal and delinquent behavior, while simultaneously protecting the welfare of citizens. Given the known "contagion effects" of traumatic exposure, professionals run the risk of developing secondary traumatic stress and burnout. Participants will explore the necessity of reflective practice as the primary mechanism for self-care.

1A03: Safety Culture – Kate LeBell

Participants will learn about the origins of safety culture, which stem from the safety science of High Reliability Organizations (HROs) such as nuclear power plants and the airline industry, and how safety culture applies to the child welfare system. Participants will learn about the core principles of a safety culture and will learn about team-based tools they can take back and utilize within their own district offices. Participants will also learn about DCYF's initiatives for implementing a safety culture.

1A04 / 2A04: TBRI® - Trust-Based Relational Intervention® – Candace Abood and Catherine Meister

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children of any age. In this workshop you will be provided with a brief overview of the three principles of TBRI®- Connecting Principles, Empowering Principles and Correcting Principles- and you will gain an understanding of how this intervention can be utilized in the work that you do with parents and children.

1A05 / 2A05: Domestic Abusers as Fathers and How to Engage Them – Jeff Trahant

This workshop is based on the work done by Lundy Bancroft and Jeff Trahant's experience working with violent and abusive men for over 25 years. Participants will learn characteristics of abusive fathers, practice implications, assessing the abuser's risk to children, and guiding principles for fathering after violence.

1A06: Negotiating the Prison System – Toni Viola

The goal of this workshop is to introduce participants to the Family Connections Center (FCC), a family resource center located within the three NH State Prisons. There will be discussion on ways in which the FCC, DCYF caseworkers, and incarcerated parents can work together to improve case plan outcomes. Topics will include what the FCC provides, current best practice for keeping incarcerated parents involved with their children, and DOC policy for communicating with an incarcerated parent.

Workshop Descriptions

1A07 / 1P07: NH's Current Drug Trends – Jon DeLena

Jon DeLena will provide an overview of the current state of the opioid crisis, both nationwide and particularly here in New Hampshire. He will explain how illicit fentanyl is manufactured abroad, transported here, and then marketed and distributed to the citizens of NH. He uses real-life case files complete with video and pictures to help the audience understand the processes involved. We will discuss the sale of other illicit drugs mixed with fentanyl, and you will see examples of illicitly manufactured prescription pills made right here in New England to look like legal drugs but that are actually made with fentanyl.

Finally, Jon will discuss our communities' response and the steps necessary to educate and open dialogue with children and parents in a hope to build a strong foundation of prevention. Q & A will follow.

1A08: Time Management in DCYF Practice – Jennifer Archer, Jessica Kessinger, Ashley McKay, Benjamin Yolda

In this workshop, you will hear from three different district offices that have been successful in meeting face-to-face timeframes with assessment, family service, and juvenile justice practice. They will present how they have achieved sustained attention and developed a culture of teamwork in order to ensure office timeframes are consistently met.

THURSDAY PM WORKSHOPS

1P01: All Things Considered: An Ecosystems Approach to “Rebalancing” the Granite State’s Health & Human Serving System to Improve Outcomes – Chris Tappan

Across the country, health and human serving systems have been “refreshing and recalibrating” their efforts to align and adapt more quickly to the changing ecosystem that children and families live, work, play, learn, and grow in every day. In this workshop, you’ll hear how the NH DHHS - in partnership with staff, those with lived experience, providers, and stakeholders has been rebalancing its system design, functions, and role through a vision for integration to more effectively provide the right service at the right time, every time. Chris Tappan, Associate Commissioner, will provide an overview of DHHS transformation efforts and facilitate a panel of staff, parents, providers and stakeholders to share how DHHS is operationalizing this vision through the use of integration teams and an evidence based approach to help break down silos and span system boundaries.

1P02: Basic De-escalation Skills – Michael Sullivan

This workshop will explore various techniques to use in recognizing the “Conflict Cycle”. We will discuss using both verbal and non-verbal techniques to de-escalate the individual.

