

Adams, Natalie, MSE, LSW, Senior Manager, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Natalie's child welfare career spans more than 22 years, having served as a case manager, facilitator, trainer, and program manager. She has worked at Fairfield and Franklin County Children Services, the Institute for Human Services, and most recently, as a Senior Manager of Training for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Natalie's passion is grounded in the belief that children deserve to grow up in a safe, healthy, and permanent family and carries that value with her, applying it in every aspect of her work. Throughout her career, Natalie has trained 500+ new child welfare case managers, provided professional coaching for new child welfare supervisors, and served on several statewide committees to ensure continuous quality improvement in child welfare. As a Senior Manager of Training for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, Natalie provides training for new adoption recruiters and supervisors on the Foundation's evidence-based child-focused recruitment model and develops ongoing continuing education on the importance of permanency for all youth in North America's foster care system. Natalie holds a Bachelor's in Social Work and a Master's of Education. She is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio.

Bain, (Ret) Captain Shawn, Street Smart Ohio

Shawn Bain began his career in law enforcement in 1985. Shawn has been assigned many different areas within law enforcement including the Jail division, Patrol division, Canine Unit, SWAT, and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducting vice and narcotics investigations. Shawn has supervised in all of these areas. He is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Shawn is also a graduate of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Drug Unit Commanders Academy. He has attended numerous other schools and seminars across the country. Shawn has been assigned to numerous task forces assisting the FBI, DEA, and US Marshall's Office. Shawn is a member of the International Narcotics Interdiction Association (INIA), the Narcotic's Association Regional Coordinating Officers (NARCO), and the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA). He is a state certified instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.

Beal, Sarah J., PhD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Scientific Director, Comprehensive Health Evaluations for Cincinnati's Kids (CHECK) Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Dr. Sarah Beal is a researcher and scholar whose expertise lies in the intersection of healthcare service delivery and child welfare involvement. Through her NIH-funded studies, Dr. Beal has investigated diverse aspects of health needs and service use, including exploring the social determinants and disparities associated with healthcare use to advance our understanding of risk factors, comorbidities, and effective interventions for health promotion.

Billman, Chelsey, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children

Chelsey Billman has worked with the ODJFS Children Services Training and Development Team for the past two years. Prior to that, she worked for Erie County Children Services as an ongoing worker for two years and then served as their foster care licensing specialist for the 4.5 years preceding her employment with ODJFS. In her role with Erie County, she was an adoption assessor. She recruited and licensed foster homes, trained pre-service classes, completed adoptions, completed Kinship home studies, and did many after-hours on-call rotations, to name a few things. Prior to that, she was a teacher in Ohio for five years for special needs students with Autism. Chelsey has also worked for children services in Florida and taught for several years in higher education.

Bozian, Robin A., J.D., Retired Project Managing Attorney Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

Robin Bozian retired after 44 years working with Southeastern Ohio Legal Services in 2021. As the project manager with SEOLS, she supervised intake, led the SEOLS VOCA program, and directed the federal Legal Assistance to Victims grant through the Office of Violence Against Women, which placed attorneys throughout Southeastern Ohio providing advice and representation to domestic violence victims. Robin previously served on the Ohio Supreme Court Domestic Violence Advisory Committee and the Ohio Center for the Prevention of Family Violence. Robin has extensive experience in the area of domestic violence in addition to her general poverty law practice. She currently assists Ohio Domestic Violence Network with training, legislative and policy issues.

Brock, Aileen, Attorney at Law, CAP Coordinator, Disability Rights Ohio

Aileen Brock is currently an attorney at Disability Rights Ohio, practicing in the areas of special education and employment. In her day-to-day education work, Aileen advises and advocates for individuals with disabilities and their families on all special education matters, including identification/eligibility, the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE), discipline, services for transition-age youth, and dispute resolution. Aileen is also the current Client Assistance Program (CAP) Coordinator at Disability Rights Ohio. In that role, she provides information, advocacy and legal representation to clients facing issues with their vocational rehabilitation (VR) services, and supervision of program staff.

