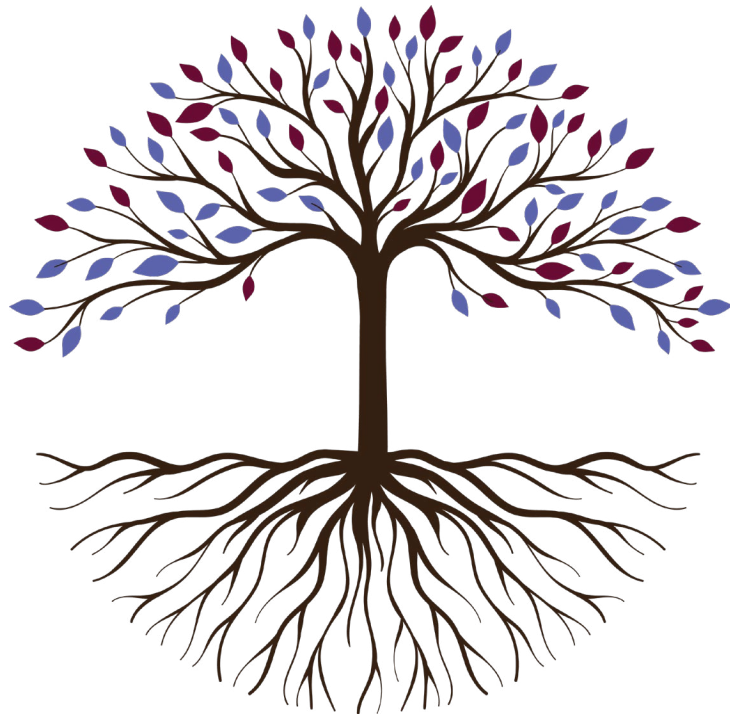


2025 DCYF Conference | April 14-15



# GROWING TOGETHER

to Support Children, Youth & Families



Department of  
**HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

Division for  
Children, Youth  
and Families



## Growing Together to Support Children, Youth & Families



Welcome to the 2025 Annual DCYF Conference. We are excited to welcome you to what has become a widely anticipated event for our workforce, caregivers, stakeholders, family and youth leaders, and community partners in service. The two days we spend together will provide a wealth of professional and personal development opportunities as we listen, learn and interact with national child welfare leaders, family and youth leaders, professionals from the provider community, local experts, DCYF colleagues, and a vast array of other participants.

The conference theme this year is “Growing Together”. When you were in elementary school you may have planted a lima bean to watch it sprout under your care and nourishment. Maybe as an adult you have planted flowers, vegetables, or enjoyed other gardening activities. Often growth starts from a seed and changes happen under the surface. As time passes, we hope the seed will crack open and sprout. We provide care and attention, learn what the plant needs, and adapt our approach to its care based on the changing environment and what will sustain its growth. We hope the plant will thrive despite challenges in the environment. In child welfare, we strive to support child, youth, and family growth. We do this by engaging, listening, and learning what families need. We adjust our approach to support their growth, and we learn and grow along with the families we serve.

Please join us on our continued journey to connect and grow with child welfare professionals, family leaders, youth, community providers and stakeholders as we generate hope for the future, apply new knowledge and skills, establish connections, and gain a deeper understanding of child welfare.

The strength of experience we all bring to this conference, no matter what your role, will contribute to a sense of hope, belonging and growing together to improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

### **Marie Noonan, MSW**

Director, Division for Children, Youth and Families  
NH Department of Health and Human Services



Department of  
**HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**





Division for  
Children, Youth  
and Families



# Conference Schedule

## Day 1: Monday, April 14

### Growing Together Workshop Track Key:

 Engaging Families and Youth	 Supporting Personal Growth and Well-being
 Supporting Our Youth	 Supporting Our Individual Safety
 Community Collaborations: Branching Out	 Keeping Our Youth and Families Safe

Day/Time	Session	Presenter	Location
7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast		Assembly Area and Armory
8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Lori Weaver Commissioner, DHHS  Marie Noonan Director, DCYF	Armory
9 a.m.–9:45 a.m.	Keynote: Growing Together to Support Children, Youth, and Families: The Science of Change	Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD	Armory
9:45 a.m.–10 a.m.	Break		
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Maximize Your Benefits for Your Health! (Part 1 of 2-Part session)	Heidi Jackson-Rhine & Michael Loomis, MPH, CEAP	Pemigewasset
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Enhancing Family Engagement Through Effective Communication and Active Listening	Heather Carignan, MSW	Contoocook
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Service Array: Road to Prevention	Cortney Levesque, MA	Frost
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Social Work Meets Servant Leadership	Heather Hall DCYF	Dartmouth
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Anatomy of a Child Sex Trafficking Case	Erin Laskowski, DCYF Attorney Heidi Barba, DCYF Danielle Peters, DCYF Michael Staton, DCYF	Merrimack

# Conference Schedule




## Day 1 (Continued)

Day/Time	Session	Presenter	Location
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.	Engaging Kinship Families	Kristin Conlin, DCYF Kaylynn Trombley, DCYF	Piscataquog
11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	Lunch and Networking		Armory
12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m.	The Life Garden Family Leaders Panel	Geraldo Pilarski, MA, and Panel of Family Leaders	Armory
1:45 a.m.–2:00 p.m.	Break		
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Using Neuroscience to Promote Safety, Permanency and Well-Being	Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD	Piscataquog
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Restorative Engagement of Harmed Parties	Jon Kidde & Marc Wennberg Green Omega, L3C	Frost
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Using the CANS as a Compass for Success: Guiding Skill Enhancement Through Meaningful Conversations	Brandon Howlett, MEd PRAED Foundation	Dartmouth
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Fathers Voice in the New Hampshire Child Welfare System	Benjamin Yolda and Jeff Trahant, DCYF	Hawthorne
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Getting Past the Defenses: Screening Youth for Domestic Violence	Amy Jo Muscott, MEd, Danielle Toussaint, Lan Portnoy, MS, Erin Laskowski, DCYF	Merrimack
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Personalities Make or Break the Workplace	Jude David, MPA	Pemigewasset
2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Attachment With a Twist	Kelly Smith, LICSW, Becky Parton, LICSW	Contoocook
3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m.	Conversation and Connections With Workshop Presenters	Limited to DCYF staff	Armory