1P03: Restorative Practices – Rich Sarette / Jennifer Archer / Eve Allen

We will provide the history of Restorative Practices within DCYF and describe the different levels of certifications an individual can obtain for practice within the Division. We will offer an overview of how Restorative Practices can be used within active case management. We will also facilitate a practice circle to engage workshop attendees and show the power of building community relationships.

Workshop Descriptions

1P04: Weapons ID and Safety While on the Job – Adam Painchaud

This session will focus on teaching participants to identify current weapons used in the majority of crimes in our communities. Focus will be on the risks workers face when interacting with clients who have weapons in their possession. People are often not forthcoming about weapons they possess and carry them covertly. We will discuss the risk this entails. Personal safety while on the job will be a principle focus of this workshop.

1P05: A Healthier You – Lori Hubbard

A Healthier You workshop will allow each attendee to better understand why health is important, what makes a healthy lifestyle, and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The workshop will focus on identifying tools to use in your everyday life and how to set goals for your health and wellbeing that are achievable.

What makes you healthy? What you eat matters. How to set goals for a healthier you.

1P06 / 2P06: Gang Awareness – Eric Skillings

This session will be an introduction to gang awareness, recognition, and history of gangs in New Hampshire. The session will include a brief history of gangs, gang trademarks, colors, clothing, hand signs, graffiti, violence, gang mentality, and indicators of gang activity in your community.

1P07: NH's Current Drug Trends – John DeLena

See 1A07 for description

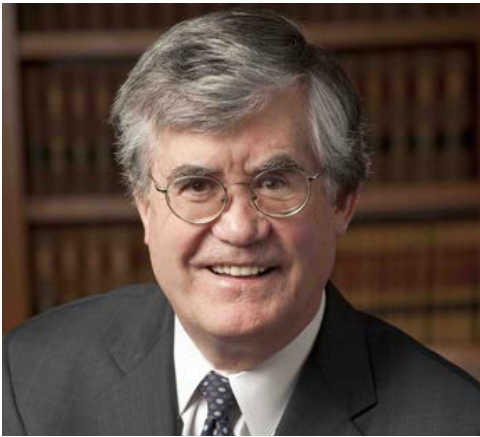
1P08: Emerging Technology and How it Impacts Today's Youth – Allison Vachon

This workshop will cover trends related to the increasing amount of exposure youth have to technology and how it impacts their lives. Topics discussed will be cyber bullying, social networking sites, apps, the misuse of digital images/"sexting", and general awareness of the dangers of the Internet and cell phones. Videos will be incorporated as well as some undercover chats and criminal case examples from New Hampshire.

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN BRODERICK

Changing the Culture of Mental Illness: It's Way Past Time

Justice Broderick discusses his family's journey with mental illness in order to change the way we react when we see emotional suffering in someone, and to be a positive force to change the culture that surrounds mental illness.



John T. Broderick, Jr. became the Senior Director of External Affairs at Dartmouth-Hitchcock in 2017. He was a member of the New Hampshire Supreme Court from 1995 to 2010. For seven years of those years, he served as Chief Justice.

Much of his focus as Chief Justice was on court reform in an effort to make the justice system more accessible, affordable and understandable for more citizens. He was the first Chief Justice in New Hampshire's history to appoint a Citizens' Commission on the State Courts so that citizens could examine how the courts functioned and how they could be improved to better serve the needs of all who needed them. He created the first-ever business court, and expanded family court, mental health court and drug court dockets across the state.

After stepping down as Chief Justice, he became Dean of the UNH Law School. He was also the founder of the Warren B. Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership and Public Policy at the law school. Justice Broderick has also served as president of both the NH Bar Association and the NH Trial Lawyers Association. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and has received numerous professional awards and several honorary degrees.

