

## **Culturally Responsive Child Welfare Practice**

### **AFTERNOON AGENDA**

**1:30 pm–2:50 pm: Culturally Responsive Approaches to Foster Care and Adoption**  
**Moderator: Traci LaLiberte**

Stefania M. Agliano, MSW, received her graduate degree at Fordham University and has worked in child welfare services and child protection for over 19 years. Ms. Agliano is co-founder of the I AM Group and currently works in the field of child welfare in a supervisory capacity. Ms. Agliano has co-authored and facilitated youth programming aimed at educating participants on various topics inclusive of sexual exploitation and the impact of institutionalized racism on youth and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Ms. Agliano is an adjunct faculty member and teaches at the college level.

LuAnne Lottino is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. She graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work after returning to school after her children were grown. She took a position with the White Earth Reservation as the coordinator of the adoption program in January 2000 and worked alongside her director, Jeri Jasken, and Judge Anita Fineday to implement adoption by Tribal practice that does not require a termination of parental rights. This practice is recognized by the State of Minnesota, and the children receive all the benefits of a State adoption.

Sandra White Hawk is a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, SD. She is the founder and Director of First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI). FNRI is the first organization of its kind whose goal it is to create a resource for First Nations people impacted by foster care or adoption to return home, reconnect, and reclaim their identity, while serving as a resource to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners who serve First Nations people. She is an Indian Child Welfare Consultant for Hennepin County's Indian Child Welfare Unit, the NRC4Tribes, and the White Earth Tribe of Minnesota. Sandra serves as a Commissioner for the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She also serves as an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools in Canada.

**2:50 pm–3 pm: Break**

**3 pm–3:50 pm: Taking a Culturally Responsive Approach to Family Engagement in Child Welfare**  
**Moderator: Priscilla Day**

Shannon Geshick is a Parent Consultant for Child Safety and Permanency at Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC). She was previously involved in Minnesota's child welfare system as both a youth and a young parent. She holds a bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies, fueled by her passion for diversity inclusion and socio-economic opportunities for all. She currently works for the State of Minnesota and is the Board Chair for MnSTEP (Minnesota Standing Together to End Poverty). She is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Nation.

Paula Okorafor, MA, is a Licensed Psychologist and former Hennepin County child protection worker. Paula has spent her career working with children and families, integrating a fluid and dynamic understanding of the vital importance of culturally responsive practice in her work.

Larene Broome is a Parent Coordinator with William Mitchell College of Law Parent Mentor Program and Director for the Parent Mentor Network at MCCC. She started out as a parent from the community who wanted the voices of parents to be heard in the child welfare system over eight years ago. The last four years Larene has been on the Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency team, a partnership between Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Children's Trust Fund. Larene is a master trainer and curriculum writer in the Minnesota Child Welfare Training System. Larene has also co-chaired for African American Disparities Committee at DHS. Larene works as an IEP advocate with the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

**3:50 pm–4:20 pm: Implementing Culturally Responsive Practice: A Facilitated Group Discussion**

**4:20 pm–4:30 pm: Closing Remarks**