

The 20th Annual Statewide Conference



2019

Sharing Our Stories



March 7 - 8, 2019

Riverside Hotel

2900 Chinden Blvd, Boise ID 83714



The Board of Directors of the *Idaho Children's Trust Fund* Salutes the
Winner of the 2019 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award:

The Mahoney House

***And all Idahoans working to strengthen families
to prevent child abuse and neglect.***

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Monica Virgen, **Treasure Valley Initiative to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse**

We ALL Have Stories

Welcome to the 20th annual Strengthening Families Training Institute! Thank you for your work to make Idaho a great place for kids to grow up!

"Storytelling is the essential human activity. The harder the situation, the more essential it is." --Tim O'Brien

Those of us who work in this field know the hard stories--stories of abuse and separation, of neglect and the pain of abandonment. These hard stories need to be told but if these are the only stories we hear--that our community hears-- there is little hope of changing things.

"The stories we tell literally make the world. If you want to change the world, you need to change the story. This truth applies both to individuals and institutions." --Michael Margolis

So then how does a different story create the opportunity to change the world for families and children in Idaho? We also know the survivor stories, the great parent stories, and the amazing teacher stories. The stories of hope and resilience. We know the stories of happy childhoods and of communities that invest in and support families. Which story gets told determines how we will interact with families. Are the families we work with problems to be solved or are we all in this together for the best possible outcomes for our kids?

"Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released." --Robin Moore, author

At this year's SFTI, I hope you will open yourself up to your inner storyteller "waiting to be released." We will start the day with Patrick Mitchell, a national speaker on fatherhood and storytelling who lives in Coeur d'Alene. Patrick will talk to us about how we can support fathers and then he will guide us through a workshop on telling our own stories. We have a tremendous slate of workshops focusing on everything from attachment to human trafficking and lots in between. We will then close as we have the last few years with a panel from the trenches; this year we will be focusing on the challenges and successes of single mothers. I hope you will leave more energized, with new tools in your toolkit and fire in your belly to make a difference. Let's get this show on the road!



Roger Sherman,
Executive Director



Conference at a glance

Thursday, March 7, 2019	
8:00	Registration
8:45-9:00	Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping
9:00-10:15	Keynote Address
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-noon	Community Workshop (all attend)
Noon-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:30	Workshop Session 1
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-4:15	Workshop Session 2
6 – 8pm Special Evening Presentation: Showing of film: “Broken Places”	
<i>~Dinner on your own~</i>	
Friday, March 8, 2019	
8:00	Registration
8:45-9:00	Welcome Back and Reflections
9:00-10:30	Workshop Session 3
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	Workshop Session 4
12:15-2:30	Capnote Luncheon: Presentation of Ed Van Dusen Award, Pinwheel Awards , and a panel of “Single Moms Telling it Like It Is”

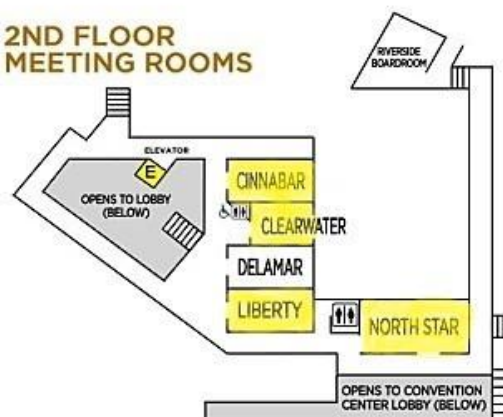
The Riverside Hotel Floorplan

(Rooms we using are highlighted in yellow)

