

# THE GEORGIA



**CONFERENCE**

**ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

*Developing Excellence in Policy and Practice*

**Forever Families  
Forever Communities**

**November 16-18, 2010  
Legacy Lodge  
Lake Lanier Islands, Georgia**

**Sponsored by Casey Family Programs**

# Welcome!

The Georgia Conference on Children and Families comes at a most appropriate time. Georgia is quickly moving toward becoming one of the leading states in the nation to move toward family centered services. Already, Georgia is being recognized as a leader in this area. The National Governor's Conference that was held here in June informed us that other states want to learn from our system.

We still have much to do. Georgia is focused on providing the best outcomes for children and families. To achieve these outcomes, we need resources and supportive services at the community level and supportive systems at the state level that can come together, share, network, collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for children and families. In response to this need, the GCCF has broadened its scope and focus to include all of the disciplines and systems in Georgia that touch the lives of children and families.

The 2010 GCCF will unveil strategic data to review together measures that capture outcomes for children and their families. Our goal is to encourage collaboration of all children and family stakeholders and advocates and stimulate strategic formations to impact data. Each year we will track progress made, celebrate our successes and join together to improve services and deliver the best outcomes for children and families.

## **Keynote Speaker: Judge R. Michael Key**



Judge R. Michael Key is a partner in the law firm of Key & Gordy, P.C., having been in private practice in Troup County, Georgia since 1979. Judge Key has served as part-time Juvenile Court Judge in Troup County since 1989, after having practiced in the Juvenile Court for ten years prior to his appointment. As President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Judge Key serves on the National Court Appointed Special Advocates Board of Directors.

Judge Key is a lead judge in the Georgia Court Improvement Initiative, and is a frequent presenter in state and national programs. He has twice received the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges President's Award, was presented the Child Advocate of the Year Award and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' President's Award in 2010.

# Conference Schedule

## Tuesday, November 16

8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Registration/Exhibits
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Opening Luncheon/Keynote <b>Speaker: Judge R. Michael Key</b>
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Break
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Concurrent Workshops – Session A
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Refreshment Break
3:15 pm – 4:45 pm	Concurrent Workshops – Session B

## Wednesday, November 17

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Workshops – Session C
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Refreshment Break
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Plenary Session/ Panel of Experts
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Celebration Luncheon – Presentation of Awards
12:30 pm – 12:45 pm	Break
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm	Concurrent Workshops – Session D
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Refreshment Break
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Concurrent Workshops – Session E
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Networking Reception

## Thursday, November 18

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Concurrent Workshops – Session F
10:00am – 10:15 am	Refreshment Break
10:15 am – 11:45 am	Concurrent Workshops – Session G
11:45 am – 1:30 pm	Closing Session/Lunch and Learn <b>Speaker: Sandra Barnhill</b>

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

A1 1:30-3:00 **The Bridge to Family Ties: Partnering to Achieve Family Centered Outcomes (Part 1 of 2)**

*Twilynn Jourdain, MEd, Associate Director, The Bridge, Inc. ; Debbie, Atkins, LPC, Operations Director, Family Ties, Inc.; Hugo Mullins LCSW, Executive Director, Family Ties, Inc.; Tom Russell, LCSW, Executive Director, The Bridge, Inc.*

This presentation will focus on participants having a better working knowledge of what an effective partnership is comprised of to truly impact/achieve positive family centered outcomes. This partnership is a "work in progress" between two long standing organizations to create an effective collaborative relationship to achieve improved outcomes for youth placed in a residential setting. Participants will have opportunity to engage in discussion and interactive activity in highlighting the following areas: Identifying and Understanding the Prerequisites for Co-constructing a Shared Vision of Family Centered Practice; Understanding the Logistics of a Core Provider and a RBWO partnership, and Understanding that Family Centered Practice is a Mind Set not Simply an Approach or Modality. The implications of this work for families, children and child welfare professionals will be presented.

