

# CONFERENCE ON CHILD WELFARE AND THE COURTS

September 25-27, 2019

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells



**Working Together  
to Effectuate Timely  
Permanence**

Registration Deadline: July 14, 2019

**Workshop Practice Areas:**

**Judicial**

**Legal**

**Child Welfare**

**All Disciplines**

<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/conferences-2/child-welfare-and-the-courts/>

# Conference Information

The 2019 Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts will provide a forum for state, county, and tribal leaders to learn innovative practices to achieve timely permanence for children.

<b>Wednesday, September 25</b>	9:00 am - 4:15 pm
<b>Thursday, September 26</b>	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
<b>Friday, September 27</b>	8:30 am - 12:00 pm

## Registration

Registration is required in advance and is only available online at: <https://wcwpds.wisc.edu/conferences-2/child-welfare-and-the-courts>

There is no registration fee. Please indicate any dietary restrictions or special accommodations when you register. Registration closes on [July 14, 2019](#).

Participants are encouraged to attend as a multidisciplinary team, which would include: judicial officers, attorneys (prosecutors, adversary counsel, guardians ad litem), and child welfare directors and supervisors. Each county and tribe will have time to develop strategies to implement in their community.

## Registration Confirmation

While every attempt will be made to accommodate all persons interested in attending the conference, space is limited. Priority will be given to judicial officers, county and tribal agency management, and attorneys involved in child welfare and youth justice. If registrations exceed available space, a wait list will be maintained.

Attendees will receive a confirmation email by July 31, 2019.

## Hotel Reservations

Please wait to make your hotel reservations until you receive a confirmation email. The confirmation email will contain the room block information for the Kalahari Resort. Attendees are responsible for making overnight hotel accommodations.

Note for circuit court judges and commissioners:  
The Children's Court Improvement Program (CCIP) will provide hotel and travel reimbursement in accordance with state travel guidelines.

## Kalahari Resort

1305 Kalahari Drive  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

## Continuing Education Credits

Judicial Education credits, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits, and Continuing Education Hours (CEH) will be offered to attendees.

## Conference Materials

Conference materials will be provided to attendees in electronic format only. These materials will be made available prior to the conference. Participants wishing to have hard copies should print the materials prior to arrival.

## Questions

Please contact Kristen Wetzel at [kristen.wetzel@wicourts.gov](mailto:kristen.wetzel@wicourts.gov) or (608) 264-6905 or Bridget Bauman at [bridget.bauman@wicourts.gov](mailto:bridget.bauman@wicourts.gov) or (608) 267-1958 with any questions.



# Agenda at a Glance

## Wednesday, September 25

7:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast (provided)
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 am - 10:00 am	The Power of One Caring Adult
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Permanence and Engagement: Giving Youth and Families a Voice
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm	Workshop A
1:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Helping Families from the Bench: A Judicial Engagement Approach
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Setting the Stage for Team Meetings
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	Team Meetings
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Networking Reception (optional)

## Thursday, September 26

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast (provided)
8:30 am - 8:45 am	Announcements
8:45 am - 10:00 am	Promising Ways to Serve Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am - 11:30 am	Workshop B
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	Promoting Stability and Permanency for Children through Parent Partners
1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare Proceedings
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Workshop C
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Team Meetings

## Friday, September 27

7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast (provided)
8:30 am - 8:45 am	Announcements
8:45 am - 9:45 am	Out-of-Home Care Continuum and Family First Prevention Services Act
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Legislative Updates
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:45 am	Human Behavior Change: How to Handle Just About Anyone
11:45 am - 12:00 pm	Closing Remarks

# Wednesday, September 25

7:30 am - 9:00 am **Registration and Breakfast (provided)**

9:00 am - 9:15 am **Welcome and Introductions**  
*Hon. Scott Needham & Melissa Blom*

9:15 am - 10:00 am **The Power of One Caring Adult**  
*Josh Shipp*  
Josh Shipp spent time in foster care and went on to become a youth advocate. He shares his own experience to help adults understand children and youth, as well as children and youth understand themselves. Shipp offers up practice strategies, laugh-out-loud humor, and heartfelt inspiration to drive change in teens and adults.

10:00 am - 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am - 11:30 am **Permanence and Engagement: Giving Youth and Families a Voice**  
*Sue Badeau*  
Meaningful, effective engagement of youth, parents, caregivers, and other significant people is the key to successful permanency outcomes. Gain valuable insights on how to improve engagement opportunities and permanency outcomes by using a team approach.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Lunch (provided)**

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm **Workshop A**

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm **Break**

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm **Helping Families from the Bench: A Judicial Engagement Approach**  
*Hon. Doug Johnson*  
Engaging judges and fostering judicial leadership is key to enhancing system-wide change. Learn how innovative approaches can lead to better outcomes for children and families.

