PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Nancy K. Young, Executive Director, Children and Family Futures (Irvine, CA)

Dr. Young is the Executive Director of Children and Family Futures, a California-based research and policy institute, founded in 1996, whose purpose is to improve outcomes for children and families affected by substance use disorders. Dr. Young also serves as the Director of the Federally-funded National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, which provides technical assistance to States in support of their efforts to enhance cross-system collaboration for the benefit of affected families, and develops and disseminates information on advances in policy and practice in this field. She has authored many policy analyses and evaluation reports on substance abuse, welfare, and child welfare for several organizations and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Dr. Young also currently serves as the Project Director for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families’ Regional Partnership Grant (RPG) support contract. Since 2009, she has served as Project Director to the Family Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program funded through the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Dependency Prevention. Dr. Young and her husband, Sid Gardner, are adoptive parents of 20 and 21 year old children who embody the practice and policy issues about which they write.

The Honorable Karen Adam, Judge – Division 13, Arizona Superior Court in Pima County (Tuscon, AZ)

Judge Adam has been on the bench since 1981, and was appointed as a Superior Court Judge in 2010. She has served as a city court magistrate and as a Superior Court Commissioner on the juvenile, probate, and family law benches. She is currently the Presiding Judge at Pima County (Tuscon, AZ) Juvenile Court. Judge Adam is a member of the Self-Represented Litigants Network, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ), and the National and Arizona Chapters of the Association of Family Conciliation Courts. Judge Adam is the dean of the Judicial College since 2007. She is a frequent lecturer on juvenile and family law topics, including self-represented litigation issues.

Dr. Ira Chasnoff, Pediatrician & President, Children’s Research Triangle (Chicago, IL)

Dr. Chasnoff is an award-winning author, researcher and lecturer, President of the Children’s Research Triangle and a Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He is one of the nation’s leading researchers in the field of child development and the effects of maternal alcohol and drug use on the newborn infant and child. His research projects include a study of the long-term cognitive, behavioral and educational
developmental effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, cocaine, and other drugs; strategies for screening pregnant women for substance use; the effects on birth outcome of prenatal treatment and counseling for pregnant drug abusers; the effectiveness of both outpatient and residential treatment programs for pregnant drug abusers; and innovative treatment approaches for children affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol or illicit drugs. Dr. Chasnoff and the team at CRT opened and operated a laboratory preschool classroom to develop specific interventions for children prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs and developed a model Head Start Family Service Center for children and their families at risk from drugs and the drug-seeking environment. In addition, Dr. Chasnoff and the CRT research team were one of five national sites conducting research into the integration of behavioral health interventions into primary health care services for high-risk children and their families, and through this project they studied the impact of concurrent planning on permanency placement for children in the foster care system. Since 2002, Children's Research Triangle under Dr. Chasnoff’s leadership has been working with the Centers for Disease Control as one of four national centers for research into innovative treatment for children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Karen Christian, Graduate, District of Columbia Family Treatment Court (Washington, DC)

Ms. Christian is a 2005 graduate of the DC Superior Court Family Treatment Court Program. Upon graduation, she secured an office manager position at Christ Lutheran Church, Washington, DC, and restored ties with her family. She attended Morgan State University, The University of the District of Columbia, and was enlisted in the U.S. Army from 1988 - 1994. Two years ago, Ms. Christian was asked to join the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gil Kerlikowske for lunch at the White House to talk about herself and her future goals. More recently, she had the pleasure of meeting the Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, at the Capitol Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Ms. Christian is a positive role model in the community, always ready to help out in any way needed when called upon by the court or the youth in the Columbia Heights community she grew up in. “Giving these kids the same opportunity that was given to me, is my goal. Sharing with them the life-saving information needed to seek help for their addictions, is the best way ever to say, ‘Thank you!’ to the court for the gift I was given; freedom from the bondage of addiction.” In 2011, Ms. Christian began work organizing an alumni organization for former Family Treatment Court participants. She saw a need to provide the women with ongoing support to fight the disease of addiction. It is her hope that the organization will connect women to community and faith based organizations (when needed), offer healthy social activities for members and their children, and raise funds to be used when members find themselves struggling to make ends meet. Ms. Christian currently lives in S.E. Washington, with her 12-year old-daughter, and continues to remain a strong advocate and supporter of the Family Court Treatment Program.