In 2016, Justice Broderick agreed to co-chair the first statewide launch in New Hampshire of a national mental health awareness campaign called Change Direction New Hampshire. For the past three years, he has spoken countless times to various audiences about the five most common signs of mental illness in an effort to improve understanding and awareness of mental illness to eliminate its mythology, encourage discussion and treatment and begin to change the unfair and shameful culture that surrounds it. More recently, he has also been discussing the R.E.A.C.T. campaign designed by Dartmouth-Hitchcock and embraced by the State Department of Education in New Hampshire to begin a discussion on how all of us need to engage those people who are suffering from mental illness

Workshop Descriptions

FRIDAY AM WORKSHOPS

2A01 / 2P01: Bridging the Gap to Effective Concurrent Planning – Bobbie Gaudette, et al

In this workshop, participants will learn the importance of concurrent planning and how to balance two opposing permanency goals at the same time. There will be a facilitated panel discussion around managing conversations, along with the different opportunities during the life of a case, when these conversations can occur.

2A02: Thriving in Stressful Times – Nancy Puglisi

Positive stress fuels our well-being while tension and anxiety impacts the human organism in a variety of harmful ways. It is the response to life's challenges that determine the impact on the body. In this meditation workshop participants will learn about and practice meditation as a means to deal with the demands and challenges in all of our busy lives.

2A03: Strength to Succeed – Ginger Ross / Lori Hebert

Recognizing the challenges faced by families immersed in the statewide crisis of addiction, DHHS has introduced a collaborative approach to support children and parents affected by Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) through the Strength to Succeed Program. This session will focus on the *Strength to Succeed* program and what recovery can look like for families involved with child welfare. There will also be a brief presentation on how the impact of biases and use of unintended language can impact outcomes for families.

2A04: TBRI® - Trust-Based Relational Intervention® – Candace Abood and Catherine Meister

See 1A04 for description.

2A05: Domestic Abusers as Fathers and How to Engage Them – Jeff Trahant

See 1A05 for description.

2A06: Maintaining Safety while Providing Opportunity; a Balancing Act – Traci Smiley with Savannah Scott and Jillian Perriello

Former youth from DCYF care, Savannah Scott and Jillian Perriello, share their accounts of what it took to responsibly prepare for adulthood leading to successful transitions to the real world. They remind the audience that it's a work in progress; they're still on their journey and their support teams/connections still play an active role in their daily living. Joining in the workshop are Adolescent CPSW Caitlyn Mead, JPPO Jodi Varney, Davenport Program Director, Deborah Weeks, NFI ISO/Satellite Foster Parent, Linda Covell, SYSC Transition's specialist Jason Taylor, and APPLA CPSW, Traci Smiley. Together they describe efforts to support youth-led treatment and case planning; letting kids be kids and experiencing normal living in an abnormal situation: getting ready for real life.

Workshop Descriptions

2A07 / 2P07: Preparing for and Managing Difficult Interactions – Jennifer Schirmer

What are the strategies for increasing engagement with families who are in distress or for eliciting participation from families who are difficult to engage? The experience of navigating challenging interactions, delivering difficult news or information, and engaging with distressed family systems may be demanding and stressful. We explore the principal factors for capitalizing on knowledge and skills for more-effective communication and engagement, enhancing individual and workforce resilience, and increasing compassion satisfaction. Learn new perspectives for maximizing the benefits of self-care and increasing resilience.

2A08 / 2P08: Nurturing Fathers – John O’Neal and Jose Rodriguez

The Nurturing Fathers Program is an evidence-based, 13-week training course designed to teach parenting and nurturing skills to men in order to form and foster healthy family relationships and child development. The Nurturing Fathers Program has been successfully implemented in schools, churches, prisons, the military, Head Start, and many other settings.

FRIDAY PM WORKSHOPS

2P01: Bridging the Gap to Effective Concurrent Planning – Bobbie Gaudette, et al

See 2A01 for description.

2P02: Town Hall – Joe Ribsam Jr.

DCYF Director, Joe Ribsam, will take questions and provide insight on the present and future of child welfare and juvenile justice in New Hampshire.

2P03: Life Lessons in Health and Fitness: The Details that Matter – Todd Crumb

In this workshop, Todd will share the training model that he developed and has used successfully to train people from all walks of life. Whether you’re a competitive athlete or somebody struggling to maintain a healthy lifestyle, his training model teaches good health and fitness habits that can be maintained for a lifetime. Participants learn how to develop effective exercise programs and how to set effective goals. Leave with a 6-week plan that will gradually lead to healthier eating.