# Conference Schedule

## Day 2: Tuesday, April 15

### Growing Together Workshop Track Key:

 Engaging Families and Youth	 Supporting Personal Growth and Well-being
 Supporting Our Youth	 Supporting Our Individual Safety
 Community Collaborations: Branching Out	 Keeping Our Youth and Families Safe

Day/Time	Session	Presenter	Location
7:30 a.m.	Registration/Check in		Assembly Area
7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m.	Breakfast with Day 2 Announcements & Housekeeping		Armory
8:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m.	Exemplary Leadership and Service Awards		Armory
10:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Break		
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Growing Together Through the Choose Love Movement	Shannon Desilets DHHS	Frost
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Trauma-Responsive Practice	Sue Badeau, MSW	Pemigewasset
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Nature Connected Wellness: The New Frontier for Health & Well-Being	Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS, CWMF	Hawthorne
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Family Treatment Court: Improving Outcomes for Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder	Jacqueline Baker, Statewide Family Treatment Court Coordinator, NH Judicial Branch and Kristan Desmarais, DCYF	Merrimack
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Using Positive Youth Development (PYD) to Improve the Lives of DCYF Involved Youth	Rob Rodler, MSW, Beth Nee, Jamie Cote, DCYF, Jewel Sullivan, Madison Lemay, Aubrey B, Brie Lamarche	Contoocook
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Transforming Futures: Bridging Systems in Juvenile Justice and Children’s Behavioral Health for Sustainable Change in NH	Amy McCormack, MS and Daryll Tenney, MS, MEd	Piscataquog

# Conference Schedule

## Day 2 (Continued)

Day/Time	Session	Presenter	Location
10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Reflective Supervision	Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LP.D	Dartmouth
12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	Lunch		Armory
1:00 p.m.–1:15 p.m.	Vendor Break		
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	Maximize Your Benefits for Your Health! (Part 2 of 2-Part session)	Heidi Jackson-Rhine & DHHS Benefits Team	Pemigewasset
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	In Their Shoes: An Opportunity to Understand the Role of Perspective in Foster Care	Charity Bell, MPA, Christine Morrissey, DCYF	Contoocook
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder	Beverly Richardson, MEd	Piscataquog
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	Juvenile Drugs, Trends, Slang & Gangs 2025	Guy Kozowyk, Detective Manchester Police Department	Merrimack
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Workshop: Community Collaboration	Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LP.D	Dartmouth
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	The Impact of Parental Incarceration & the Family Connections Center at the NH Department of Corrections	Tiffani Arsenault, MA	Hawthorne
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.	How DCYF Nursing Can Help You!	Abby Hancock, MSN-Ed, RN Ginny Lawrence, BSN, RN Sarah McCarthy, BSN, RN	Frost
2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Break		
3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m.	Closing Keynote: Your IMPACT Matters	Kenna Hasler, BSW	Armory
3:45 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks		Armory

### Dr. Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LP.D



**Keynote Session: Growing Together to Support Children, Youth, and Families: The Science of Change**  
9 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

The well-being of one of our most vulnerable populations, traumatized children, lies in the hands of DCYF staff who have committed their lives to the protection of children. Promoting growth and change for families who have often struggled for generations to create safety in their homes can be daunting. Neuroscience has proven that people can and do change—they change IN relationships that promote a sense of hope and their capacity to reflect on their experiences.

**Presenter Bio:**

Dr. Cassie Yackley, a licensed psychologist, is the director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the New Hampshire Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Provider Network. She is dedicated to addressing childhood adversity, promoting trauma-informed practices, and creating equitable systems for vulnerable children and families. Dr. Yackley has collaborated extensively with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), providing training, consultation, and support to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Her work has strengthened trauma-responsive practices within DCYF and its partners, fostering system-wide capacity for evidence-based interventions like CPP, which she has taught to over 175 clinicians as a national trainer.

In recognition of her contributions to DCYF, Dr. Yackley received the DCYF Director’s Award (2016) for her “unwavering support of DCYF.” She has also been honored with the New Hampshire Psychological Association’s Margret Briggs Award (2023), the New Hampshire Children’s Health Foundation’s Sandi Van Scoyoc Legacy Award (2023), and Riverbend’s Champions for Mental Health Award (2024), reflecting her leadership, innovation, and enduring commitment to improving the lives of NH’s children and families.

# Day 1: Morning Workshops, April 14, 2025

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**Maximize Your Benefits for Your Health!**  
(Part 1 of 2-Part session)  
For DCYF Staff  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Heidi Jackson-Rhine, Benefits & Payroll Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the DHHS Bureau of Human Resources team**

This two-part program is designed to provide DHHS staff with a better understanding of the tools and resources available to you as a State of New Hampshire employee so you can get the most out of the benefits that support your health, well-being, and personal growth. Part one will begin with your early career, and part two will be a more in-depth look at the benefits you may utilize later in your career, including paid leave programs and preparation for retirement.

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**Enhancing Family Engagement Through Effective Communication and Active Listening**  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Heather Carignan, MSW, Northeast Family Services, Clinical Supervisor, Roadmap to Reunification**

In this interactive presentation, we will explore the vital role of communication in fostering strong connections among all partners of the reunification team. Participants will learn key strategies for engaging families, enhancing collaborative relationships, and creating an environment where open dialogue thrives.

**Service Array: Road to Prevention**  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Cortney Levesque, MA, DCYF, Program Specialist**

This workshop will provide information and education on the range of services provided to all New Hampshire families, and how the State is prioritizing prevention-based services. The presenter will outline how services have evolved over the past several years and how lived experience and family voice have informed the array of services being offered to families.

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**Social Work Meets Servant Leadership**  
10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Heather Hall, BS, Certified Leadership Coach and Mentor, DCYF Recruitment and Retention Program Specialist**

Join us for this silo-busting, interactive workshop! You're in the "PEOPLE MATTER" business! Do those around you feel valued to their bones? In this workshop, we'll explore communicating with others through hands-on activities to help you define your passions, goals and skills to ignite the same in others. Whether it's your co-workers or caregivers, how you communicate matters! If you are ready to be a powerful change agent, we'll see you there!