Buffie, Sarah, MSW, LSW, Founder/Director, Soul Bird Consulting

Sarah Buffie, MSW, LSW, founding director of Soul Bird Consulting, believes that nothing has the power to heal like supportive relationships. Specializing in trauma-responsive care, she helps organizations and individuals disrupt current models of thinking by building empathy and understanding around the effects of trauma. Sarah received her Master's in Social Work from Northern Kentucky University with a self-study focus in Polyvagal Theory, positive psychology, and trauma-sensitive mindfulness practices. With years working closely in her Cincinnati community through her Americorps service as well as abroad with her Peace Corps service in Namibia, Africa, Sarah brings a unique community-building lens to the work.

Darrington, China, Summit Recovery Hub RCO, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, Thrive Peer Recovery Services

China Darrington is a person in long-term recovery from many things: substance use disorders, mental health challenges, complex trauma and human trafficking. She came into recovery as a pregnant/parenting woman and is passionate about developing programs and systems that keep parents strong, kids safe, and families connected. She's been involved for the past 15 years in peer recovery support services and has developed a strong advocacy voice for recovery-oriented systems of care. She is the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for Thrive Peer Recovery Services and works at the local, state, and federal level to raise awareness, fight stigma, increase understanding, reduce harm, and change systems so that it's easier to find the support and access the services and resources needed to improve lives and thrive in recovery.

Day, Melissa, Advocate, Disability Rights Ohio

Melissa Day has been an Advocate at Disability Rights Ohio's P&A/Client Assistance Program (CAP) since 2013. Melissa works with transition-age youth and adults to help them receive services and supports through Ohio's Vocational Rehabilitation agency provided under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and understand their rights under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a former recipient of VR services and former employee of Ohio's VR agency, she provides CAP advocacy from a unique perspective. Prior to joining Disability Rights Ohio, Melissa traveled the state of Ohio in 2003 spreading disability

awareness as Ms. Wheelchair America Ohio and successfully lobbied for the implementation of Ohio's Medicaid buy in for Workers with Disability program. In 2009, she obtained her law degree from Capital University Law School.

Everett, John D. Esq., Attorney at Law

John D. Everett is an attorney in the City of Kettering, having worked as a prosecutor for 20 years. He is a trainer for Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, a frequent speaker for Ohio CASA, and has developed training programs for the Ohio Supreme Court and various local agencies. He is on the editorial board of the ABA Children's Rights publication and a member of several juvenile justice committees. Mr. Everett earned a B.A. in history from Kenyon College and a J.D. from University of Dayton School of Law. He is married and has two children.

Everhart, Kevin, Area Manager for Central and Southern Ohio, American Court and Drug Testing Services (Averhealth)

Kevin Everhart is a retired Narcotics Detective of over 25 years. Mr. Everhart has gained a vast knowledge of street drugs and trends while working undercover, and later as the Assistant Task Force Commander of a Major Crimes Task Force. He's spent the past 15 years in management for treatment providers, and is a Certified Breath Alcohol Instrument Instructor and a Certified Instructor for Federal DOT Urine Collections. Mr. Everhart has testified as an Expert Witness in numerous Child Protective Services, Probation and Drug Court cases along with Domestic Relation cases on the interpretation of drug test results throughout the state of Ohio. He carries a vast knowledge in the field of narcotics, drug testing and laboratory results interpretation.

Feasby, Caitlin, Statewide Coordinator, Ohio Infant-Toddler Court Team, Groundwork Ohio

Caitlin is the Statewide Coordinator of the Safe Babies approach to infant-toddler court teams in Ohio, leading state-level efforts to advance child welfare practice to enhance the health and well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families. Caitlin has an extensive background in healthcare and mental health, with particular interest in the ways trauma associated with grief and loss impact childhood development. She worked as a music therapist and bereavement coordinator in hospice care on both geriatric and pediatric care teams while continuing to focus on improving educational and mental health outcomes for children and families after loss. She translated her nearly 15 years' experience with direct practice into the development and oversight of bereavement programming throughout the country. Caitlin earned her bachelor's degree in music therapy from Ohio University and her master's degree in social work from Cleveland State University. She is a licensed social worker and board-certified music therapist.

