

Afternoon Workshops 1:15 - 2:45



The Untold Story of Education and Youth in Foster Care: Simple New Steps to Improve Outcomes (also offered in the morning)

How can judges, lawyers, social workers, guardians ad litem, and others use proven strategies to improve the lives of children? Learn what the key educational issues are for children in foster care and what you can do to advocate for better outcomes, one child at a time. Find out about the education stability provisions of the new federal Fostering Connections to Success Act and what Vermont is doing to implement those provisions. Participants will receive useful resources from the [Legal Center for Foster Care and Education](#), the Vermont Department of Education, and the Department for Children and Families.

PANELISTS:

A high school student

Kathleen McNaught, J.D., is the Assistant Director at the ABA Center on Children and the Law. Kathleen was a faculty member for the Casey Family Program's Vermont Breakthrough Series Collaborative on School Stability.

Joan Rock is the Resource Coordinator for the Barre Family Services Division district office.

Brigid Scheffert is the Superintendent of the Washington West Supervisory Union. Brigid was a school principal in Lamoille County for 20 years and developed the Intervention Support Program which allows all students to be educated in their home school, with no out-of-district placements.

MODERATOR:

Fayneese Miller, Ph.D. is Dean of University of Vermont's College of Education and Social Services. Dr. Miller collaborated with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Truancy Prevention Association to write a bench book on truancy for family court judges.

Engaging Non-Custodial Fathers in Child Welfare Cases (also offered in morning)

"Without involved fathers, kids are more at risk to be poor, become teen parents, fail in school, and come in contact with the criminal justice system." (from the National Fatherhood Initiative's website). Vermont juvenile law requires early identification and location of absent parents and preservation of important family relations; consideration of kinship placement; and gives priority to non-custodial parents when the court orders the removal of a child from the home. This workshop will offer legal, social work, and policy strategies for better engaging non-custodial, non-perpetrating fathers in child welfare cases. Learn what courts, attorneys, GALs, and social workers can do to better engage fathers and paternal kin, and avoid delays in reaching permanency. Workshop participants will receive a copy of the book "Advocating for Nonresident Fathers in Child Welfare Court Cases."

PANELISTS:

Milton Scott, M.B.A. is a Program Specialist for Community-Based Programming at the National Fatherhood Initiative in Maryland

Matthew Fraidin is Director of the HIV/AIDS law clinic and Associate Professor of Law at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Professor Fraidin is a member of the Steering Committee of the Parent Representation Project of the ABA Center on Children and the Law, and regularly addresses local and national groups on issues relating to child welfare and family law.

Karen Jenkins, M.S., is Director of Public Child Welfare Initiatives for American Humane located in Colorado. Ms. Jenkins was the Program Director for the Office of Children and Youth Services (OCYF) for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and has more than 25 years of experience in the public child welfare system at both the county and state level.

MODERATOR:

Hon. Leonard Edwards (retired), California Administrative Office of the Courts

Treating Juvenile Offenders in Juvenile Courts

The purpose of this presentation is to educate participants about the reasons to treat juvenile offenders in juvenile court, rather than in adult court. It will focus on juveniles charged with misdemeanors and “non-listed felonies”. In this interactive workshop, participants will look at issues of culpability, competency, services, and outcomes. Finally, participants will be randomly divided into groups of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys and will apply the ideas discussed to a fictional case.

Pam Marsh is a graduate of Middlebury College and Harvard Law School. She is the President of Marsh Wagner & Winters, P.C., a general practice law firm in Middlebury. Since 1985, Pam has contracted with the Office of the Defender General to represent juveniles and parents in juvenile delinquency and child welfare cases. Since 1992, Pam’s firm has had the primary juvenile defense contract in Addison County.

MODERATOR:

Bob Sheil is the supervising attorney in the Office of the Juvenile Defender. He is a former Deputy State’s Attorney, assigned counsel contract attorney, and solo practitioner.

Engaging Families and Building Safety through Family Time Coaching

This workshop will include an overview of the Family Time Coaching model which is being used by Vermont Family Services to increase the safety, permanency, and well being of children. A panel of individuals who have worked with families using this model will share their experiences.

PANELISTS:

Cheryle Bilodeau, LICSW and **Suzanne Legare Belcher, MSW** are trainers with the University of Vermont/Department for Children and Families Child Welfare Training Partnership.

Hon. James Crucitti is presently presiding over the juvenile docket in Chittenden Family Court, where he has implemented a parent-child contact protocol for children in foster care.

Cynthia Frantz is an attorney who has been representing parents and children for the past ten years.

Brenda Gooley is the District Director at Middlebury Family Services, where they have been doing family time coaching for a year.

Heather Leonard is a Family Time Coach from Easter Seals at the Morrisville Family Services District office.

A family member who has participated in Family Time Coaching.

Motivating Behavior Change and Effective Case Planning

Motivating true behavior change that results in effective case planning and implementation is a collaborative process guided by the youth or families. This workshop will introduce participants to motivational interviewing strategies and will provide an understanding of the stages of change. These evidence-based practice models are integrated together to direct a team in effective case planning strategies for youth and families.

Stacy Jolles is the Director of Youth Justice for the Department for Children and Families/ Family Services Division. She has been working statewide to enhance juvenile probation practice, detention, and treatment by implementing evidence-based practices and solutions.

The Challenges of Kinship Care – How Do We Make It Work?

Vermont's juvenile law places a new focus on kin as caregivers for children who are abused, neglected, or unmanageable. The statute gives priority to custody with kin over DCF custody at the Temporary Care hearing. But how is this working out in practice? What are the benefits, and what are the various roadblocks to kinship placements, especially at the point of the Temporary Care hearing? What procedures do we follow in considering kinship placements at the Temporary Care hearing? What *should* we do that we don't do now? In this workshop we will explore a variety of issues related to kin as caregivers and how these and other issues play out in real case scenarios.

PANELISTS:

Betty Holton has been a registered nurse at Fletcher Allen Health Care for 45 years. She adopted her granddaughter and was one of the founding members of Vermont Kin As Parents. Betty is active in GAP, a support group for kin in Vermont.

Judge Walter Morris served as Vermont's Defender General for three years prior to his appointment to the District Court bench in 1990. Judge Morris has presided in family and juvenile cases since his appointment to the bench, and has experienced a wide variety of kinship placement issues in his docket. He serves as a member of the faculty at the National Judicial College, and was a member of the Family Court Oversight Committee.

Kathryn A. Piper, J.D., M.Ed., was admitted to practice in Vermont in 1977. She has served as the Caledonia and Essex County Juvenile Defender since 1992. She served on the Permanency Planning Implementation Committee (PPIC) and on the committee that drafted the new Juvenile Justice Proceedings Act. She is currently a member of the Justice for Children Task Force and is chairing a subcommittee on subsidized kinship guardianships.

Moderator:

Hon. Amy M. Davenport, Chief Administrative Judge for Vermont Trial Courts