A2 1:30-3:00 **Recognizing and Serving Children Exposed to Family Violence**

*Judge Peggy Walker, BA, MEd, JD, Georgia Commission on Family Violence  
Kirsten Rambo, Executive Director of the GCFV, BA, BA, PhD; Kim Washington, DHS DFCS Family and Child Safety Director, BA, Med, Georgia Commission on Family Violence*

Children living with family violence exhibit a variety of symptoms and behaviors indicative of the stress of living in an unpredictable household. There are both short term and long term consequences for them. This workshop will focus on recognizing these children and meeting their needs to promote resiliency in children and families who have lived in a violent household.

A3 1:30-3:00 **The Effects of Zero Tolerance and Other Alternatives (Part 1 of 2)**

*Pamela Sloane, JD, Legal Services Officer, DJJ; Audrey Holliday, Program Coordinator*

This presentation is designed to educate staff on what the Georgia laws regarding zero tolerance actually are and how the school systems/interpretation of these laws and enforcement of the school policies actually funnel children into the school to prison pipeline. Part 1 - Educational lecture; Part 2 Panel discussion with judge, district attorney and private attorney. Explore ways for staff in "the system" to better advocate for these youth through preventative resources such as Judge Teske's prevention program in Clayton County, Georgia and DJJ's use of school-based probation officers.

A-4 1:30-3:00 **Passion-Focus-Perseverance**

*Kuzuri Alamin, President, Alamin & Associates*

The presenter will share wisdom about the importance of brining passion, focus, and perseverance to your job in order to deliver quality services to children and their families. Because without these key ingredients, success will not take place.

A-5 1:30-3:00 **Legislative Update**

*Bobby Cagle, MSW, Director, Legislative and External Affairs, Georgia, DHS/DFCS*

This session will include an overview of the 2010 legislative session, presentation of the 2011 State and Federal child welfare legislative agendas and an update on the Foster Connections Act.

A-6 1:30-3:00 **From Rut to River** *Melanie Dallas, LPC, MS, Special Project Coordinator, DBHDD*

Compassion fatigue in direct care workers, as well as an organizational culture, can seriously hamper our ability to support and serve children and families in Georgia, thus negatively impacting treatment outcomes. This workshop will focus on developing the skills to personally as well as organizationally, manage compassion fatigue by learning to build an authentic community culture, which starts with activating your authentic self.



# Tuesday, November 16, 2010

**B-1 3:15-4:45 The Bridge to Family Ties: Partnering to Achieve Family Centered Outcomes (Part 2 of 2)**

*Twilynn Jourdain, MEd, Associate Director, The Bridge, Inc.; Debbie, Atkins, LPC, Operations Director, Family Ties, Inc.; Hugo Mullins, LCSW, Executive Director, Family Ties, Inc.; Tom Russell, LCSW, Executive Director, The Bridge, Inc.*

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**B-2 3:15-4:45 Right in Front of Us Children and Substance Abuse**

*Pierluigi Mancini, MBA, PhD, Executive Director, CEPTA, Inc.*

Adolescence is defined as a transitional stage of physical and mental human development generally occurring between puberty and legal adulthood, but largely characterized as beginning and ending with the teenage stage, in other words, a person between the ages of 12 and 19. But what happens in that transitional stage can be very different from child to child and substance abuse plays a stronger role of how a child develops every day. In this workshop, we will discuss developmental issues as they relate to mental health and substance abuse; recognized the difference between healthy behavior and those behaviors which require intervention with trained specialists; identify causes, signs and symptoms of drug/alcohol use; explore strategies for responding to youth who may be involved in unhealthy or illegal behaviors and identify positive steps for helping students maintain good emotional health.

**B-3 3:15-4:45 The Effects of Zero Tolerance and Other Alternatives (Part 2 of 2)**

*Pamela Sloane, Legal Services Officer, DJJ; Audrey Holliday, Program Coordinator*

This presentation is designed to educate staff on what the Georgia laws regarding zero tolerance actually are and how the school systems/ interpretation of these laws and enforcement of the school policies actually funnel children into the school to prison pipeline. Part 1 - Educational lecture; Part 2 Panel discussion with judge, district attorney and private attorney. Explore ways for staff in the system to better advocate for these youth through preventative resources such as Judge Teske's prevention program in Clayton county, Ga. and DJJ's use of school-based probation officers.