Folsom, Jessica, M.Ed., CRC, WIP, Program Administrator, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Jessica Folsom is a Program Administrator for Transition Youth and Pre-Employment Transition Services at Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). She has worked in various positions at OOD for over ten years including as a Rehabilitation Program Specialist and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Prior to working at OOD, she was a vocational rehabilitation case manager and counselor and worked specifically with injured workers and veterans. She currently maintains her Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Certification through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and Work Incentives Practitioner Certification through Cornell University.

Gilbert, Alexandra, MSW, LISW-S, Alexandra Gilbert LISW LLC, Northwoods Clinic

Alexandra Gilbert is a Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) who specializes in working with children, adults, and families. She started her career at Ohio CASA where she focused on working with the Youth Advisory Board. She then completed a master's degree in Social Work from The Ohio State University, focused on Child Welfare. She spent seven years as an Outpatient Therapist at Nationwide Children's Hospital, focusing on neurodevelopmental disorders, trauma, and family therapy. She transitioned into private practice, continuing with the same specialties.

Gill, Elizabeth, Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division and Juvenile Branch

Judge Beth Gill had 18 years of litigation experience focused exclusively on family law matters prior to joining the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court bench in January 2007. Judge Gill is a past recipient of the Central Ohio Association for Justice's 2011 George E. Tyack Award for Judicial Excellence, the 2013 Henry Toll Fellow Counsel for State Governments, the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges' 2017 Distinguished Service Award, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Ohio Branch's 2018 William S. Friedman Professionalism Award, and The Moritz College of Law's 2021 William K. Thomas Distinguished Jurist Award. Her volunteer efforts include past participation in the Big Brothers & Big Sisters mentoring programs, Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program, two terms as a board member for Alvis House, and volunteering with the Dominican Learning Center (DLC) helping improve literacy for adults. Judge Gill received her undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1984 and her J.D. from Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University in 1987.

Gordon-Canlas, Liz, Managing Director, Zora's House

Liz Gordon-Canlas is the Managing Director for Zora's House, a co-working and community space with a mission is to create safe spaces for women of color. She serves on the advisory board for the Commission on Black Girls, was a 2023 judge for the Youth of the Year for Boys and Girls Clubs of Ohio, and has called Columbus, OH "home" since birth. Prior to arriving at Zora's House, Liz spent many years in the higher education sector, working in student life programs at Columbus College of Art & Design, The Ohio State University, Miami University, and Ohio University. She earned her B.A. from Wright State University and M.Ed. from Ohio University. Liz was adopted from foster care at the age of three with her identical twin sister, Catherine. She's been advocating for adoption reform, uplifting the voices of adult adoptees—especially transracial adoptees of colors— and celebrating every unsealed adoption record for the past 20 years.

Greiner, Mary V., MD, MS, Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Director, Comprehensive Health Evaluations for Cincinnati's Kids (CHECK) Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Mary V. Greiner, MD, MS, is a child abuse pediatrician and the medical director of the Comprehensive Health Evaluations for Cincinnati's Kids (CHECK) Foster Care Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. Greiner has used her work with the CHECK Center to inform the study of issues related to health disparities for youth in foster care, including piloting and studying interventions to address identified needs for youth in foster care, substance use prevention, and the role of data sharing between healthcare systems and child welfare systems to improve health outcomes.

Harris, Glenn A., Director of Prevention, Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) / Ohio Men's Action Network (OHMAN)

Glenn A. Harris (He, Him, His), is the Director of Prevention and is responsible for gender-based violence prevention, training, and support. His work is geared toward creating and supporting communities where

all people can live free of violence within their relationships, and establish healthier definitions of masculinity and healthier gender norms to reduce all forms of violence. Glenn's primary role is engaging men throughout Ohio and leads the Ohio Men's Action Network (OHMAN). In this role, Glenn has created the 'Know Better. Do Better. Be Better.' Ohio Healthy Masculinity Campaign, and facilitates various 'Courageous Conversations' with Men and Boys across Ohio.

Harvan, Sarah, MA, BA, Training Coordinator, CASA/GAL Program of Summit County

Sarah Harvan is a graduate of the University of Akron with a Bachelor and Master of Arts Degree in Family and Child Development. Upon graduation she began teaching undergraduate courses in Family and Child Development as an adjunct professor at The University of Akron. She began volunteering with the CASA/GAL Program of Summit County in 2010, and joined the staff in 2012. She is currently the Training Coordinator for the program and is a graduate of the Child and Family Leadership Exchange program.