2P04: Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare – CWST Prevention Workgroup

We will discuss primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention and how this directly relates to the Protective Factors Framework. We will discuss risks and service opportunities for mitigation of toxic stress and preventing further child abuse/neglect based on increased knowledge of service array. We will also discuss national public health prevention concepts related to child abuse and neglect such as Social Determinants of Health and ACES and explain why these impact the strengths of families.

Workshop Descriptions

2P05: Keep Calm. We Are Your Resource – Office of Health Equity

Did you know that the NH Office of Health Equity (OHE) is located within DHHS? In this interactive, Jeopardy-style workshop participants will learn about the functions of the OHE and how you can receive on-going support and training from our content-area experts to help you be more effective. Participants will engage in activities to help identify the importance of communication access, community engagement, and becoming more culturally effective. A brief overview of refugee resettlement will allow an opportunity to address questions about the process. Time will also be dedicated for a detailed review of how to request interpreter services through the two mechanisms available to DCYF staff. ANSWER: “Where you will have the most fun while receiving pertinent information”.... QUESTION: “What is this workshop?”

2P06: Gang Awareness – Eric Skillings

See 1P06 for description.

2P07: Preparing for and Managing Difficult Interactions – Jennifer Schirmer

See 2A07 for description.

2P08: Nurturing Fathers – John O’Neal and Jose Rodriguez

See 2A08 for description.

Presenter Bios

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS – A TO Z

Candace Abood – TBRI®: 1A04 / 2A04

Candace is the Post Adoption Services Coordinator with the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). She develops and oversees the supportive services provided to children and families prior to and after adoption. Candace has over 17 years of professional experience working on behalf of children and families in New Hampshire. She has been employed with DCYF for 13 years. She is a TBRI® Practitioner, TBRI® Educator, and Trauma Specialist for DCYF. Candace serves as adjunct faculty for the Child Welfare Education Partnership at Granite State College. Candace earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire.

Eve Allen – Restorative Practices: 1P03

Eve has worked for DHHS for 12 years, nine of which have been with DCYF. She is the Administrator for Policy and Planning, with oversight of all policy, administrative rule liaising, form development, disaster response planning, and federal Title IV-E state plan development. She is also a member of the DCYF Restorative Practices Workgroup.

Jennifer Archer – Time Management in DCYF Practice: 1A08 / 1P03

Jennifer is a juvenile probation and parole officer for the Laconia District Office. She is a certified Restorative Practices Facilitator, Aggression Management Instructor, and Search and Seizure Trainer. Jennifer has worked on the Juvenile Justice Services Permanency Group for 3 years, and is the Juvenile Recovery Court Facilitator in the Laconia Family Court.

Todd Crumb – Life Lessons in Health and Fitness: The Details that Matter: 2P03

Todd has been a Personal Trainer since 1998 and has obtained multiple certifications through ACSM, AFAA and FRA. He started Comprehensive Training Systems in 2000 and uses a targeted approach to address nutrition, exercise, and program adherence. His system utilizes a teaching model to help others learn how to successfully reach their health and fitness goals and maintain their progress while limiting the dependency associated with many personal training models.

Jon DeLena – NH's Current Drug Trends: 1A07 / 1P07

Jon C. DeLena, a national speaker on the opioid crisis, is a member of the Department of Justice Senior Executive Service and currently serves as the Associate Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New England Field Division.

He also oversees the *DEA 360 Manchester Program*, a crucial effort to reduce the harm of opioids in New Hampshire's most populous city. In that role, Jon organized the largest ever youth summit on opioids, which was attended by over 8,500 New Hampshire students and live-streamed to over 35,000 people across the country.

Maria Doyle – Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare: 2P04

Maria is a program director at New Hampshire Children's Trust with over 30 years of experience serving children and families. She is a nationally certified trainer in the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support.