1ST FLOOR MEETING ROOMS



2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOMS



Plenaries

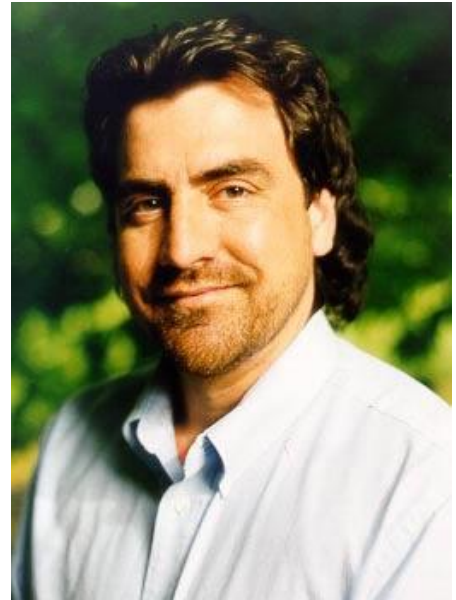
KEYNOTE ADDRESS and PLENARY WORKSHOP

How to Talk to Dads So They'll Listen...Getting (and Keeping) Good Men Engaged!

Patrick Mitchell

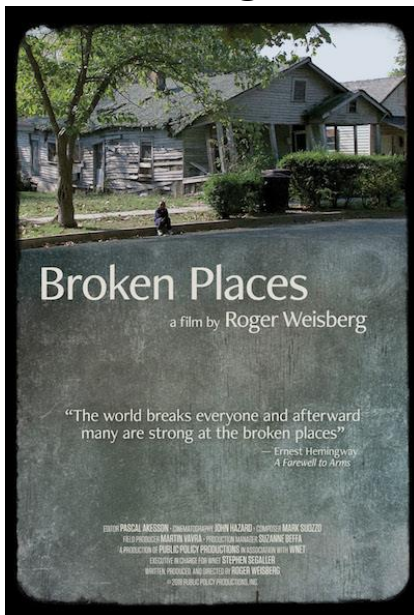
This uplifting address will honor men who are present while providing a chance for humorous reflection about “how we see men” generally, and how we see fathers/grandfathers/significant males, specifically. Getting men optimally engaged in children’s lives reduces the risks for negative outcomes associated with father absence and increases opportunities to enhance cognitive, social, and emotional development while helping you reach your goals.

Patrick Mitchell, B.A., Da.D., has a goal to show practitioners and parents how to get men optimally engaged for the sake of children’s positive outcomes in early childhood and beyond. He’s founding editor of The Down To Earth Dad monthly newsletter, and facilitates Family Storytelling Night® events for schools and programs across America, bolstering early literacy, helping parents share individual, family, and community history, heritage, and culture. He lives in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho and is a husband and father of three children.



THURSDAY EVENING PRESENTATION

A screening of the documentary film: *BROKEN PLACES*



“The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places.” Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms

Why are some children permanently damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive? To help answer this question, filmmaker Roger Weisberg dug into his extensive film archives to update a few of the stories of the abused and neglected children he filmed decades ago. Viewers are given a unique time-lapse perspective on how the trauma that these children experienced shaped their lives as adults. *BROKEN PLACES* interweaves these longitudinal narratives with commentary from nationally renowned experts in neurobiology and early childhood development in order to illuminate the devastating impact of childhood adversity as well as the factors that can foster resilience.

Capnote Luncheon

CLOSING PANEL

Stories from the Real World: Single Moms Telling it Like it is!

Beverly Haugen, site director for one of Giraffe Laugh's Early Learning Centers in Boise and a former single mother herself, will facilitate a panel of single mothers from throughout the state. Morgan Briggs from Idaho Falls, Amberly Bunch from Coeur d'Alene and Michelle Ibarra from Boise all know what it takes to raise kids without a partner. Each of them has their own story of struggle and of finding support when they've needed it most. You are going to want to stay until the end to experience this conversation!



The Ed! & Pinwheel Awards

In 2016, the **Idaho Children's Trust Fund** Board began a new tradition to recognize people and groups who have made significant contributions in the past year. The **Pinwheel Awardees for 2018-2019** are:

Wickes MacColl—
Stewards of Children
Instructor and early pioneer in Idaho's use of this child sexual abuse prevention curriculum.