Hejmanowski, Judge David, Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge David Hejmanowski has been judge of the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court since February of 2015 and was previously a magistrate and court administrator there for 12 years prior. He is currently President of the Ohio State Bar Foundation and a member of the board of trustees of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He previously served on the Board of Governors of the Ohio State Bar Association, and the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. He is a frequent presenter at legal education seminars, having spoken to lawyers and judges in more than a dozen states.

Jones-Rubin, Désirée, MD, MPH, FAAP, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Désirée Jones-Rubin, MD, MPH, FAAP (she, her) is a Clinical Fellow of Child Abuse Pediatrics at the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Her role includes medical evaluations of children for suspected physical abuse, sexual abuse, medical abuse, and neglect in inpatient and outpatient settings and serving as a member of the hospital's Multi-disciplinary Physical Abuse Case Review Committee. Dr. Jones-Rubin is also qualified as an expert witness in child abuse pediatric cases in multiple counties in Ohio and is a Child Abuse Consultant. She received her undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College, a Master's degree in public health from St. George's University School of Graduate Studies, St. George's, Grenada, and Doctor of Medicine degree from George's University School of Medicine, St. George's, Grenada. She completed her pediatric residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch prior to her Fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Kulow, Emily, Director of Mobile Advocacy and Meaningful Access, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Emily Kulow is the Director of Mobile Advocacy and Meaningful Access for the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. Emily is the co-director of ODVN's Health Access project, working to create collaboration between domestic violence agencies and health care systems in local communities to improve screening and build referral pathways for survivors of domestic violence. Ms. Kulow also provides training and technical assistance to local DV agencies around mobile advocacy. Additionally, Emily coordinates the meaningful access project at ODVN. The project's goal is developing best practices, policies, and procedures for local domestic violence programs across the state around providing accessible services to survivors from marginalized populations, including members of the LGBTQI communities, individuals who are Deaf/HOH, limited English proficient individuals and individuals with physical, mental health or cognitive disabilities. Emily began her work in the domestic violence movement 16 years ago, working for multiple domestic violence and victim service agencies in Northeast Ohio.

Levels, Sarah, MSW, Bridges Policy Developer, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Families and Children

Sarah Levels, MSW, has been in child welfare for over 22 years. She currently serves as a Human Services Policy Developer for ODJFS, Office of Families and Children, as part of the team that oversees Bridges, Ohio's program to extend housing and case management supports to young adults that have aged-out of Ohio's foster care system. Previously, Ms. Levels served as the Independent Living Supervisor in the Emancipation Department at Franklin County Children Services.

Longo, Jenni R., LISW, Northwoods Clinic

Jenni is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and a Certified Trauma Practitioner-Clinical. Jenni earned her Bachelors of Science in Social Work and her Masters of Social Work from The Ohio State University in 1999 and 2005, respectively. Jenni has over 20 years of experience in the mental health and substance abuse field and has a passion for working with adolescents. Her resume includes working all levels of care in a substance abuse treatment facility from detoxification, residential, intensive outpatient treatment, and family counseling. She has also worked at a local juvenile correctional facility on the female mental health unit and assisted in the implementation of the Cognitive Behavioral Treatment Program (incorporating moral reasoning, problem solving, anger management, substance abuse, and skill-streaming) and the Strengths Based Behavioral Management System.

Mumaw, Michelle, Esq., Staff Attorney, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Franklin County

Michelle Mumaw is a graduate of Capital Law School and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 2015. Michelle was a legal extern for CASA of Franklin County in 2013 and became a volunteer in 2014. After one year in private practice, she became a CASA staff attorney in 2017. Michelle has worked together with volunteers on Abuse Neglect Dependency cases in which children have been trafficked, as well as cases involved in the Empowerment Program, which is a dedicated docket for juvenile survivors of human trafficking.