# Day 1: Morning Workshops, April 14, 2025

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## **Anatomy of a Child Sex Trafficking Case** 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Erin Laskowski, DCYF, Human Trafficking Specialist, Attorney Heidi Barba, DCYF Attorney, Danielle Peters, DCYF, Child Protection Adolescent Worker, Michael Staton, DCYF, Assessment Worker**

This workshop explores DCYF involvement and intervention in youth/child sex trafficking cases when court intervention is needed. It highlights anonymous case examples from the time an investigation is initially screened, all the way through permanency planning for the youth.

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## **Engaging Kinship Families** 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Kristin Conlin, DCYF, Kinship Program Specialist, Kaylynn Trombley, DCYF, Permanency/Adoption Supervisor**

Family engagement is paramount in the work we do. Come listen to a panel of kinship caregivers and get a parent's firsthand perspective working with DCYF staff. Leave the workshop with knowledge and strategies around how to improve your engagement and communication with the kin families with whom you work.





### **The Life Garden Family Leaders Panel** 12:45 p.m.–1:45 p.m

#### **Geraldo Pilarski, MA, DCYF Administrator and Panel of Family Leaders**

This panel of family leaders will highlight the voices and the leadership journey of parents, youth, and other caregivers in the Better Together community. Conference participants will have an opportunity to hear directly from the people DCYF serves through the powerful metaphor of a “Life Garden.” This metaphor of hope will set the tone for the next decade of family voice inclusion and lived experience integration in NH. Family leaders who have been instrumental in creating this vision and infrastructure will share their commitment to partnering with DCYF and planting seeds of hope. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on where they see the seeds of hope in their own lives and in the child welfare system.

### **Using Neuroscience to Promote Safety, Permanency, and Well-being** 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

#### **Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LP.D, Director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Provider Network**

This session explores neuroscience-based, trauma-responsive approaches to supporting youth with complex trauma histories. Using the case of Tabathia (“Tabbi”), a 15-year-old navigating disrupted placements and overwhelming behaviors, participants will learn how to understand and address the underlying trauma responses driving these challenges. The session will focus on the impact of fear on the brain, the role of state-dependent functioning, and effective strategies to promote regulation and connection. The power of child protection and juvenile justice systems in creating supportive environments will be explored, highlighting how collaborative interventions can reduce recidivism and foster safety, permanency, and well-being for children like Tabbi.

## Day 1: Afternoon Workshops, April 14, 2025

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### **Restorative Engagement of Harmed Parties** 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Jon Kidde & Marc Wennberg, Green OMEGA L3C, Independent Consultants**

We will explore our own experiences with harm and impact and apply this learning to our work with individuals who have been harmed. This harm can be individual or systemic. By the end of the workshop, we will gain insight into the ripple effects of harm and identify specific ways that we can take a restorative approach in surfacing and meeting the needs of harmed parties.

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### **Using the CANS (Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths) as Compass for Success: Guiding Skill Enhancement Through Meaningful Conversations** 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Brandon Howlett, MEd., University of Kentucky, Center for Innovation in Population Health, Senior Policy Analyst**

The goal of this workshop is to enhance the Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessors' skills, gathering information which will ultimately improve the outcomes for service recipients through a collaborative discovery process.

The workshop will teach participants to use the CANS in a conversational, natural way, rather than as a checklist, making it more relevant and less burdensome for those youth being assessed. The session will emphasize the interconnectedness of gathering evidence, documentation, and conversation.

### **The Father's Voice in the New Hampshire Child Welfare System** 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Jeff Trahant, DCYF, JPPO IV, Benjamin Yolda, DCYF, Supervisor VI**

The DCYF Father Engagement Action Team (FEAT) will present its current work within the child welfare system. Participants will hear from FEAT members about the ongoing work and strategies, including the use of practice profiles to utilize "father voice" within the child protection and juvenile justice system. This work is leading to greater agency, community, and system capacity to positively engage fathers as well as skill development for your own caseload.

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### **Getting Past the Defenses: Screening Youth for Domestic Violence** 2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Amy Jo Muscott, MEd, Education Coordinator  
Danielle Toussaint, Education Coordinator  
Lan Portnoy, MS, Child Advocate  
Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support  
Erin Laskowski, BA, DCYF Human Trafficking Specialist**

This interactive workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the impacts of domestic violence on children and families. It will explore the logistical components of interviewing/screening children in a trauma-informed and age-appropriate manner as well as recognizing and acknowledging how subtle dynamics may affect conversations.

## Day 1: Afternoon Workshops, April 14, 2025

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### Personalities Make or Break the Workplace

2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Jude David, MPA, Training Coordinator,  
Massachusetts Department of Probation Services**  
By understanding personality traits, you increase self-knowledge and self-awareness, which are essential to success. Your personality can help or hinder you. If you do not understand what drives your actions and behaviors, it is difficult to cultivate positive growth, especially in leadership or management roles. As you discover what inspires you, you will identify what may hold you back. You'll discover the traits, habits and behaviors that propel you forward and also identify those that have caused you to mismanage, micromanage or misunderstand coworkers, family and friends.

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### Attachment With a Twist

2 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Kelly Smith, LICSW, Clinical Trainer  
Becky Parton, LICSW, Project Director  
Dartmouth Trauma Interventions Research Center**  
This workshop is based on attachment theory and will review the basic attachment cycles for children, youth and their caregivers. The presenters will raise awareness of the differences that may call for a unique approach around attachment with young people of all ages. There are multiple barriers that can impede "typical" attachment. The Window of Tolerance fosters co-regulation as an intervention and can be applied to any attachment relationship. This workshop will provide examples of ways that the Window of Tolerance and other principles can improve the attachment relationship between caregivers, children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect or trauma.

### Conversation and Connections With Workshop

Presenters: Limited to DCYF staff

3:45 p.m.–4:30 p.m

Join us for an interactive Q&A Panel with our workshop presenters and experts, paired with light refreshments, from 3:45-4:30. Don't miss the chance to dive deeper into the conversation and network with fellow attendees!



## Day 1: Presenter Bios

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### Maximize Your State of NH Health Benefits 2-Part Session

#### Heidi Jackson-Rhine

Heidi Jackson-Rhine is the Benefits & Payroll Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services-Bureau of Human Resources Management. A longtime public servant, Heidi has devoted her career to serving the residents of the state of New Hampshire, first in municipal government, and since 2018 for the employees of DHHS. The Benefits and Payroll team strives to provide quality assistance and resources to the employees of DHHS regarding benefits, wellness, leaves of absence and more.