Presenter Bios

Bobbie Gaudette – Bridging the Gap to Effective Concurrent Planning: 2A01 / 2P01

Bobbie began fostering teens in 2007 and she and her family recently adopted two teen sisters from the foster care system. She holds a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and earned her master's in Nonprofit Leadership and Business Management from New England College. Most recently she was the Licensing and Recruitment Specialist for Ascentria Care Alliance. Bobbie recently retired from teaching children and adults after 30 years.

Kali Giovanditto – Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare: 2P04

Kali has been with DCYF for more than a decade. As the Community and Family Support Specialist, she oversees certification and monitors compliance with DCYF's in-home community service providers. Kali has over ten years' experience as a CPSW providing oversight and case management to families.

Kristi Hart – Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare: 2P04

Kristi is the Home Visiting Program Coordinator for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Section of the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) within DHHS. During her seven prior years at DCYF, Kristi developed a passion for prevention of abuse and neglect, and a desire to build the capacity of families to meet their own needs and support healthy social emotional child development. Kristi's present work within the Healthy Families America program allows her to do just that, supporting NH's Local Implementing Agencies in serving families prenatally to age 3.

Lori Hebert – Strength to Succeed: 2A03

Lori is the Project Manager for Granite Pathways' Strength to Succeed Program. Prior to working for Granite Pathways, Lori was a Parent Consultant for DCYF. In this role she worked across the Department of Health and Human Services lending family voices and experiences to practice. While in this role, Lori headed an integration team focusing efforts for children affected when caregivers have Substance Use Disorder. Lori has been a part of the NH Parent Partner/Better Together program since 2015 and is a trained facilitator for the Better Together CORE trainings required for DCYF. Lori is currently working on her Certified Recovery Support Worker certification.

Lori Hubbard – A Healthier You: 1P05

Lori Hubbard is a Registered Nurse Health Coach with Anthem. She works directly with State of NH employees by meeting with them at their worksites and providing answers to their health care needs. Prior to her position with Anthem, she spent 20 years with Yale New Haven Hospital in Connecticut as a pediatric nurse and Coordinator of Nursing Clinical Operations.

Jessica Kessinger – Time Management in DCYF Practice: 1A08

Jessica is the District Office Supervisor for Rochester Child Protection. She was instrumental there in developing protocols and strategies to increase the timeliness of face-to-face contact in assessments and to ensure that safety concerns are addressed and monitored.

Presenter Bios

Kate LeBell, DCYF Program Safety Specialist – Safety Culture: 1A03

Kate has been with DCYF for over five years. She began her career as an assessment professional at the Rochester and Laconia DOs, was a supervisor for the SAT team, and has been in her current role since December 2017. Kate was formerly a full-time police officer and graduated with PSTC class 155. Kate has been working with the field addressing staff safety concerns and leads the recently formed DCYF Safety Committee with additional oversight of the peer support program.

Ashley McKay – Time Management in DCYF Practice: 1A08

Ashley is the Permanency Worker for the Conway District Office. Ashley was trained in Adoption Competency in 2017, and is a certified Home Study practitioner. She is currently enrolled in TBRI® training.

Catherine Meister – TBRI®: 1A04 / 2A04

Catherine is a TBRI® Educator who has worked in the field of adoption for more than 15 years. She began her career as the coordinator of an international adoption program where she led support groups for adoptive parents and training on the impact of early trauma on post institutionalized international adoptees. Catherine spent 2 years in South Africa assisting at a home for abandoned children, and for the last 12 years she has worked for NH DCYF, first developing a post-adoption program and then supervising adoption services. Catherine has worked in partnership with the Dartmouth Trauma Intervention and Research Center focused on helping NH's child welfare system become trauma informed. Catherine is also the mother of seven children, four of whom joined her family through adoption.

Sarah Moeckel, MACDPP – Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare: 2P04

Sarah is Administrator of Family Strengthening and Child Well-Being Initiatives across DHHS. In this role, she conducts and supports strategic planning efforts related to primary and secondary prevention programs, leads the DHHS Early Childhood Integration Team, and supports the DCYF Child Welfare Systems Transformation. She has over five years' experience in chronic disease and youth/justice involved prevention and implementation.