Newton, Jen, Associate Professor, Ohio University

Jen Newton is an associate professor at Ohio University. Dr. Newton's research interests include anti-racist, anti-ableist education, early childhood inclusion, and inclusive teacher preparation. She regularly presents locally, regionally, and nationally on a range of inclusive educational topics. She served as an early interventionist and an inclusive prekindergarten teacher prior to pursuing doctoral studies. Dr. Newton earned her doctorate in special education from the University of Kansas and spent four years as an assistant professor at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Va., then three years at Saint Louis University before finding her home at Ohio University. Follow her on Instagram and Facebook @teachingisintellectual.

Norwood, CeCe, MA, Consultant/Trainer, Nirvana Now!

CeCe Norwood is the founder of Nirvana Now!, an organization dedicated to the eradication of all forms of sexual violence. CeCe is a featured national speaker on child sexual abuse and rape in the Black community, a recognized workshop trainer, a Life Coach, author of numerous articles and her book *There IS Happiness After Incest and Child Sexual Abuse*. Ms. Norwood is the founding Board President of the Ohio Alliance To End Sexual Violence (Ohio's Sexual Assault Coalition) and an approved trainer for both the Ohio Human Services Training System and Ohio Child Welfare Training Program. CeCe has volunteered as an Education Surrogate Parent and has been a juvenile court Guardian Ad Litem since 2007. She received the Lucas County Court Appointed Special Advocate Rising Star Award. In 2019, she received the

Ohio Attorney General Special Courage Award for her state-wide advocacy work with survivors. Ms. Norwood holds both a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling.

O'Malley, Katherine, J.D., Senior Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

Katy O'Malley is a senior attorney for Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), practicing out of the Lima and Defiance offices. Katy started her career with a two-year AmeriCorps commitment as an attorney focused on the preservation of housing and the prevention of homelessness. After her AmeriCorps term, she became a full-time attorney with LAWO. She has extensive experience working with low income populations and survivors of violence. She has helped lead grants designed to build collaborations with community partners to provide holistic services to vulnerable populations. In addition to her case responsibilities, Katy has trained community partners and law enforcement on domestic violence issues.

Peters, Becky, LSW, MSW, Trumbull County Children Services

Becky Peters is a Master's level licensed social worker and has been employed at Trumbull County Children Services for the past 22 years. She is the administrator of Training and Staff Support and currently supervises the training unit and the visitation coordinator. Becky has been employed at the Agency in numerous capacities in different departments: ongoing casework, adoption casework, visitation coordinator, and supervision.

Potter, MelissaRoshan (MelRo), Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Services, Ohio CASA

MelissaRoshan (MelRo) Potter is a speaker, trainer, and the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Ohio CASA. As unique as her name, MelRo is an uncommon talent who has modeled internationally for over 15 years. Her work has been seen on magazine covers, billboards, print ads, national commercials, and runways. But what this respected model is most proud of, is owning the title of SurTHRIVER. From the days of her tumultuous childhood spent in the foster care system, MelRo knew she was meant for more. She aged out of care, and became a teen parent. She and her son lived in a teen parenting homeless shelter for two years. Through her determination and commitment to healing, as well as resources from her CASA Volunteer, her foundation to thrive led her on her path to become the fierce advocate for children and families we know today. MelRo is working toward inclusive and equitable outreach strategies in communities across Ohio.

Powell, (Ret) Sgt. Michael N., Street Smart Ohio

Sgt. Mike Powell began working with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Columbus, Ohio in December of 1973 and retired in March 2006, after a total of 36 years. For the last 20 years of his tenure, he was assigned to the Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U.) working narcotics, vice, and stolen property investigations. Mike is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. From June 1995 through December 2001, he was federally deputized and was a supervisor with the F.B.I. Drug Task Force in Columbus. Mike has lectured quite extensively on narcotics, both locally and nationally. He is a member of the Narcotics Association Regional Coordinating Officers (NARCO) as well as a state certified instructor of narcotics teaching at police academies throughout Ohio. He also drafted and is the lead instructor in basic and advanced undercover narcotics courses offered across the state since 1984.

Prezioso, DeeDee, LSW, MSW, Trumbull County Children Services

DeeDee Prezioso is a Master's level licensed social worker and has worked at Trumbull County Children Services for the past 17 years. She currently supervises the Foster Care and Kinship Department at TCCS.