#### Michael Loomis, MPH, CEAP

Mike performs assessment, consultation, referral services, and training for the State's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). He enjoys assisting clients in personal growth inside and outside of work and connecting people with resources to maximize their success in life. Mike is a Certified Employee Assistance Professional with the International Employee Assistance Professions Association. Mike joined EAP in 2023 and has worked for the State of New Hampshire since 2010.

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### Enhancing Family Engagement Through Effective Communication and Active Listening

#### Heather Carignan, MSW

Heather Carignan holds a master's degree from Simmons University, where she developed a strong foundation in clinical social work. She is the clinical supervisor for the Roadmap to Reunification program at Northeast Family Services. With a passion for social justice and family reunification, she has dedicated her career to helping individuals successfully navigate the complexities of reuniting with their families and reaching their individual goals.

### Service Array: Road to Prevention

#### Cortney Levesque, MA

Cortney is a Program Specialist at DCYF. She has worked within the child protection and behavioral health field for over 16 years with a wide range of experience. Through her current position at DCYF, Cortney implements and manages contracts put in place to provide prevention-based services. In this role, she ensures compliance and overall continued development of the services being provided to DCYF-involved families. Cortney is an advocate for prevention-focused work and has been an active participant on the Wellness and Primary Prevention Council (WPPC) for several years. She works closely with community partners to assist in education and collaboration with DCYF and the services available to NH families.

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### Social Work Meets Servant Leadership

#### Heather Hall, BA

Heather is the DCYF Recruitment and Retention Program Specialist and member of the supervisory team for the Caregiver Coordinator Unit. She's also a certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach and Mentor. She's passionate about Servant Leadership and has spoken to audiences of 50 to 5,000. Her goal is to help attendees achieve a true light bulb moment that can make a difference in their lives and leave them with a tangible tool for the future.

# Day 1: Presenter Bios

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## Anatomy of a Child Sex Trafficking Case

### **Erin Laskowski, BA**

Erin Laskowski is the DCYF Human Trafficking Specialist. Erin consults with child protection, juvenile justice caseworkers and administration as well as service providers in any instance where there are confirmations or allegations of human trafficking, or if a child is at high risk. Erin serves as the DCYF liaison to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the NH Task Force Officers. She is a core member of the NH Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force.

### **Attorney Heidi Barba**

Attorney Barba has worked primarily in Court Administration in both New Hampshire and Minnesota. She currently works out of DCYF's Manchester District Office.

### **Danielle Peters, BA**

Dani is one of the Child Protection Adolescent workers at the Manchester District Office. She primarily works with youth from age 14 through their 26th birthday. She ensures that all youth and young adults in her office have the opportunity to experience positive youth development opportunities, normalcy, and independent living skill building.

### **Michael Staton, BA**

Michael has been working for DCYF for the past three years on the Assessment team. Prior to joining DCYF, he oversaw a transitional living program for young adults experiencing homelessness in Manchester. Michael started his career as the director of a Boys and Girls Club and has enjoyed working with children and their families ever since.

## Engaging Kinship Families

### **Kristin Conlin**

Kristin Conlin has worked for DCYF for the last 18 years, with the most recent 2 years serving as the Kinship Program Specialist. She assisted in creating and managing the contract with A Second Chance Inc. Before her role as a Kinship Program Specialist, she served as an Assistant Supervisor with the Concord District office. She also served as a Child Protective Service Worker with experience in family services, and as a Home Study Practitioner for the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

### **Kaylynn Trombley**

Kaylynn has worked with families for over 30 years and has spent 21 of those years with DCYF. In her role as a Permanency/Adoption supervisor, Kaylynn assisted in the creation and management of the Roadmap to Reunification Program. She has experience and training in trauma, trauma-informed care as well as counseling.

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## The Life Garden Family Leaders Panel

### **Geraldo Pilarski, MA, Moderator**

Geraldo has dedicated over 25 years of his life to serving vulnerable populations in the nonprofit and public sectors. He currently serves as an Administrator at DCYF. In this capacity, Geraldo leads efforts to integrate lived experience in child welfare. He partners with child welfare state leaders, field staff, researchers, policy makers, caregivers and community allies to design, test, evaluate, refine, and scale effective programs and strategies to build DCYF's capacity to partner with families in child welfare. Geraldo believes that the drivers to transform systems to achieve better outcomes for children, youth, and families include science-based interventions combined with systematic integration of constituency voices and perspectives. Geraldo holds an M.A. in social services administration from the University of Chicago and has twice received the DCYF Spirit of New Hampshire Award (2015 and 2023). This award is given annually to innovative and exemplary leaders in child welfare.

## Day 1: Presenter Bios

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### Using Neuroscience to Promote Safety, Permanency, and Well-being

#### Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LP.D

Dr. Cassie Yackley, a licensed psychologist, is the director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH CPP Provider Network. She is dedicated to addressing childhood adversity, promoting trauma-informed practices, and creating equitable systems for vulnerable children and families. Dr. Yackley has collaborated extensively with NH's Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), providing training, consultation, and support to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Her work has strengthened trauma-responsive practices within DCYF and its partners, fostering system-wide capacity for evidence-based interventions like Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), which she has taught to over 175 clinicians as a national CPP trainer.

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### Restorative Engagement of Harmed Parties

#### Jon Kidde & Marc Wennberg

Jon Kidde and Marc Wennberg are both independent consultants in Restorative Justice (RJ). Jon has studied and applied Restorative Justice theory for 20 years. He has played a critical role in the design, application, and enhancement of RJ within diverse settings. Marc facilitates trainings, planning processes, and restorative processes to address harm and impacts. Marc and Jon collaborate on multiple initiatives, including a Restorative Justice training project for NH juvenile justice stakeholders.



### Using the CANS (Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths) as Compass for Success: Guiding Skill Enhancement Through Meaningful Conversations

#### Brandon Howlett, MSED

Brandon Howlett, MS Ed, has served as a Senior Policy Analyst at the University of Kentucky's Center for Innovation in Population Health for four years. He collaborates with states to provide training, technical assistance, and coaching on the TCOM (Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management) approach and tools like CANS. With over two decades in the human services field, he specializes in topics such as diversity, trauma-informed care, and conflict resolution. Brandon holds a master's in educational administration and policy studies and is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Kentucky.