3:00 pm - 3:15 pm **Setting the Stage for Team Meetings**

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm **Team Meetings**

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm **Networking Reception (optional)**

## Workshop Session A: September 25 at 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

### Judicial

#### **A-1: Combatting Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Courtroom**

*Hon. Ramona Gonzalez*

A systemic and comprehensive approach is critical to eliminating disparities. This workshop explores barriers to equitable and effective judicial practice and highlights skills and strategies that can be employed to improve cultural responsiveness.

### Judicial

#### **A-2: Termination of Parental Rights Nuts and Bolts**

*Hon. Christopher Foley*

Ensuring the rights of parents and upholding the best interest of the child requires all parties to be well informed of the procedures in TPR cases. This workshop will highlight the basic procedures, identify the stages of a TPR case and discuss some of the significant issues that can arise.

### Legal

#### **A-3: Representing Parents with Intellectual Disabilities**

*Robyn Powell*

Child removal rates from parents with intellectual disabilities are as high as 80%. This workshop will provide attorneys with strategies and solutions for representing parents with intellectual disabilities involved with the child welfare system. (This workshop qualifies for CLE Ethics credits).

### Legal

#### **A-4: Child Safety Decision-Making**

*Lisa Roberts & Comm'r. Sara Scullen*

This session is intended to provide attorneys with an understanding of the child safety decision-making framework. Learn how to use a common language between social workers, courts, and attorneys around the fundamentals of safety assessments and safety planning.

### Child Welfare

#### **A-5: What a Successful Permanency Plan Looks Like**

*Sue Badeau*

Permanency is vital for healthy development and well-being in all youth and children. Learn techniques to reach the ultimate goal of permanency planning, to ensure a safe environment with lifelong connections that will support the child into adulthood.

### Child Welfare

#### **A-6: Relative Resources and Foster Parent Engagement**

*Anne Novotny*

A respectable relationship between the biological family and the foster family is vital to the well-being of a child in foster care. This session will discuss foster parent engagement, asking why it needs to occur and how it can happen.

### All Disciplines

#### **A-7: Best Interest and Educational Stability for Children in Out-of-Home Care**

*Kyle Peadar & Emily Coddington*

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires a "best interest determination" regarding whether a child should remain in his/her school of origin or transfer to a school in the resident district. This workshop will give guidance about the factors used in determining a child's best interest.

# Thursday, September 26

7:30 am - 8:30 am **Breakfast (provided)**

8:30 am - 8:45 am **Announcements**

8:45 am - 10:00 am **Promising Ways to Serve Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders**  
*Sid Gardner*

No agency or single system can serve the various complex needs of families affected by Substance Use Disorders (SUDs). The new Plans of Safe Care provide an arena where agencies and professionals can come together to work with and for families. This presentation will examine the Five Do's and Don'ts in working with children and parents in families affected by SUDs.

10:00 am - 10:15 am **Break**

10:15 am - 11:30 am **Workshop B**

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Lunch (provided)**

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm **Promoting Stability and Permanency for Children through Parent Partners**  
*Sara Persons and Sandy Lint*

The Iowa Parent Partner Approach is designed to provide better permanency outcomes. A trained parent mentor who was previously involved in the child welfare system is paired with a parent who is currently involved in a child welfare proceeding. The presenters will demonstrate how the advice, support, and encouragement provided to the parents advances collaboration and engagement in services.

1:15 pm - 2:00 pm **Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare Proceedings**  
*Kelly Beck*

A healthy attachment with both parents is important for children. Intentional efforts to engage fathers and facilitate healthy attachment is vital to a child's well-being. Learn strategies to make fathers feel welcomed and valued.

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm **Workshop C**

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm **Break**

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm **Team Meetings**

## Workshop Session B: September 26 at 10:15 am - 11:30 am

### Judicial

#### **B-1: Collaborative Court Model**

*Hon. Doug Johnson*

Learn how changing some of the procedures in a courtroom, such as holding a facilitated pre-hearing conference, can address the challenges and service needs in a collaborative manner and achieve permanence for the child.

### Judicial

#### **B-2: Implementing a Culturally Sensitive Court**

*Hon. Sally Tarnowski, Bree Bussey & Bobbi Jo Potter*

The dedicated Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) court embraced several innovations making the court process less stressful for participants. Learn how a collaborative, culturally sensitive team approach can improve outcomes for children and families.

### Legal

#### **B-3: Mediation for Permanency Planning**

*Megan DeVore & Michael Finn*

Learn how to use mediation in child protection cases to allow parents, attorneys, social workers and others to ask questions, air concerns and ultimately craft a resolution to the family's unique problems.