Dr. Norma Finkelstein, Executive Director, Institute for Health and Recovery (Cambridge, MA)

Dr. Finkelstein is the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Health and Recovery, a Massachusetts Statewide services, policy, program development, training, and research organization. Prior to this, Dr. Finkelstein was the founder and Executive Director of the
Women’s Alcoholism Program/CASPAR, Inc., a comprehensive prevention, education, and treatment program for chemically dependent women and their families. She received her MSW from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. from the Florence Heller School, Brandeis University. Over the last 40 years, Dr. Finkelstein’s work has focused on substance use prevention and treatment, with specific emphasis on women, children and families; pregnancy; co-occurring disorders, including integrated care for women with substance use disorders, mental illness and histories of violence; trauma informed services; services for youth and young adults; tobacco education and cessation; and, family centered care. Dr. Finkelstein served as Chair of the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment’s Women’s Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP), as a member of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Women’s Advisory Board, and as a consensus panel member for the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention’s FASD (TIP). She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Substance Abuse Subcommittee of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Association for Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts, as well as a number of other community and professional boards. She has been the principal investigator and manager of numerous health, mental health and maternal and child health grants and contracts.

Nancy Hamilton, President and CEO, Operation PAR, Inc. (Pinellas Park, FL)

Ms. Hamilton has spent the past 37 years in the behavioral health care field with a concentration in substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders. Her experience includes many years as a therapist, director and ultimately the President and CEO of a very large comprehensive behavioral health agency with over 500 employees who work in over 40 programs in six counties in the western mid- coast of Florida. For over twenty years she has been the agency connection to research, especially research done with pregnant, post-partum and parenting women and adolescents and their families. She was also the primary author of a manual for family intervention (Family Support Network) testing in the Cannabis Youth Treatment Study (funded by SAMHSA). That manualized therapy is used in many agencies and is listed in the NREPP list of programs. She has serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida NODE Alliance through the University of Miami and the Executive Committee of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network, and she has been on the NIDA Clinical Trials Network Steering Committee for over 12 years.

Mary Kay Hudson, Director of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center (Indianapolis, IN)

Ms. Hudson is the Director of Court Services at the Indiana Judicial Center, an agency of the Indiana Supreme Court. Her responsibilities include implementing Statewide judicial initiatives in probation in problem-solving court legislation, rules, policy, education and certification. Ms. Hudson staffs the Judicial Conference of Indiana Problem-Solving Courts Committee, is a governor’s appointee to the Commission for a Drug Free Indiana, serves as co-chair of the Consortium of State Drug Court Coordinators and is a board member of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. She currently serves as a member of national work groups related to the development of standards and guidelines for adult drug courts, reentry courts and family dependency treatment courts. Ms. Hudson holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and a master’s degree in social work and is a licensed social worker.
Kate Maus, CAPTA Director, Philadelphia Department of Human Services (Philadelphia, PA)

Ms. Maus has worked for the past 35 years in the maternal and child health and child welfare fields, joining the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) in 2010 as the Director of the CAPTA program. The DHS program is assessment and referral service for substance-exposed newborns developed in fulfillment of requirements under Federal and State CAPTA laws. From 2004 to 2010, Ms. Maus was the Director of the Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health (MCFH) at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) where her work included development of community-based systems of care for children with special health care needs and the adoption of the Life Course Perspective framework for public health strategies to reduce infant mortality. Ms. Maus is also an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Section on Public Health of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. She was the Local Health Department Co-Chair of the Statewide PA Perinatal Partnership from 2008 to 2010. She is a past chairperson of the Philadelphia Division of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She was recognized as the PA NASW Social Worker of the Year in 1975 based on her activities in support of health care system reform during the Clinton administration.