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### Father's Voice in the New Hampshire Child Welfare System

#### Jeff Trahant

Jeff Trahant serves as a Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer (JPPO) IV for DCYF. He has worked in child welfare for over 31 years, first as a CPSW – Assessment Worker and presently as a JPPO. He is a certified Intimate Partner Abuse Educational and Responsible Fatherhood Group facilitator. He has consulted with Holy Family's – Family Safety Project and the Jeannie Geiger Crisis Center. He also is co-lead of DCYF's Fatherhood Engagement Action Team.

#### Benjamin Yolda

Benjamin Yolda is a District Office Supervisor for DCYF. He has worked for DCYF for 17 years. Benjamin was a founding member of DCYF's Fatherhood Engagement Action Team (FEAT) and is the current co-lead of the statewide FEAT team. Benjamin also serves on the planning committee for the New England Fatherhood Conference and has consulted and presented at webinars on father engagement in child protection systems, both regionally and nationally. Beyond his work with fathers, he is also a Certified Public Manager and co-lead of the DCYF child protection policy workgroup.

## Day 1: Presenter Bios

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### **Getting Past the Defenses: Screening Youth for Domestic Violence**

#### **Amy Jo Muscott, MEd**

Amy Jo Muscott is currently one of the Education Coordinators at Bridges: Domestic and Sexual Violence Support in Nashua, NH. She received her M.Ed. in School Counseling from Rivier University and spent several years as an elementary school counselor in NH. She is dedicated to the mental health of children and adults and continues to teach concrete coping skills and strategies. In her position as Education Coordinator, she works preventively in schools and organizations. She presents on bullying, healthy relationships, consent, teen dating violence, issues related to sexual assault, trauma informed responses, co-regulation and warning signs for students and adults. At Bridges, she has done individual advocacy with survivors, facilitated groups for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, and children and their parents who have witnessed domestic violence. Amy Jo joined the Bridges staff 11 years ago after her involvement as a volunteer for over two years.

#### **Danielle Toussaint, BA**

Danielle Toussaint graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth with a degree in Psychology. Currently she is one of the Education Coordinators at Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support. Bridges is the local support agency for survivors in the Greater Nashua Area. Previously, Danielle was the Milford Program Coordinator (satellite office) and one of her focus areas was community engagement through programming and direct services. To expand a little further, on behalf of clients, she provided advocacy services with police, courts, hospitals, and other local community service agencies. Danielle created and co-facilitated educational and support groups at the offices and at local service agencies. Currently as an Education Coordinator, she provides training, professional development, and resources to schools, local organizations, community partners, and other public service agencies.

#### **Lan Portnoy, MS**

Lan Portnoy is a dedicated child advocate with a passion for supporting children and families impacted by trauma. She holds a Master of Science in Child, Youth, and Family Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Since joining Bridges: Domestic & Sexual Violence Support in September 2021, Lan has served as the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Child Advocate. In her role, Lan provides essential advocacy and support for children who have experienced sexual and/or physical abuse or have been exposed to domestic violence. She runs psychoeducational support groups for children ages 5-17, offering them a safe space to process their experiences, build resilience, and begin healing. Lan's work is integral to Bridges' mission of supporting survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families. Through her compassionate advocacy, Lan is dedicated to empowering young survivors and promoting their emotional well-being on their journey to recovery.

#### **Erin Laskowski, BA**

Erin Laskowski is the DCYF Human Trafficking Specialist. Erin consults with child protection and juvenile justice field staff and administration as well as service providers in any instance where there are confirmations, allegations or a child is at high risk of human trafficking. Erin serves as the NH DCYF liaison to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NH ICAC), NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the NH Task Force Officers and is a core member of the NH Human Trafficking Collaborative Task Force.



## Day 1: Presenter Bios

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### Personalities Make or Break the Workplace

#### Jude David, MPA

Jude David is a national speaker and trainer. In 2008, he began his career as a guidance counselor for at-risk youth, which eventually led to him accepting a position with the Department of Youth Services as a unit supervisor. In 2014, he accepted a position at the Sheriff's Department where he was able to complete his master's degree in public administration. In 2018, he became a probation officer with the Massachusetts Probation Service and since then has been promoted to his current role of Training Manager.



### Attachment With a Twist

#### Kelly Smith, LICSW

Kelly Smith, LICSW has spent her 30+ year career working directly with children and families who have experienced abuse and neglect and consulting to various private and state agencies across New Hampshire to shift how they work with individuals and families who have experienced trauma, disrupted attachment, and loss. In her current work with the Dartmouth Trauma Interventions Research Center, Ms. Smith trains clinicians across NH to work with individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities; and as the Director of Training for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Ms. Smith trained volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the NH courts. She has traveled the world working with children in orphanages and foster care preparing them to be adopted by parents in the US. Through birth, fostering, guardianship or safe refuge, Ms. Smith and her spouse have supported six young adults.

#### Becky Parton, LICSW

Becky Parton, LICSW is an experienced Social Worker who started her career in child protection. She previously provided child and family therapy at a Community Mental Health Center. Her current role at Dartmouth Trauma Interventions Research Center combines her background of mental health practice, child protection work, and grants management. She has been Project Director for several grants that cover topics ranging from prevention and early intervention to trauma-focused interventions. She is co-chair of the Children's Issues Committee for the NH chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and involved in advocacy work in that role. She also teaches as an Adjunct Professor for the University of New Hampshire in their MSW program. Becky's passion is working with children and families, and she has been involved in statewide efforts to increase awareness and prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) with a focus on building resilience in families and professionals.

## Day 2: Morning Workshops, April 15, 2025

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### **Growing Together Through the Choose Love Movement**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

#### **Shannon Desilets, DHHS/Division of Behavioral Health, Community Wellness Administrator, Choose Love Movement**

Join Shannon for an engaging workshop on the Choose Love Movement, where we will explore the movement's transformative power for ourselves and the communities we work in. Participants will learn about the core principles of Choose Love and how to implement them in our work and personal lives. Through this time together, attendees will be empowered to foster emotional well-being, self-reflect, strengthen relationships, overcome adversities, and create a culture of compassion within our families, organizations and communities.

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### **Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Trauma-Responsive Practice**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

#### **Susan H Badeau, MSW, Independent Consultant and Author**

For over a decade human service agencies have become trauma informed. To meet complex needs of children, families, staff, and communities, it is important to move to a trauma-responsive system of care. This session will start with neuroscience and move on to practical tools to increase DCYF staff's capacity to implement trauma-responsive and resiliency-building approaches and teach these skills to families they serve. Both CAPPD (Calm, Attuned, Present, Predictable and Don't Escalate) and PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) approaches and unique "Wizard of Oz" metaphor will make this session memorable and accessible.