John O'Neal – Nurturing Fathers: 2A08 / 2P08

John O'Neil is the Director of the Nurturing Fathers Program at the Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts. He facilitates groups, workshops, and trainings and gives presentations to promote fatherhood engagement. John has been instrumental in helping to implement the Massachusetts Department of Children & Families' Strategic Plan for Fatherhood Engagement. As part of his work, John has helped to develop over twenty-five Nurturing Fathers Programs across the state of Massachusetts.

Adam Painchaud – Weapons ID and Safety While on the Job : 1P04

Adam has an extensive background in both military and civilian firearms training. He was a USAF firearms instructor, assigned to anti-terrorism teams world-wide, and an instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, where he developed and taught federal agents to conduct high-risk protective and counter-intelligence missions. After retiring from the military after 22 years, Adam became an instructor and vice-president at Sig Sauer Academy between 2006 and 2017. Since then, he has become a founding partner in Web-based training company, E3 Firearms Association.

Presenter Bios

Nancy Puglisi, Ph.D. – Thriving in Stressful Times: 2A02

Dr. Puglisi is an associate research faculty member at Plymouth State University and the director of the Master's degree program in Personal and Organizational Wellness there. The philosophical foundation of her curriculum is a holistic approach to life, focusing on the qualities of good intention, open mind, and compassionate heart. She has published two books of poetry, *Fishing without a Hook – Catching Moments at Work* and *Reflections from the Forest House*.

Lara Quiroga, M.Ed. – Prevention Services: Creating opportunities to support the *upstream approach* in NH Child Welfare: 2P04

Lara is the Director for Strategic Initiatives for Children at the Manchester Community Health Center, and served for 5 years as Local Director for Project LAUNCH in Manchester. Lara is a developing partner of the Adverse Childhood Experiences Response Team (ACERT).

Joseph E. Ribsam Jr. – Town Hall: 2P02

Joining the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services in autumn of 2017, Joe serves as director of the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). In this capacity he oversees child protective services and juvenile justice probation services for the state. Joe also currently serves as Vice President of the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors and on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

Immediately prior to joining the Division, Joe served as the deputy commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJ DCF) which employed 6,600 staff and had a budget of \$1.8 billion. NJ DCF includes child protective services; services for children, youth, and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, and behavioral health needs; services for victims of domestic and

sexual violence; schools and education programs for at-risk children and youth; and other related services and programs. Joe served within NJ DCF for nearly ten years in multiple capacities: legal counsel; director for policy and legislative affairs; assistant commissioner for legal, regulatory, and legislative affairs; and finally as deputy commissioner.

As deputy commissioner Joe directly oversaw: the institutional investigation unit; legal affairs; legislative affairs; communications; grants management; procurement; records management; policy and regulatory development; licensing; constituent relations; and the 16 DCF schools for at-risk children and youth.

Prior to beginning his work in child welfare, Joe was engaged in the private practice of family law and as a teacher in Trenton, New Jersey. Joe completed his undergraduate work in History and Secondary Education at the College of New Jersey and obtained his Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law.

Jose Rodriguez – Nurturing Fathers: 2A08 / 2P08

Jose Rodriguez is a Certified Recovery Support Worker (CRSW) employed by MWV Supports Recovery in Center Conway. He is also a Certified Recovery Coach in the hospital emergency room setting and a parent partner with Strength to Succeed through Granite Pathways. Jose is also the director of the Nurturing Fathers Program, a 13-week, evidence-based program designed to teach nurturing and parenting skills to men.

Presenter Bios

Ginger Ross – Strength to Succeed: 2A03

Ginger founded NH Recovery Coach Academy in 2016 to fill a void in workforce development for recovery coaches. In trainings she received to acquire her Certified Recovery Support Worker (CRSW) credential, she recognized a recurring issue; the need for consistent, quality, relatable trainings for those preparing to serve in the peer-recovery-coach role, and the need to build a community and maintain connectedness among those she trained. Ginger designed many state-approved trainings geared to educating the peer recovery workforce, training over 1,000 participants in the past two years, in NH, MA and CT. Ginger also works with Granite Pathways in a variety of roles including group facilitator for Sober Parenting Journey Group, CRSW Supervisor for Regional Access Point Services, and current training director for the Strength to Succeed program putting Recovery Coaches in every DCYF office in NH.

