

Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Practice

MORNING AGENDA

9:30 am–10 am: Registration

10 am–10:15 am: Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Traci LaLiberte, PhD

10:15 am–11:15am: Family Group Decision-Making as a National Culturally Responsive Best Practice
Keynote Presenter: Lisa Merkel-Holguin

Lisa Merkel-Holguin, MSW, is the Director of the National Center on Family Group Decision Making and an Assistant Research Professor at the Kempe Center at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics. She has been involved in child welfare practice, policy, and research for almost 25 years.

11:15 am–11:30 am: Brief Reflection

11:30 am–11:40 am: Break

11:40 am–12:40 pm: Differential Response: A Race Equity Analysis
Keynote Presenter: Annette Semanchin Jones

Annette Semanchin Jones, PhD, MSW, is an Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo School of Social Work. Her research is focused on innovative approaches in child welfare that aim to strengthen child well-being. Recent projects include examining the implementation of differential response in child welfare, addressing racial disparities, and promoting relational permanence for youth in foster care. Her research efforts highlight the importance of applying a racial equity lens for new child welfare policies and practices to ensure equitable implementation for all families. Annette also has over a decade of professional experience working with children and families in child welfare.

12:40 pm–12:55 pm: Brief Reflection

12:55 pm–1:30 pm: Lunch