Katie Simmons—
Director of ICARE, a project of St. Vincent de Paul, Coeur d'Alene.



Jane Zink-- Leadership Director, IdahoSTARS Project, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children.

Advocates Against Family Violence in Caldwell serves victims of domestic abuse and their families in Canyon County.

The Mahoney House

Winner of the 2019 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award



*The Ed Van Dusen Award for Exemplary Practice in Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, or The Ed! for short, is presented each year to a program selected by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund's Board of Directors, which exemplifies deep commitment to and successful practice in preventing child abuse and neglect. This year we celebrate the work of **The Mahoney House** in Salmon.*

COMMUNITY • ADVOCACY • EMPOWERMENT

The Mahoney House is a great example of the kind of work that can be done in a rural and isolated community--of which Idaho has many!

Because it is a small agency in an isolated rural community, **The Mahoney House** staff has to wear a lot of hats. Although organized as a domestic violence program, it has taken on youth empowerment, protective factors based parenting classes and a broad effort to educate about ACES and protective factors.

The Mahoney House: Community Advocacy and Empowerment is a non-profit agency in Salmon that provides assistance and supportive services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. It also houses the Salmon Empowerment Project which works with youth in the community around healthy relationships, self-confidence, and good decision making. In 2000, Lemhi County Crisis Intervention began doing business as The Mahoney Family Safety Center also known as "**The Mahoney House**" in honor of Jim and Marion Mahoney, a couple who supported many people in need in the community.

The Mahoney House staff has worked with schools, the local hospital, social service organizations, and city government to increase awareness of the impacts of adverse childhood experiences and the importance of building protective factors in an impressive way. Last year they brought together 70 people in the community (comparable to about 5,000 in Boise on a per capita basis!) to watch the film Resilience and to discuss what can be done in the community. Through an ICTF grant **The Mahoney House** trained its staff in the STRONG curriculum and has been providing parenting classes.

Two of the 5 strategies identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to prevent child abuse and neglect are to "change social norms to support parents and positive parenting" and to "enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development." The parenting work and work with community institutions are building these strategies.

The work of **The Mahoney House** has brought a level of hope to the community which at this point may not be quantifiable but is crucial to maintain community integrity and to keep Salmon's youth and families healthy.



Day 1

Thursday March 7th

8:00	Registration, coffee, and continental breakfast
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
9:00 – 10:15	Keynote Address
10:15 – 10:30	Break with Snack
10:30 – noon	Community Workshop
Noon -- 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop Session 1
2:30 – 2:45	Break with Snack
2:45 – 4:15	Workshop Session 2
6:00 – 8:00	Evening Film Screening: “Broken Places”

The Workshops

Session 1: Thursday March 7, 1:00 – 2:30

1A: Moving from Knowledge to Action: Changing Practice to Build Protective Factors

Caillin O'Connor, MS / **Room: Northstar**

Even those of us who know and love the Strengthening Families protective factors need fresh ideas sometimes for how to integrate them into our day-to-day work. In this interactive session, we will look at small but significant changes to practice in home visiting, family support, and early care and education programs that can help families build protective factors, as well as how we can integrate a protective factors approach into our interactions with our peers and staff and our own self-care.

1B: Supporting Refugee Families through the Stress of Resettlement

Kathy Tidwell, LCSW / **Room: Clearwater**

Refugee resettlement is incredibly stressful for families. This workshop will present the range of stressors related to resettlement and the potential impacts on families. Participants will look at ways they might provide added supports to these families as they navigate the resettlement process.

1C: Childhood Should Not Hurt: The Range of Child Abuse Prevention

Matthew Cox, MD / **Room: Cinnabar**

The workshop will review the range of programs utilized to address the #1 public health problem in the U.S. – child abuse and neglect. Topics such as universal prevention programs (primary prevention) to more selected prevention programs (secondary prevention) will be highlighted in this case-based talk illustrating the impact of child abuse on our community. The impact of physical (corporal) punishment of children and family violence/dysfunction in the home will be discussed at length.