Rich Sarette – Restorative Practices: 1P03

Rich has worked in Juvenile Justice in New Hampshire for over 22 years in multiple capacities. He is currently an Administrator for DCYF- Juvenile Justice and covers the Berlin/Littleton, Conway, Dover/Rochester, Claremont, Laconia, and Concord Office's. He is also member of the DYCF Restorative Practices Workgroup.

Jennifer Schirmer, LCMHC, NCC, CCTP – Preparing for and Managing Difficult Interactions: 2A07 / 2P07

Jennifer is the founder of Turning Point Counseling & Consultation in Dover, NH. She formerly served as the NH Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator. She has utilized her professional experience and knowledge both nationally and throughout NH to provide assistance, consultation, and guidance to local, state, and federal organizations before, during, and after traumatic events that impact individuals, families, and communities. She specializes in building collaborative relationships during difficult times and enhancing individual and community resilience.

Eric Skillings – Gangs: 1P06 / 2P06

Eric Skillings is a Training Officer/Program Specialist with DCYF. He develops curricula and provides training in many areas of professional growth and development for Sununu Youth Services Center staff, as well as safety trainings for Juvenile Probation and Parole staff. Eric facilitates DCYF Core Academy in partnership with the training partners within the Bureau of Organizational Learning and Quality Improvement (BOLQI). This training is critical in preparing newly hired facility and juvenile probation and parole staff to work with the youth and families served by the agency. Prior to his current role, Eric spent over 14 years in the secure facility arena, first working directly with youth in the facility and later as the facilities' subject-matter expert and trainer in gang activity. He continues to work with both on the local and national level with other experts in this field and regularly trains across the state on this topic.

Traci Smiley APPLA CPSW IV, M.S. Human Services – Maintaining Safety while Providing Opportunity; a Balancing Act (Transitioning to Adulthood): 2A06

Traci has worked with court-involved children, youth, and families for over 24 years. For the past 12 years, she has been a youth tracker, family counselor, mentor, and child protective service worker in NH. During this time, she's made connections with the communities she serves to support identified families. In recent years, Traci has focused primarily on youth with APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement) case plans to support their transition into their communities.

Michael Sullivan – Basic De-escalation Skills: 1P02

Michael has been with Easter Seals for over 15 years, first working closely with adults and youth with developmental disabilities. For the past 13 years, Michael has been with the training department, where he holds a number of certifications in both crisis curricula and de-escalation.

Presenter Bios

Chris Tappan – All Things Considered: An Ecosystems Approach to “Rebalancing” the Granite State’s Health & Human Serving System to Improve Outcomes: 1P01

Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS is Associate Commissioner for Human Services & Behavioral Health at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. Tappan oversees an array of statewide programs focused on economic and housing stability, safety, health and well-being of New Hampshire’s citizens and communities. A key focus of her role at HHS is to guide the alignment and integration of programs and services so that every citizen receives a holistic, person-centered, multi-generational response no matter what door they use to seek assistance.

Jeff Trahant – Domestic Abusers as Fathers and How to Engage Them: 1A05 / 2A05

Jeff Trahant has been employed by the State of NH DCYF for over 25 years. He started as a CPSW assessment worker and has been a JPPO for over 20 years.

Jeff is a Certified Intimate Partner Abuse Education Program Facilitator and Responsible Fatherhood group facilitator. He has worked with violent and abusive men for over 25 years. He has been a consultant with Holy Family Hospital’s Family Safety Project and Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center.

Jeff has helped create the newly certified Seacoast Community Diversion Program and serves on their committee to ensure quality preventative resources and supports for families.

Toni Viola – Negotiating the NH Prison System: 1A06

Toni heads up the Family Connections Center (FCC) at the NH Correctional Facility for Women in Concord. She has her B.S. in Early Childhood Education and an associate’s degree in Child Welfare. Toni has been with the FCC for

11 years providing education, support, and advocacy for incarcerated parents and their children. Toni has a passion for maintaining positive, healthy relationships between parents and their children.