### **Nature Connected Wellness: The New Frontier for Health & Well-Being**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

#### **Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS, CWMF**

Research on the health benefits of nature connected wellness practices is growing rapidly worldwide. Nature-connected practices can be used in both direct services and organizational settings to promote individual, family, team, and systems wellbeing and resiliency. In this interactive workshop, participants will have the opportunity to explore the concepts and evidence-based practices of natureconnected wellness, including forest therapy, by engaging in a variety of sensory based experiential activities geared toward expanding nature connectedness.

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### **Family Treatment Court: Improving Outcomes for Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

#### **Jacqui Baker, DCYF, Certified Prevention Specialist, Statewide Family Treatment Coordinator, Kristan Desmarais, DCYF, Supervisor VI**

Families impacted by substance use face an uphill battle when working toward health, wellness, and reunification. The twelve months allowed by law for a parent to correct circumstances that lead to an open case is a long time in the life of a child, but a short amount of time for the parent to make the behavior change needed for a life in long-term recovery. Family Treatment Court (FTC) uses a supportive, team approach to increase a family's access to supports and services, accountability and recovery, and likelihood of reunification. The team works to increase early access to treatment to address the needs of the parents, children, and relationships within the family. This workshop will educate attendees on how the FTC multidisciplinary approach can lead to better outcomes and how attendees can be supportive of these families in their own work.

## Day 2: Morning Workshops, April 15, 2025

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### **Using Positive Youth Development (PYD) to Improve the Lives of DCYF-Involved Youth**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

**Robert Rodler, MSW, Jamie Cote, Beth Nee, DCYF Adolescent Program, Jewel Sullivan, Madison Lemay, Aubrey B, Brie Lamarche, Youth Advisory Board**

Participants will become familiar with Positive Youth Development (PYD), its origin and benefits, and how to use it as an approach with DCYF youth to enhance their permanency and improve their quality of life. This workshop will assist caseworkers in using the principles of PYD in their work with DCYF-involved youth.

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### **Reflective Supervision: A Critical Tool for Staff Growth and Sustainability**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

**Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD, Director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Provider Network**

Reflective supervision is an essential tool for fostering resilience, accountability, and retention in child welfare and juvenile justice work. By creating a safe space for emotional processing and honest dialogue, staff can navigate the moral distress, secondary trauma, and challenges inherent in their roles. Reflective supervision builds trust and empathy between supervisors and staff, empowering professionals to manage their work effectively while maintaining focus on supporting families and youth. This session will explore how integrating reflective practices improves staff well-being, alleviates burnout, and creates a culture of connection and sustainability, enabling teams to achieve meaningful and lasting impact in their work.

### **Transforming Futures: Bridging Systems in Juvenile Justice and Children's Behavioral Health for Sustainable Change in NH**

10:30 a.m.–Noon

**Amy McCormack, BA, MS, DCYF, Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services for Juvenile Justice Daryll Tenney, MS, MEd Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health, Bureau Chief**

In 2019, DCYF's Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) participated in the Annie E. Casey Foundation Probation Transformation program through Georgetown University. The team created a capstone plan that included two goals which would impact the rules of juvenile probation and embrace a strengths and needs tool to inform case planning for youth. As a result, JJS embraced the CANS (Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths) tool and created a pre-court assessment process to reduce the number of youth entering into court for intervention, while embracing the philosophies of the youth and family voice into case planning. The NH Children's System of Care brings together child-serving providers to ensure that the behavioral health needs of children and their families are met through a coordinated effort. The Juvenile Justice system, as a partner in the children's system of care, has created new opportunities for young people and their families.

This presentation will highlight the impact of the transformation on youth with behavioral health struggles being served in juvenile justice, as well as the significant number of youth being diverted from juvenile justice served by behavioral health providers in their communities. In this time of national crisis with staffing shortages in residential treatment, shortages of behavioral health practitioners in the community, reduced availability of in-home service providers and increased mental health needs, learn about how we are making a difference for the youth and their families in NH!

## Day 2: Afternoon Workshops, April 15, 2025

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**Maximize Your Benefits for Your Health!**  
(Part 2 of 2-Part session)  
For DCYF Staff  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Heidi Jackson-Rhine, Benefits & Payroll Administrator, DHHS and the DHHS Human Resources team**

This 2-part program is designed to provide you with a better understanding of the tools and resources available to you as a State of New Hampshire employee, to best utilize your benefits for your health, well-being, and personal growth. Part one will begin with your early career, and part two will be a more in-depth look at the benefits you may utilize later in your career, including paid leave programs and preparation for retirement.

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**In Their Shoes: An Opportunity to Understand the Role of Perspective in Foster Care**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Charity Bell, MPA, Independent Consultant, Christine Morrissey, DCYF Program Specialist**

It can be challenging to understand the responses of foster parents, youth, and families to the work that we do. In this workshop, we will seek to understand how perspective can change how you view your work and how you do your work, creating new opportunities for connections while reducing frustration and miscommunication.

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**An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Beverly Richardson, MEd, NH START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources Treatment), Senior Clinical Team Leader**

This workshop is an introduction to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), what it is, the functional levels of ASD, and examples of observable traits.

**Juvenile Drugs, Trends, Slang & Gangs 2025**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Guy Kozowyk, Detective, Manchester Police Department**

This workshop will provide participants with a crash course understanding earmarks of suspected gang activity, up to date juvenile slang & drug terminology, and recurring local trends that have been present in local criminal investigations.

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**Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Workshop: Community Collaboration**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD, Director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Provider Network**

Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) is an evidence-based intervention designed to address the impacts of domestic violence and multigenerational trauma, offering transformative outcomes for child welfare-involved families. This workshop will focus on equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to make timely and appropriate referrals to CPP, effectively support clinical intervention, and collaborate with cross-system partners to enhance family participation. Through a detailed case presentation, participants will explore how CPP navigates complex child welfare situations, such as termination of parental rights and adoption transitions. The session will highlight the hope CPP brings to families by fostering healing, promoting resilience, and demonstrating the power of collaboration to achieve positive and lasting outcomes.