1D: What Connects Us: A Reflective Session on How to Value and Support Parents

Jane Zink, MA & Maureen Durning, BA, BS / **Room: Liberty**

As professionals, we're encouraged to celebrate difference. But sometimes the differences we have with parents puts strains on our relationships. And strained relationships make it difficult to form the strong bonds needed to truly partner

with families. How do we come to authentic connection when we have different beliefs, attitudes and approaches to children, parenting and partnering? Join this reflective session to explore the unspoken rules and patterns of your own family culture and how they impact your expectations of parents and families. Reflect on your attitude about sharing power and building a team. Identify practices that foster connection, those that get in the way, and new strategies to value and support parents.

Session 2: Thursday March 7, 2:45 -4:15

2A: Working Toward Well-Being: Community Approaches to Early Life Stress

Caillin O'Connor, MS / **Room: Northstar**

As scientific understanding of the effects of early life stress continues to grow, communities across the country are finding ways to prevent and respond to stress in the lives of community members, particularly children, youth and their families. In this session, we will explore a new framework of community approaches to preventing and responding to stress for young children and their families, nested within the broader context of working toward healthy development and well-being. The framework, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, focuses on the role of various agents for change within a community system, including parents, service providers, and system and community leaders. We will also discuss specific strategies being used to reduce and respond to stress in innovative early childhood systems.

2B: Self-Care IS Self-Regulation 101

Julie Meek, LCSW / **Room: Liberty**

Participants who are new to in-depth workshops on self-care and self-regulation will engage in fun, research-based, and engaging information and strategies for maintaining health and happiness in one's career as a helper. Audience members will walk away with a new understanding, sense of self-compassion, and set of simple self-regulation and self-care strategies for activating the best version of themselves in their important work in our communities.

2C: Taking Inventory of our Protective Factors

Kristen Bonne't, BA / **Room: Clearwater**

Many of us understand and use the protective factors in our work, but how often do we reflect on their personal impact? This workshop will use reflective questions to help us walk the talk and deepen our professional integrity. You will leave with a greater understanding of how the protective factors impact you personally and how to more effectively integrate them into your work.

2D: Pick a Model, Any Model – the Value of Models for Making Ethical Decisions

Lori Watsen, MSW, LCSW / **Room: Cinnabar**

In this interactive workshop participants will discuss the differences between values and ethics – and consider what makes an ethical dilemma a dilemma. Participants will be introduced to several ethical decision-making models and will learn about best practices that can/should be utilized for ethical decision-making. Opportunity to select and apply a particular decision-making model to an ethical dilemma case scenario in small group discussions will be provided.



EVENING Film Screening: 6pm to 8pm

BROKEN PLACES explores why some children are permanently damaged by early adversity while others are able to thrive. By revisiting some of the abused and neglected children profiled decades ago, the film dramatically illustrates how early trauma shaped their lives as adults.

Day 2

Friday March 8th

8:00	Registration, coffee, and continental breakfast
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
9:00 – 10:30	Workshop Session 3
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Workshop Session 4
12:15 – 2:30	Lunch: Panel, Award Presentation, Conference Closing
2:30	Pinwheel Distribution - in hotel side lobby

Session 3: Friday March 8th, 9 - 10:30

3A: Every Youth Needs a Champion to Succeed

Andrew Fletcher, B.A. / **Room: Clearwater**

Through storytelling and participant engagement, this workshop will focus on the importance that EVERY youth has a champion in his/her life: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists they become the best they can possibly be. With a focus on out-of-school time opportunities, we will dive deeper into the power of the Youth Thrive Framework: social connections, to help develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally healthy youth.