### Legal

#### **B-4: Effective Representation of Parents in Child Welfare Proceedings**

*Michele Cortese & Rick Barinbaum*

Competent, quality legal representation for parents in child welfare proceedings is one of the most important supports. Learn practical tips to effectively represent parents during every step of the legal process.

### Child Welfare

#### **B-5: Preparing Social Workers for Court**

*Libby Mueller*

By having thorough knowledge of the legal process and working in collaboration with the courts, social workers are more effective in working towards the permanency and well-being of children. This session will examine how social workers can prepare to testify and convey information to the court.

### Child Welfare

#### **B-6: Benefits of Using a Youth Risk and Needs Assessment**

*Dr. Gina Vincent*

This workshop will provide the research and explain the benefits of using the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), a tool that will be implemented throughout the state, to identify a youth's risk levels and need for case planning matching services.

### All Disciplines

#### **B-7: Moving from Trauma-Informed Care to Healing Centered Engagement**

*Dr. Farmia Pour-Khorshid & Shawn Ginwright*

Learn from the insights of the emerging field of positive psychology to look beyond only "treating" symptoms (trauma) and focus on developing case plans that enhance the conditions that contribute to well-being and resilience.

## Workshop Session C: September 26 at 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

### Judicial

#### **C-1: Child Welfare Specialty Courts in Wisconsin**

*Hon. Mary Triggiano, Hon. Joe Donald, Hon. David Reddy & Hon. Michael Bitney*

Wisconsin has implemented several specialty courts, including Family Drug Treatment Court, Healthy Infant Court, and Road to Reunification. Learn from innovations developed in these courts to create better paths to permanency using evidence-based procedures and trauma-informed decisions.

### Judicial

#### **C-2: Tailored and Effective Court Orders**

*Hon. Alan Bates (ret.), Hon. Todd Ziegler & Prof. Cecelia Klingele*

Tailored court orders design the conditions for return based on specific circumstances and behaviors that must occur for the child to be returned home safely. Learn how to truly individualize the court orders using the input of the youth and families to achieve better outcomes.

### Legal

#### **C-3: Permanency through the Lens of the Indian Child Welfare Act**

*Michelle Gordon & Nicole Homer*

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is the gold standard for child welfare practice. Guardianship is a permanency option for an Indian child when the tribe does not agree with termination of parental rights (TPR). Learn what is required for voluntary placements and TPRs.

### Legal

#### **C-4: Who's the Father?**

*Eve Dorman & Michelle Wagner*

Have you ever heard: 'but what if I am NOT really the dad?' Do you know the difference between DNA, marital presumption, and a voluntary paternity agreement? Learn the basic implications of paternity establishment in CHIPS, TPR, and Family cases.

### Child Welfare

#### **C-5: Reverse Reunification Planning**

*Cindy Hamilton*

Reverse Reunification Planning has us look at the end of the allotted time frame and plan backward to assure goals are met. Caseworkers write the proposed conditions for return in a sequence of priorities, so parents understand the steps and see their progress toward reunification.

### Child Welfare

#### **C-6: The Importance of Family Finding**

*Kelly Beck*

Family Finding utilizes intensive search and engagement techniques to identify family members and other adults to increase the youth's sense of family connectedness. Learn the basics of this six-step process being implemented across the state of Wisconsin.

### All Disciplines

#### **C-7: Engaging Families with Mental Health Issues**

*Dr. Greg Lester*

Many times clients seem "difficult" when they actually have a clinical condition known as a personality disorder. This session will discuss what a personality disorder is, how it works, and why dealing with people with personality disorders requires a different way of engaging.

# Friday, September 27

7:30 am - 8:30 am **Breakfast (provided)**

8:30 am - 8:45 am **Announcements**

8:45 am - 9:45 am **Out-of-Home Care Continuum and Family First Prevention Services Act**  
*Bryan Samuels*

The Family First Prevention Services Act reflects an evolving understanding that federal resources should not be prioritized for placing and maintaining foster care placements, but rather in preserving families and preventing the need for placements in the first place. This session will discuss the federal landscape of child welfare financing, highlighting recent developments in the law, providing differing perspectives on these changes, and promoting the need and opportunity for continued efforts at reform.

9:45 am - 10:00 am **Legislative Updates**

10:00 am - 10:30 am **Break**

10:30 am - 11:45 am **Human Behavior Change: How to Handle Just About Anyone**  
*Dr. Greg Lester*

Behavior change is challenging but neuroscience can provide insights about how, when, and why behavior change efforts succeed and fail. Learn why trying to deal with people based on their "personality" or a "category" doesn't work, and the flexible and adaptive approach that is effective with people.

11:45 am - 12:00 pm **Closing Remarks**  
*Hon. Scott Needham & Melissa Blom*