In her time at TCCS, DeeDee has implemented a mentoring program for foster caregivers and a sibling protocol that focuses on keeping siblings in foster care placed together or connected. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Youngstown State University, a consultant, and a trainer and coach for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program where she trains child welfare staff and foster and adoptive caregivers.

Price, Dr. Tanikka C., Esq., Chief Education and Equity Officer, Health Impact Ohio

Dr. Tanikka Price, a Columbus, Ohio native, uses her training as a lawyer, her passion as a motivational speaker, and the knowledge she gained during her doctoral training at Northcentral University to develop curriculum to educate and train others in caring for and taking responsibility for their own health and healing. She is currently the Chief Education and Equity Director at Health Impact Ohio. For the past decade, in addition to being a Family Law Attorney, Dr. Price has developed and taught learning topics for pregnant women and Community Health Workers in at-risk communities in Columbus, Ohio. She uses narrative and trauma-informed care to meet people where they are and empower them to change. She engages through several interactive workshops including “Love Letters,” “Writing to Heal,” and “Narrative Repair.” Dr. Price earned a Doctorate in Education researching the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on African American women’s educational attainment at Northcentral University. She also has an American Culture degree from Vassar College and a law degree from Capital University Law School. Her proudest accomplishment is being a mom of six, including three adult children and three minor children. She is also a proud Mimi of three! Growing up in Linden, Dr. Price dreamed of the day she could give back, help people, and provide for her family. With her husband of 15 years, Gal Ben Haim, she has been able to live her dreams.

Ramirez, Rachel, MA, MSW, LISW-S, RA, Founder/Director of The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury Rachel Ramirez is the Founder and Director of The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury, a project of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN). Rachel is currently directing the Center’s first federal grant from the Office on Violence Against Women to increase collaboration and develop training and services for the brain injury, domestic violence, sexual assault, and health care fields. Over the past 14 years at ODVN, Rachel has led multiple statewide initiatives on trauma-informed approaches as well as other topics. She has trained hundreds of audiences and co-authored Trauma-Informed Approaches: Promising Practices and Protocols for Ohio’s Domestic Violence Programs, as well as peer-reviewed journal articles in the Journal of Family Violence and the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma. Rachel is a bilingual licensed independent social worker and a registered advocate with senior standing in Ohio.

Roberson, Tara, Senior Manager, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Tara Roberson has over 13 years of experience in child welfare. She has worked in two different states in a variety of roles learning the ins and outs of the child welfare system. Tara has worked in family preservation, ongoing child welfare, extended foster care, and transition-aged youth services. She began her work at DTFA as an Adoption Program Manager where she was charged with the training and coaching of the child-focused recruitment model, helped recruiters overcome systemic barriers to permanency, and monitored fidelity to the CFR model. Tara assisted in the expansion of the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids program in Ohio and assisted in increasing the number of recruiters in the state. She has recently joined the training team at DTFA as a senior training manager. Tara graduated from the Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Ryan, Erin, Director, Center for Maternal & Young Child Health, Groundwork Ohio

Erin is a passionate and accomplished leader who brings a decade of experience in advocacy, legislative strategy, and coalition building. She has extensive experience in Ohio politics, having worked in fundraising and organizing roles for various candidate and issue campaigns within the state. Erin currently sits on the board of Mental Health America of Ohio, serving as the Vice President of the Board of Trustees and Co-Chair of the Public Policy Committee. She also remains active with community causes and organizations that focus on improving the lives and futures of women and their families.

Salamon, Samantha M. Esq., Asian Services in Action, Inc.

Samantha Salamon currently serves as the Manager of the Ahimsa Department and Managing Attorney for the Legal Department at Asian Services in Action, Inc., where she has worked in various roles since 2017. She is concurrently the principal of The Law Offices of Samantha M. Salamon in Cleveland, Ohio, where her practice focuses on criminal, immigration, and family law. Prior to these roles, Ms. Salamon spent time working in multiple attorney positions in the United Arab Emirates. She received both her undergraduate degree and law degree from Cleveland State University.