3B: Family First Prevention Services Act: Nuts and Bolts

Marian Woods, LCSW and Paul Buehler, LCSW / **Room: Liberty**

On February 8, 2018, a piece of landmark federal legislation, The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), was passed. The FFPSA legislation marks a turning point for child welfare agencies to be able to use certain federal dollars in a more flexible manner with an emphasis on keeping families together, reducing the time children spend in foster care, and increasing the quality of care while a child is placed in foster care. Learn what impact this will have on the families you work with and why you should care.

3C: Trafficking Prevention

Jennifer Zielinski and Paula Barthelmess, LCSW / **Room: Cinnabar**

Learn more about the role you can play in preventing human trafficking in Idaho with the resources and information provided. This training will give you tools to use and share with others in an effort to identify children who are at risk and could fall prey to becoming a victim of sex trafficking in Idaho.

3D: The Nurturance Factor: How Culture Impacts the Attachment Dynamic

Janelle Stauffer, LCSW / **Room: Northstar**

Attachment has come to be known as an important guiding theory in all work to strengthen families and protect children. Early research by Bowlby and Winnecott showed how attachment patterns impact the way in which a person engages with friends, lovers, and employers across the life-span. Recent research has taken this further, showing that early attachment patterns influence physical health, emotional health, and overall neurological development. This workshop will explore the barriers present in our current culture which block healthy attachment and will provide specific and practical therapeutic modalities to help overcome those barriers. Specific topics covered will include: Trauma-Informed Culture, Self-Compassion, Affect Regulation.

Session 4: Friday March 8th, 10:45 to 12:15

4A: Increase Access and Decrease Barriers through Partnerships with the 5 Protective Factors

Phyllis Vermilyea, MS, CSUF and BA Education & Audra Green, MLS, BS, BA / **Room: Cinnabar**

What do most Idaho communities have? Public schools and public libraries! As integral community anchors, schools and libraries can partner to strengthen families. These partnerships are more than just books; they provide a unique way to inculcate the five protective factors at the community level. In this workshop we will demonstrate how we seek partnerships, identify barriers that families and communities face, find shared goals between libraries, schools and local agencies, and work together to build a stronger community. We will then finish with an interactive discussion so that participants will leave with practical tools on how this applies to your agency and community

4B: Self-Care IS Self-Regulation 201

Julie Meek, LCSW / **Room: Liberty**

This workshop is designed specifically for those who have attended self-care workshops at STFI within the past 3 years. We will be deepening and reviving your self-regulation and self-care practices, as well as completing hands-on, meaningful activities which will strengthen your identity as a helping professional and provide you with a new sense of competence and autonomy in your chosen career path. "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." -Aristotle.

4C: An In-Depth Look At Resilience for Children Raised With Trauma

Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, Ph.D. / **Room: Northstar**

Over the past few years, the subject of resilience has become a frequent topic of discussion at conferences such as this one. Most of us are familiar with the essential ingredients that shore up an individual's resilience, especially when recovering from a serious traumatic experience. But what about for children who were raised in the context of trauma? For these children, their unique life experiences shape the foundational templates and ever-evolving sophistication of critical core strengths in ways that can impede the later growth of resilience. In this workshop, we break down each of these critical core strengths into micro-skills. The more we understand these micro-skills, the better able we are to coach, support and intervene in an effective and individualized manner.

4D: Telling Our Stories: How HOPE Conquers ACES

Tara Ashley, MS and Holly Whitworth, B.S. / **Room: Clearwater**

Come learn how healthy outcomes occur when children and families have positive experiences based on the protective factors. We will be sharing an exciting new curriculum called STRONG, which explores the interplay of adverse childhood experiences, human development and the power of positive experiences. Participants will be able to identify and plan how to use everyday actions to promote the protective factors in their program and with individual families.



Workshop Presenter Biographies

Tara Ashley, LCSW

Spanning 24 years as a Social Worker, Tara has had the opportunity to work in the areas of: play therapy, child protection, emergency room social work, adult out-patient mental health therapy, adjunct faculty at Metro State College in Denver, hotlines, and as a trainer. She is currently enjoying a new role as a Field Director at Idaho State University. Tara enjoyed volunteering at Habitat for Humanity, in public schools, as a mentor for young mothers and other areas of her community. She has ambitions to survive her children's teenage and young adult years.