## Day 2: Afternoon Workshops, April 15, 2025

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**The Impact of Parental Incarceration & the Family Connections Center at the NH Department of Corrections**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Tiffani Arsenault, MS, Family Connections Center at New Hampshire Department of Corrections, Administrator**

Parental incarceration affects 1 in 28 children in the United States. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, nearly 14,000 New Hampshire children in 2016 had an incarcerated parent. The majority of these children are under the age of 10 and many are in DCYF care. Although common, incarceration continues to be stigmatized for the entire family. In this workshop, we will review data, the impact on child development, and how the Department of Corrections' Family Connections Center is working to provide parent education, support, and connection during incarceration.

**How DCYF Nursing Can Help YOU! For DCYF Staff**  
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

**Abby Hancock, MSN ED, RN, Ginny Lawrence, BSN, RN, Sarah McCarthy, BSN, RN, DCYF Nurses**

This presentation has been crafted to help current DCYF staff understand how they can best use the expertise of their District Office's nurse. There are many unique medical/dental/behavioral health situations that can come up for CPSWs and JPPOs. The DCYF nursing team will review how they assist DCYF staff in navigating these unique situations. They will also discuss some common medical resources in the community for workers and stakeholders.



### Kenna Hasler, BSW



#### **Keynote Session: Your IMPACT Matters** 3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m.

In this closing keynote session, presenter Kenna Hasler will discuss ways you can make an impact on the people you serve and in your own life through stories and questions to ask yourself whether you are frontline or in management. She will build on her experience as a DCYF assessment worker in the Rochester District Office, working with marginalized populations. Conference participants will end the day with new insights about how their perspective can impact the families they serve.

#### **Presenter Bio:**

Kenna Hasler, BSW, has worked in the field of social services for 14 years with many populations: the unhoused, families, people experiencing domestic violence, and people with mental health and substance use disorder. She holds a bachelor's degree in social work from University of New Hampshire. Kenna began her career as a child protection assessment worker out of DCYF's Rochester District Office. She is currently the Director of Homeless Outreach and Wellness Services for Park Center in Nashville, TN.

## Day 2: Presenter Bios

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### **Growing Together Through the Choose Love Movement**

#### **Shannon Desilets**

Shannon serves as the Community Wellness Administrator, out of DHHS/Division for Behavioral Health, continuing her role of running the statewide Choose Love Movement initiative, which first began in the Governor's office in 2018. Her background in providing post-trauma therapy fuels her vision and her mission for the state of NH. As the leader of the Choose Love Movement, she is dedicated to promoting a culture of compassion and safety, fostering resilience and emotional well-being.

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### **Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Trauma-Responsive Practice**

#### **Susan H. Badeau, MSW**

Sue Badeau trains on trauma, racial justice, family engagement, and self/community care. She serves on national and international boards and volunteers annually in Kenya. She co-authored *Are We There Yet: Adopting and Raising 22 Kids*, *Building Bridges of Hope*, the 2024-release *Healing Connections: A Community Approach to Childhood Trauma and Attachment*, and the 2024 OJJDP Best Practice Guide, *Partnering With Youth and Families: A Best Practices Guide for Youth Justice Stakeholders*. Sue and her husband Hector are parents by birth, adoption, foster & kinship care and have over 40 grandchildren.

### **Nature Connected Wellness: The New Frontier for Health & Well-Being**

#### **Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS, CWMF**

Christine Tappan is the Chief of Community Based Services & Advancement at Ascentria Care Alliance and has served at NH DHHS and DCYF in multiple roles. In 2019, Christine experienced burnout and vicarious trauma and almost left her career. Nature intervened and she found her way to Forest Therapy. She now lives and leads with a nature inspired lens. She founded BirchWalking, a social impact organization, to bring nature connected wellness practices to health and human service professionals and those they serve, and care for.

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### **Family Treatment Court: Improving Outcomes for Families Impacted by Substance Use Disorder**

#### **Jacqui Baker**

Jacqui Baker works as the Statewide Family Treatment Court (FTC) Coordinator for the NH Judicial Branch. She coordinated the implementation of the first FTC in New Hampshire and oversees the expansion of FTC best practices statewide, alongside Judicial Branch leadership and computer partners. Jacqui is a Certified Prevention Specialist in the state of NH and has a background in community organizing for public health initiatives.

#### **Kristan Desmarais**

Kristan Desmarais has worked with DCYF for 17 years in various capacities including assessment worker, juvenile probation and parole officer, assistant supervisor, and district officer supervisor. She worked with the original family treatment court committee to help develop and implement the program for Sullivan County.

## Day 2: Presenter Bios

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### **Using Positive Youth Development (PYD) to Improve the Lives of DCYF-Involved Youth**

**Robert Rodler, MSW, Jamie Cote, Beth Nee, Jewel Sullivan, Madison Lemay, Aubrey B, Brie Lamarche**

Robert Rodler, Beth Nee and Jamie Cote support the DCYF Adolescent Program that helps current and former youth in care aged 14 and older become healthy, self-sufficient, and successful. Jewel Sullivan is a member of the DCYF Youth Advisory Board, youth representative on the DCYF State Advisory Board and helps to train new DCYF workers. Madison Lemay is a member of the DCYF Youth Advisory Board, is part of the National Collaborative and is a leader of the Youth Success Project (YSP). Aubrey B has completed Strategic Sharing training and is a member of the DCYF Youth Advisory Board. Brie Lamarche is a member of the DCYF Youth Advisory Board.

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### **Transforming Futures: Bridging Systems in Juvenile Justice and Children’s Behavioral Health for Sustainable Change in NH**

**Amy McCormack, BA, MS**

Amy McCormack is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in criminal justice. Upon graduation Amy worked for the Youth Educational Employment Services Program from 2003-2007 as a caseworker and supervisor. Amy obtained employment with the State of NH in 2007 as a Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer. Amy remained in this role until 2016 when she served as an Assistant Supervisor for Juvenile Probation and Parole. In 2018, Amy accepted the position of Southern District Office Supervisor for Juvenile Justice. In 2020, Amy transitioned to DCYF Associate Bureau Chief of Field Services for Juvenile Justice. Amy is committed to the youth and families in NH achieving better outcomes through preventative programming while maintaining safety for the youth, family, and community.