Sespico, Julie, Training Coordinator, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Julie Sespico is a Training Coordinator with The Center for Family Safety and Healing. As a part of the Center's prevention and outreach efforts for the past seven years, she specializes in bringing family violence education and trauma responsive approaches to the greater Central Ohio area, working toward the organization's vision to break the cycle of domestic violence and child abuse and create safe and thriving communities. With that vision in mind, Julie holds certification in Trauma Responsive Care through the Tri-State Trauma Network, is an authorized facilitator of Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children and Safe Dates, and serves as a Trauma Trainer for The Columbus CARE Coalition. CARE is a first of its kind community and city led initiative here in Columbus. Under the guidance of Columbus Public Health, CARE works to increase awareness, education, and response to trauma utilizing a network of caring providers and community members.

Sheriff, Jennifer A., Family Ombudsman, Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

Jennifer Sheriff has served in the field of public interest advocacy for well over a decade. Ms. Sheriff first began acquiring practical experience in the child protection arena while working as an intern with the Lucas County Juvenile Court CASA/GAL Department. After graduating from law school in 2008, she spent the next eight years prosecuting criminal cases with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office ranging from misdemeanor shoplifting to first-degree murder where a complex trial caseload helped hone her diverse advocacy skillset. Beginning in 2016, she managed a challenging child abuse and neglect caseload as an Assistant Attorney General representing the Arizona Department of Child Safety, an experience that only bolstered her passion for amplifying the voices of all children and families impacted by the child protection system. Guided by the invaluable perspectives gained during her most recent role as Lucas County Child Protection Ombudsman, Ms. Sheriff, as Ohio's first Family Ombudsman, is committed to effectively elevating all unmet needs of the most vulnerable among us.

Shirrell, Lane, Community Education and Research Manager, Kaleidoscope Youth Center

Lane graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts in English and human rights. Lane leads the Ohio Thrives Needs Assessment that focuses on the intersections of race, developmental disabilities, and LGBTQ+ identities. In addition to Ohio Thrives, they also facilitate workshops for professionals caring for LGBTQ+ youth. They previously worked with Iowa Legal Aid on their Intimate Partner Violence Project and at the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center. When not working, Lane loves to bake bread and go for long walks with their dog.

Shook, Tara, LSW, Children Services Training and Development Team, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Office of Families and Children

Tara Shook has a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the Ohio State University and is a licensed social worker (LSW) in the state of Ohio. She has worked in the children services space for 24 years. Tara has been part of the ODJFS Children Services Training and Development team since its inception in 2021. She has been with ODJFS for over 17 years, where she has experience as a Licensing Specialist, ICPC Deputy Compact Administrator, Adoption Policy Developer, and Substitute Care Policy Section Chief. Prior to her time at the state, Tara was employed by Franklin County Children Services for seven years. There, she had experience as an ongoing caseworker in both a medically fragile infant unit and the emancipation unit. During her time at FCCS, Tara became an adoption assessor, where she trained Preservice Curriculum, completed foster care and adoption home studies, and supported resource families.

Stahl, Cheryl, M.ED., LPCC, Substance Use/Mental Health Program Director, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Cheryl Stahl, LPCC, is ODVN's Substance Use/Mental Health Program Director. She is overseeing ODVN's substance abuse and mental health project to better prepare domestic violence programs to serve survivors who use substances or are in recovery and/or have mental health diagnoses or concerns. Cheryl is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in the state of Ohio and began her career volunteering on a crisis line at Townhall II in Portage County. She went on to work as a Victim Advocate, Prevention Educator, Crisis Line Volunteer Training Coordinator, and finally as a counselor in outpatient services. Cheryl has worked in both an outpatient setting and, prior to joining ODVN, was the Program Manager for the Portage Area Recovery Center (PARC), a program of Family & Community Services, Inc. PARC is a 23 bed women's residential recovery housing program which she was responsible for creating from its inception. Cheryl has a great passion for working with the substance using/dependent population and continues to work to reduce the stigma associated with addiction and mental health. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology with minors in Philosophy and Criminal Justice, and her Master of Education Degree in Community Counseling at Kent State University.