Paula Barthelmess, LCSW

Paula Barthelmess is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), dedicated to providing treatment for a variety of populations suffering with mental health issues. Paula has owned and operated a Community Mental Health agency for the past 12 years where she dedicated most of her treatment focus on trauma victims and providing extensive family therapy to systems directly impacted by trauma. She is involved within the community providing education on mental illness and Suicide Awareness / Prevention. Paula specializes in trauma focus therapy. She founded and is currently the President of a non-profit organization Community Outreach Behavioral Services (COBS) which is dedicated to providing awareness and education to the community about Human Trafficking. She also provides trauma informed care to individuals and their families involved and affected by Human Trafficking.

Kristen Bonne't, BA

Kristen has spent several years working directly with at risk families and the professionals who serve them. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Family Relations and is a Certified Professional Coach specializing in transitions and group facilitation. Currently Kristen lives in Coeur d'Alene and is a member of the Strengthening Families Roundtable and HOPE Conquers ACES Community of Practice.



Paul Buehler, LCSW

After graduating with his master's degree in social work, Paul Buehler began a 17 year career with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. During his tenure with Los Angeles County, Paul served as a line social worker, supervisor and regional administrator leaving the Department in 2007 as the Risk Management Division Chief. His ability to create partnerships within the communities he served supported the development of community based services for children and families which helped

children stay safely in their own families and communities. He came to Casey Family Programs in September of 2007 as a Director of Strategic Consulting, working to develop this same level of partnerships in Nevada, South Carolina and Michigan. In 2009 he was promoted to Senior Director based on his support of the work in these states.

Matthew Cox, MD

Dr. Matthew Cox did his pediatrics residency training at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and pursued fellowship training in Child Abuse at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He practiced in Dallas as the medical director of the child abuse program at Children's Health from 2004 – 2016. He is a certified Child Abuse Pediatrician by the American Board of Pediatrics. His primary practice involves the medical evaluation of children suspected of being victims of possible physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. He currently serves as the medical director of the Children At-Risk Evaluation Services (CARES) Program at St Luke's Medical Center in Boise.

Maureen Durning, BA, BS

Maureen is the Owner/Director of Butterfly Trainings that Transform LLC, a Strengthening Families training and consulting firm in Boise, Idaho. She is the co-author of STRONG: Teaching the Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework to Parents and Professionals. Maureen has worked in the fields of parenting education, abuse and neglect prevention, and training design for over 35 years.

Audra Green, MLS, BS, BA

Audra started her career in outdoor education and teaching youth in backcountry settings on trail crew and with the Girl Scouts, which somehow led to teaching English to incoming refugees. For years her mom told her to become a librarian and she finally listened. She received her MLS from IU Bloomington and is currently the Outreach Manager for the Meridian Library District. She seeks community connections, wilderness, opportunities for her Girl Scout troop and climbing opportunities.

Andrew Fletcher, BA

Andrew Fletcher is a leader in the out-of-school time field and sharing his passion through high-energy stories and creative presentations. He is the 21st Century Community Learning Centers & Student Engagement Coordinator for the Idaho State Department of Education and the Chair of the Idaho Out-of-School Network. He was named *Idaho Business Review's* "Accomplished Under 40" because his work in ensuring Idaho communities and schools have access to high-quality out-of-school time programs that engage families and support student academic and social-emotional learning. He is pursuing a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership.

Julie Meek, LCSW

Julie Meek is the Lead Counselor at Lee Pesky Learning Center. (LPLC) She specializes in individual and group therapy for children, teens, and adults who are struggling to be successful in their academic and personal lives, many of whom suffer from AD/HD, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, executive functioning problems, social cognitive deficits, and mood and anxiety disorders. In private practice, she treats trauma, attachment issues, and anxiety and depression. She has presented locally, nationally, and internationally on her work at LPLC, and has shared self-regulation strategies in several schools in Idaho. She is also a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional and has a special interest in helping the helper.