Cassie Yackley - Maintaining Health and Hope in the Midst of Crisis: Self-Care for Child Protection & Juvenile Justice Professionals: 1A02

Cassie Yackley, Psy.D., PLLC, Center for Behavioral Health Innovation, Dept. of Clinical Psychology, Antioch University New England

Dr. Yackley has spent over 25 years committed to understanding and addressing the impact of traumatic exposure on children, families, and systems. She brings together recent discoveries from developmental neuroscience and attachment to help audiences learn how reflective practice leads to better working environments and outcomes for professionals and those they serve. She has extensive experience collaborating with mental health agencies, schools, law enforcement, child welfare & juvenile justice services, and demonstrated expertise in working with others to create trauma-responsive systems.

Dr. Yackley’s current projects include: Project GROW, Growing Healthy Families, and Increasing Access to Evidence-Based Intervention for Traumatized Young Children and their Caregivers. These projects involve building trauma-informed systems of care in NH school districts, mental health centers, and across communities.

Benjamin Yolda – Time Management in DCYF Practice: 1A08

Benjamin is the assistant supervisor for the Conway District Office and a founding member of the Fatherhood Engagement Action Team (FEAT). He is a certified forensic interviewer and Certified SAFE home study practitioner and SAFE supervisor.

Presenter Bios

Office of Health Equity – Keep Calm. We Are Your Resource: 2P05

The DHHS Office of Health Equity (OHE) assures equitable access to effective, quality DHHS programs and services across all populations, with specialized focus on racial, ethnic, language, gender and sexual minorities, and individuals with disabilities. OHE resides in the Office of the Commissioner to emphasize the cross-divisional importance of OHE priorities, policies and initiatives across the entire Department, and its key supportive function to the entire Department. OHE provides policy, strategic guidance, training, coaching and technical assistance across the entire Department for an ongoing organizational process of improvement to provide quality care and services to all.

Allison Vachon – Emerging Technology and How it Impacts Today's Youth: 1P08

Allison works as an Investigator at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office and spent the majority of her career in the Criminal Justice Bureau. She is a member of the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force as well as the Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect and the NH Coalition to Combat Human Trafficking. Among the numerous cases she has investigated are child exploitation, economic crimes, sexual assault, public integrity, and those holding a professional license within the State of New Hampshire. She was part of the investigative team for the Attorney General's Diocese Task Force and previously worked as a Police Officer for the Concord Police Department.

Conference Location & Accommodations



Location

The Radisson Hotel Nashua, is located 8 miles south of the City of Nashua, near the Mass state line. Parking is free.

Address:
11 Tara Boulevard
Nashua, NH 03062

GPS Coordinates:
LAT: 42.710521
LONG: -71.45272

Accommodations and Discount Rate

If you require overnight accommodations, contact the Radisson Hotel Nashua, 11 Tara Blvd. 03062 at: **603-888-9970** and mention the **DCYF Conference** for a reduced rate of \$110 (single occupancy) plus tax. This rate is available March 17-19 only.

You may also book online at: [radisson.com](https://www.radisson.com)

1. Select Destination: **Nashua, NH**
2. Enter Code or ID: **NHDCYF**

DCYF STAFF who both live and work at least 50 miles from the hotel are eligible to receive overnight accommodations on either the night of **April 17** or **April 18 (but not both)**, paid for by DCYF and subject to verification. No Form 2021 is needed.

You must register online and make your own hotel reservation by contacting the Radisson directly.

Partner



The DCYF Conference is brought to you by the **Child Welfare Education Partnership at Granite State College (GSC)**.

We offer caregiver training programs to foster and adoptive parents, residential staff, relative caregivers, and other eligible community members. GSC also provides pre-service and on-going training to DCYF child welfare and juvenile justice staff.

Continuing Education Credits

CEUs will be granted only with your name on the verified CEU attendance sheet available at each workshop.

Note: 0.6 CEUs will be granted for one full day of the conference and 1.2 CEUs will be granted for two full days.

Registration

Register early to guarantee your space!