Andre McCray, Graduate, Baltimore Family Recovery Program (Baltimore, MD)

Mr. McCray graduated from the Baltimore Family Recovery Program in 2010 and has been sober for four and a half years. During his participation in the Baltimore Family Recovery Program, Mr. McCray was reunified with his daughter, and shortly after graduating, he welcomed a second clean and sober baby into his family. He has been recognized as the #1 tech for a Baltimore pest control company where he has been working for the past three years. Currently, Mr. McCray lives drug- and alcohol-free in a townhouse with his wife and two children.

Robert Morrison, Executive Director, NASADAD (Washington, DC)

Mr. Morrison was appointed Executive Director of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in December 2009 after serving the Association in a number of roles: Public Policy Associate (1997-1999); Director of Public Policy (2001-2005); Deputy Executive Director (2006 – 2007) and Interim Executive Director (2008 – 2009). In addition, Mr. Morrison was Associate Director of Government Relations at Smith, Bucklin and Associates from 1999 to 2001, where he directed government affairs programs for a variety of health care clients, including the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). Mr. Morrison began his career working for U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (NJ) for almost four years, spending his last two years as a Legislative Aide. He graduated from Drew University in New Jersey with a B.A. and in Political Science and completed graduate work in Government at the Johns Hopkins University.

Barbara Rachelson, Executive Director, LUND (Burlington, VT)

Ms. Rachelson has been Executive Director of Lund since 1997 and has 30 years experience working in nonprofit organizations including: Executive Director, Michigan Network of
Runaway and Youth Services; Director of Outpatient Services, The Counseling Service of Addison County; Program Development Director, Spectrum Youth Services; and Program Director, DTA (runaway/homeless youth shelter in Detroit). She was a legislative aide for the Michigan House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. Ms. Rachelson was elected in November 2012 and took office in January 2013 to the Vermont House of Representatives, (a part-time citizen legislature) representing Chittenden 6-6, part of the city of Burlington. She serves on the House Education Committee. Ms. Rachelson has an MSW degree from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University.

Michele Rosenberg, Chief of Staff, D.C. Child and Family Services Agency (Washington, DC)

Ms. Rosenberg has spent 14 years in Washington, D.C.’s public child welfare agency. She started her social work career there in 1994 and rose through ranks to become supervisor and program manager for the agency’s family preservation program, where she managed a staff of 85 providing intensive services to in-home cases. In 2002, shortly after CFSA became a cabinet-level agency, she was promoted to administrator of the new CFSA Office of Training and Staff Development to establish a robust training function in support of child welfare reform. Using a combination of in-house and contracted services, she built the agency’s first comprehensive program of pre-service and in-service training for direct-services social workers, supervisors, and managers and of in-service training for CFSA foster parents. From 2008 through 2011, Ms. Rosenberg broadened her experience at the State and national levels: serving first as Director of the Office of Research Partnerships for the Children and Family Research Center in Illinois and at JBS International, where she directed development training to help States prepare for the Federal Child and Family Service Reviews and Title IV-E reviews. Ms. Rosenberg returned to CFSA as the Chief of Staff in February 2012.

Julie Taylor, Director, Department of Family Services, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Pendleton, OR)

Ms. Taylor is the great-granddaughter of the late Chief Clarence Burke, granddaughter of the late Ellen Burke Cowapoo and William “Bill” Johnson, and daughter of Marlene Taylor. She is the mother of two children—Jacqueline and Sidney Jones—and grandmother of one—Brooklyn Jones. While working toward her MSW, she had the opportunity for a year-long internship with the National Indian Child Welfare Association and was also employed with the Northwest Indian Health Board—both located in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Taylor has served on the CTUIR Board of Trustees (BOT) 1997–1999 and 2010–2011. Recently, she resigned from her position as a member of the BOT to serve as the director of the CTUIR Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). As the DCFS director, she serves in many capacities for the CTUIR on local, State, and Federal issues. She has served on several committees and commissions including, chair of the CTUIR Education Committee, chair of CTUIR TERO, co-chair of ATNI Youth Committee, Umatilla County Commission on Children and Families, Head Start Policy Council, and Nixyáawii Community School Board Charter School.