**Cailin O'Connor, MS**

Cailin is a Senior Associate at the Center for the Study of Social Policy, where she works to promote better outcomes for young children and their families, with a focus on promoting the protective factors that children, families, and communities need to thrive. This includes coordinating the Strengthening Families National Network of 35 states using CSSP's Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, and supporting communities in their work to build innovative early childhood systems. Cailin holds a Master's degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a graduate certificate in Prevention and Intervention Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Janelle Stauffer, LCSW

Janelle Stauffer is a Trauma & Attachment Therapist in private practice in Nampa, Idaho. Trained as a Clinical Social Worker, Janelle obtained additional trauma focused trainings and certifications to support her work with children and families throughout the Treasure Valley. Much of her work is done to support adoptive families as they navigate the difficult path of attachment after attachment wounds have been developed. Over the years she has also developed a passion for the creation of Trauma-Informed classrooms as a means of supporting kids who come from hard places. Janelle also owns a Yoga Studio in Nampa, Idaho.

Dr. Sheila Sturgeon Freitas, Ph.D.

With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Sheila Sturgeon Freitas is a licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in complex trauma and its associated symptoms. Her expertise is in helping those who were raised in the context of severe trauma and the resulting impact across the individual's development. She opened her own private practice in 2008 and

continues to work with children, teens, adults and families, many of which are adoptive families. In addition to her psychological experience, Dr. Sturgeon Freitas has served as the director of a private foster care agency, as a reunification and adoptions worker for a state-based child protection department and as Advisory Board Member for PATH Idaho, a therapeutic foster care agency. In 2017, Dr. Sturgeon Freitas was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk. She serves on the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory Council for Disability Rights Idaho.

Kathy Tidwell, LCSW

Kathy Tidwell has been a social worker in Idaho since 1989 working in both the child welfare and the mental health systems. She started Tidwell Social Work Services & Consulting Inc., a mental health clinic, in 2000. The clinic's focus is primarily working with people with histories of trauma, across cultures, and with limited English speakers.

Phyllis Vermilyea, MS Education, CSUF and BA Education, NNU

Phyllis works for Nampa School District as the District's Positive Behavior Initiative Coordinator. She has worked with all ages of students (PreK - 21) as well as instructed adults in higher education for undergraduate and masters programs. Phyllis enjoys learning and implementing that learning in order to create a system that is beneficial to all. Trauma-informed practices are a focus for Phyllis and she uses the 5 Protective Factors in her work whenever possible.

Lori Watsen, MSW, LCSW

Lori is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at Boise State University. She teaches Social Work practice and diversity courses. She has worked as an Oncology Social Worker at Saint Alphonsus Cancer Care Center, St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute, and at the Boise VA Medical Center. She is a registered Clinical Social Work Supervisor and facilitates workshops for students and social service professionals. At Saint Alphonsus, Lori was an Ethics Resource Staff member assisting staff on ethical dilemmas.

Holly Whitworth, BA

Holly has worked with families and children for 25 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in Family and Human Development and Infancy and Early Childhood Development. She is a program manager at Eastern Idaho Public Health where she works to provide evidence based home visiting services to families. Her work is focused on primarily helping families with preventative health care education, infant mental health, preventing child abuse and neglect, and facilitating opportunities for parent education. Holly is a trainer for Idaho STARS and is active across the state facilitating home visiting and programs that strengthen families.

Marian Woods, LCSW

Marian was raised in Caldwell, Idaho. She is a Certified Public Manager serving 26 years in the Idaho Division of Family and Community Services. She began her career as a line social worker in Child Welfare, and served in multiple Program Manager capacities until leaving the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in 2015. For several years she ran a clinical practice in Meridian, Idaho. She has been a Senior Director of the Idaho Casey Family Programs field office and Strategic Consulting since January 2016. She strives to inspire hope, and compel action to improve the well-being of youth, families and communities.