**Daryll Tenney, MS, MEd**

Daryll Tenney, Bureau Chief of the DHHS Bureau of Children’s Behavioral Health has provided clinical supports, including High Fidelity Wraparound for youth and families living with severe emotional disturbances for nearly 20 years. With experience working within a community mental health center, higher education, and state government, Daryll has provided care coordination, therapeutic behavioral interventions, family therapy, mediation, and youth driven wraparound support for youth transitioning from school to career. Daryll is motivated and passionate about ensuring that youth and their families are connected to the needs that they “voice” and can build upon strengths that can support their overall well-being. With an MS in Couples and Family Therapy and a Masters in Health Education, Daryll brings knowledge of family systems and complex needs. Now working for the Bureau for Children’s Behavioral Health with NH DHHS, Daryll brings this knowledge to help manage, sustain and transform New Hampshire’s children’s System of Care.

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### **Reflective Supervision: A Critical Tool for Staff Growth and Sustainability**

**Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD**

Dr. Cassie Yackley, a licensed psychologist, is the director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH CPP Provider Network. She is dedicated to addressing childhood adversity, promoting trauma-informed practices, and creating equitable systems for vulnerable children and families. Dr. Yackley has collaborated extensively with NH’s Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), providing training, consultation, and support to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Her work has strengthened trauma-responsive practices within DCYF and its partners, fostering system-wide capacity for evidence-based interventions like Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), which she has taught to over 175 clinicians as a national CPP trainer.



## Day 2: Presenter Bios

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### **Maximize Your Benefits for Your Health! (Part 2 of 2 Part session)**

#### **Heidi Jackson-Rhine**

Heidi Jackson-Rhine is Benefits & Payroll Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services – Bureau of Human Resources Management. A long-time Public Servant, Heidi has devoted her career to serving the residents of the State of New Hampshire first in Municipal Government, and since 2018 for the employees of DHHS. The Benefits and Payroll team strives to provide quality assistance and resources to the employees of DHHS regarding benefits, wellness, leaves of absence and more.

#### **Michael Loomis, MPH, CEAP**

Mike performs assessment, consultation, referral services, and training for the State's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). He enjoys assisting clients in personal growth inside and outside of work and connecting people with resources to maximize their success in life. Mike is a Certified Employee Assistance Professional with the International Employee Assistance Professions Association. Mike joined EAP in 2023 and has worked for the State of New Hampshire since 2010.

### **In Their Shoes: An Opportunity to Understand the Role of Perspective in Foster Care**

#### **Charity Bell, MPA**

Charity Bell has spent the past 25 years fascinated by the impact of perception on the brain. After developing a framework for evaluating and regulating how we allow the things that happen around us to elicit reactions that can harm or heal, she began teaching others to make intentional decisions about boundaries. She is a passionate advocate of self-compassion and compassion for others.

#### **Christine Morrissey**

Christine Morrissey began working for DCYF as a Child Protective Service Worker in 2005. She held roles as a Permanency CPSW, Resource Worker and Family Service Assistant Supervisor in the Manchester District Office from 2007 through 2021. In 2021, Christine began working as a Program Specialist in the DCYF Service Array Unit. During her time with DCYF, she has trained foster parents and co-facilitated trainings for DCYF staff, providers and Court Appointed Special Advocates.

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### **An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder**

#### **Beverly Richardson, MEd**

Beverly Richardson joined the Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources and Treatment (NH START) program in 2013 after spending four years in the New Hampshire public school system. The National Center for START Services focuses on building capacity in the service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health needs. While delivering the evidence-based practices of this program, she has continued her growth and development in this field.

## Day 2: Presenter Bios

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### Juvenile Drugs, Trends, Slang & Gangs 2025

#### **Guy Kozowyk, Detective, Manchester Police Department**

Detective Kozowyk is a 12-year veteran of the Manchester Police Department. Specializing in juvenile gang, violent crime & social media investigations, he has spent the past 6 years with the MPD Juvenile Unit as a Delinquency Investigator and previously as a School Resource Officer.

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### CPP Workshop: Community Collaboration

#### **Cassie Yackley, PsyD, LPD**

Dr. Cassie Yackley, a licensed psychologist, is the director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice Change (CTRPC) and the NH CPP Provider Network. She is dedicated to addressing childhood adversity, promoting trauma-informed practices, and creating equitable systems for vulnerable children and families. Dr. Yackley has collaborated extensively with NH's Division for Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), providing training, consultation, and support to improve outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Her work has strengthened trauma-responsive practices within DCYF and its partners, fostering system-wide capacity for evidence-based interventions like Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), which she has taught to over 175 clinicians as a national CPP trainer.

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### The Impact of Parental Incarceration & the Family Connections Center at the NH Department of Corrections

#### **Tiffani Arsenault, MS**

Tiffani Arsenault is the Administrator of the Family Connections Center at the NH Department of Corrections (NHDOC). She has nearly 20 years of experience working and learning in the criminal justice, mental health, and family support fields. In her current role she oversees the family strengthening and support program for residents in the NHDOC, offering a variety of education opportunities, family related case management, and parent-child connection opportunities. She is also a member of the NHDOC's Peer Support Team.

### How DCYF Nursing Can Help YOU!

#### **Abby Hancock, MSN ED, RN**

Abby has been a Registered Nurse for the Foster Care Health Program within DCYF for four years. Her role caters to the medical educational needs of the District Offices, including both Child Protection and Juvenile Justice. Prior to this role, Abby worked as a Nurse Consultant at both the Rochester and Manchester DOs. She has held various roles in the hospital setting, including acute care and education. She also teaches for CWEP through UNH on the side.

#### **Ginny Lawrence, BSN, RN**

Ginny has been working with DCYF as a Nurse Consultant for the past two years with the Claremont and Laconia District Offices. In her role, she functions as the DCYF medical liaison and provides specialized nursing consultation for Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Services regarding medical, dental and behavioral health concerns. Prior to this role, Ginny worked as the clinical lead in primary care and is currently certified as a volunteer community educator to prevent childhood sexual abuse.

#### **Sarah McCarthy, BSN, RN**

Sarah has been working as a Nurse Consultant for the Keene District Office since August 2024. In this role, she provides consultation services and care coordination and works as a medical liaison for both Child Protection and Juvenile Justice. Prior to coming to DCYF, Sarah served as a pediatric nurse at Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities, Elliot Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital in their Float Pool and Medical Intensive Care Unit. She brings her experience caring for children with medical complexity and high-tech needs to the DCYF team.



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