Stotts, Jenny, MS, LSW, Youth Ombudsman, Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office

Jenny Stotts, MS, LSW (she/her) serves as Ohio's Youth Ombudsman. Prior to accepting this appointment, she was the Executive Director of the Athens CASA/GAL Program and the Regional Coordinator of CASA in Southeast Ohio. Her professional experiences include direct practice in child protective services as a caseworker and forensic interviewer. Stotts participated in workforce preparation as a campus coordinator in the University Partnership Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program (UPP). Jenny is a licensed social worker and an accomplished public speaker and trainer, having presented to audiences representing over 200 countries. Jenny's work on trauma and resilience has been featured in national and international publications. Her volunteer work includes serving with Rotary International, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Child Conservation League.

Teodosio, Judge Linda Tucci, J.D., B.S. Ed., Judge, Summit County Juvenile Court

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio has worked as an attorney in private practice, a Magistrate in the Akron Municipal Court and as a Staff Attorney for the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Judge Teodosio was elected Judge of the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court in 1997 where she served until her election to the Summit County Juvenile Court for the term beginning January 1, 2003. Judge Teodosio's innovative work on the Juvenile Court bench has been extensively recognized in Summit County, Ohio and nationally. She

is the longest serving Juvenile Court Judge in the County's history. Judge Teodosio's work on the Juvenile Court bench has been extensively recognized. In September 2016, she received the Thomas J. Moyer Award for Judicial Excellence from the Ohio State Bar Association. In late 2012, Judge Teodosio received the prestigious Award for Innovation from the Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation. In 2010, she received the MacArthur Foundation's "Champion for Change" Award for her work in the Models for Change Mental Health Juvenile Justice Action Network. Judge Teodosio was honored by the Diocese of Cleveland with the St. Thomas More Award which is awarded annually at the Red Mass in recognition of the virtues of integrity and public service that reflect those of Thomas More. In addition to her work on the bench, Judge Teodosio is active in numerous professional and community organizations. She has served as President of the Ohio State Bar Association, the Akron Bar Association, the Akron Bar Foundation, and the University of Akron School of Law Alumni Association. She is also actively involved in the foundation established to remember her late daughter through the Andrea Rose Teodosio Foundation.

Tully, Caitlin, Training Supervisor, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Caitlin Tully is a Training Supervisor with The Center for Family Safety and Healing in Columbus, Ohio, with over 10 years of experience addressing trauma and family violence. She currently partners with non-profit organizations as well as K-12 schools, to provide prevention education on child abuse, teen dating violence, and intimate partner violence. In addition, she is certified in Trauma-Responsive Care through the Tri-State Trauma Network.

Williams, Andrea, Senior Director, Training, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

Andrea Williams has worked in the foster care adoption field for 18 years. She is currently the Senior Director of Training for the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, where she has been responsible for the development and delivery of curriculum involving the child-focused recruitment model and other related foster care adoption topics, to child welfare professionals across North America. After 10 years in casework, Andrea moved into the Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter position where she helped embed the child-focused recruitment model within their permanency unit. In 2016, Andrea began her work at Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption where she was charged with the oversight of WWK recruiters, ensuring fidelity to the model. She has years of experience in coaching the CFR model and helping professionals to overcome systemic and legal barriers to permanency. She received a B.A. from Ohio Northern University with a major in psychology and minor in sociology.

Williamson, Alicia, MSW, LSW, Director of Training and Program Services, Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Alicia has worked in the non-profit sector for over 25 years to further social justice for people living in poverty and support children and families who have experienced violence. Alicia is the Director of Training and Program Services for the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN). She ensures the coordination and implementation of local, regional, and statewide trainings on domestic violence-related topics. She assists with developing and providing training for program staff, executive directors, volunteer board members, and allied professionals. In addition, Alicia oversees the research, development, and dissemination of promising practice models, policies, and procedures in programs and services, agency development, and marginalized populations. She serves as the Vice Chair for Ohio Poverty Law Center and Advisory Board Member for the Clarence Darrow Project through Community Legal Aid Services. She has also served as the past Co-Chair for the Ohio Women of Color Caucus and is driven to cultivate wellness for BIPOC women. Alicia attended Youngstown State University, where she received a Master in Social Work and is currently a professor in their social work department. Most recently, Alicia was recognized by

Representative Emilia Sykes for playing a critical role in ensuring safety for Ohio's most vulnerable populations.