Jennifer Zielinski, BA

Jennifer Zielinski is the new Director with the Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition. Jennifer worked the last six years as the Program Coordinator Idaho Parents Unlimited. She and her husband became foster parents nine years ago to their now adopted 12-year-old daughter, Chelsea. As a product of neglect and a family history of mental illness, Chelsea has multiple mental health disorders. Jennifer's experiences in raising Chelsea, who is also a victim of sexual abuse, prompted her to educate others by providing trainings



and resources to foster and adoptive families, parents of at risk youth, professionals. Jennifer is raising awareness of human trafficking in Idaho as well as working alongside community members by providing resources to victims and survivors of human trafficking. She plans to open up the first safe house in Boise, Solace House, for minor female victims of sex trafficking.

Jane Zink, MA

Jane Zink is the Leadership Director the IdahoSTARS Project. She works locally and nationally to train trainers and staff, present at conferences and consult with agencies. Jane focuses on implementation of Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework in all family serving systems.

Closing Panel Biographies

MODERATOR: Beverly Haugen

I have lived in Boise for about 20 years now and I spent 9 years of that time as a single mom. The father of my children was an addict and in one big swoop I was a single parent of two little girls with no job, no education and no one here that I knew, besides my ex's family. I ended up interviewing at a small non-profit downtown, though I knew they wanted someone with more education than I had. As the lucky stars may have it the executive director saw something in me and took a chance on me. This organization would become my new family and has been for the last 18 years! Yep, 18 years later I am a director at one of the 4 locations in the Treasure Valley. I obtained a child development associates, an A.A. in early childhood and am now wrapping up my B.A. with certificates in habilitative services, leadership and human relations, and applied leadership. It has been a rough road full of failures and triumphs, but I wouldn't change it for anything. I now have a son who is 11 and an amazing life partner; the stars aligned just as they should.

Michelle Ybarra

I had my first child at 17 and my second at 19. I was living with my mother at the time and the kids' father was in and out and rarely ever present. I decided I needed to go out and make a life for myself and my children. I moved us to Boise to stay with my friend and got a full time job. After I had my 3rd son I was desperate for affordable child care. I'm so grateful I found Giraffe Laugh. They made it possible for us to have Christmas which we didn't think was possible. They've given me endless support with legal issues, helping me get in touch with and afford an attorney that I never would have attained without them. I've been able to purchase a home of our own. My life has taken a complete 180. Today I'm the most independent I've ever been and I'm more optimistic about our future than I have ever been.

Morgan Briggs, Idaho Falls

I am the oldest of 11 children from a split family. I have 3 stepbrothers, 3 half-brothers, and 4 half-sisters. I also suffer from depression, anxiety, and PTSD from situations that have happened in my life; it has made things difficult. Being from a large family and dealing with my own mental health issues has definitely shaped me as a person, sister, and most importantly a mother. I was 24 when I got pregnant with my twins, a boy and a girl (2.5 yrs.). I was a single mom from the start. Once I found out I was pregnant I started working more and putting money aside so I could provide for my kids. I ended up going into premature labor at 30 weeks. They were born at 30 weeks and 6 days and while they were in the NICU I continued to work because I wanted to have time with my kids after they were released. When I wasn't working I was at the hospital. When my children were about 6 months old I got laid off from my job. After that I decided that I needed to go to college so I could create a better life for my kids. I have been going to school ever since.

Amberly Bunch, Coeur d'Alene

I am a single mother in recovery. I have a 2 year old daughter who is my world. During my pregnancy I had a prison sentence hanging over my head due to choices I had made before becoming pregnant. From the moment she was born I realized every single choice I made will have a direct effect on her and I made the decision that I would do everything in my power to protect her. Becoming a mother saved my life.

A Special Thank You to:



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