**B-4 3:15-4:45 This Little Light of Mine Creating a Place of Hope**

*Cheri Villines, Med, Project Director, DeKalb County DFCS; Ramona Deshield, MA, ARC Director; Tammie Harrison, BS, Family Liaison; Stephen Decostanzo, BSW, Care Coordinator*

Attend this workshop to hear how a group of dedicated families have created a place of hope in our community. We will describe an innovative approach to engaging families as we talk about the DeKalb Access and Resource Center: The Place for Families.

**B-5 3:15-4:45 Next Generations: Still Pursuing WOW!**

*Carol Hall, BS, MA, Kenny A. Project Director, DHS, DFCS; Danielle Nabinger, BS, MSW, Kenny A. Project Manager, Kenny A.'s; Maxine Little, BS,IT,SE; Janice Lester, BS*

The Kenny A. Consent Decree is the settlement of a lawsuit filed by Children's Rights, Inc. on behalf of children in Georgia's FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. The lawsuit encompasses Fulton and DeKalb, which are the two largest counties in Georgia. Under the terms and conditions of the decree, the State must achieve and sustain 31 outcomes and approximately 152 relevant practice standards. This presentation reviews the State's progress to-date including its myriad challenges and significant successes.

**B-6 3:15-4:45 Outcomes and Performance Standards**

*Isabel A. Blanco, Executive Director, Family Outcomes and Practice Standards, Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Human Services*

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

C-1 8:30-10:00 **Creating Community Connections**

*Mike Angstadt, Executive Director, Twin Cedars Yourh Services, Inc.*

This session will address how to connect with stakeholders in your community: DFCS, law enforcement, faith community, foundations, and schools. Are you missing opportunities to connect? Participants will review suggestions and means for enhancing their agency's reputation from e-newsletters to community service projects.

C-2 8:30-10:00 **The Impact of Maternal Substance Abuse on Child Development**

*Karen Kuehn Howell, PhD, Assistant Professor, Emory University School of Medicine, Maternal Substance Abuse and Child Development*

Maternal substance abuse (MSA) can result in significant physical, cognitive, social and emotional issues for a young child. Long-term developmental effects of MSA and prenatal exposure on developmental outcomes will be outlined. Conditions of MSA, including disease, prematurity, sub-optimal caretaking, poverty, exposure to violence, neglect and maternal psychopathology, will be discussed. Interventions and resources for children impacted by MSA will be offered.

C-3 8:30-10:00 **Georgia's Juvenile Code Rewrite: Rethinking Status Offenses - Children in Need of Services (CHINS)**

*Julia Neighbors, JD, Project Manager, JUSTGeorgia*

The Child Protection and Public Safety Act completely revises Georgia's juvenile code by reorganizing it and incorporating substantive provisions to reflect advances in research and practice. Learn about a new approach for intervening with children who are currently considered unruly. Children in Need of Services (CHINS) seeks to create a more holistic, service-oriented approach to these cases.

C-4 8:30-10:00 **What do You Want to Know About Working with LBGQT Youth?**

*Cindy Simpson, MA, EdS, COO, CHRIS Kids*

Knowledge of adolescent sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity are critical when working with youth today. Whether you know it or not, you may have already worked with clients who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender or questioning (LGBTQ). In this training, participants will learn the foundations of working with LGBTQ youth and the resources available and needed. This training consists of basic information about LGBTQ youth, myths and stereotypes, risk data, psychosocial stressors faced by LGBTQ youth in out of home placements, homelessness, and practice tips for case workers and non-clinical staff. In addition, this module introduces the participants to the concept of gender identity. Information on transgender youth is provided and discussed in comparison to sexual orientation.

C-5 8:30-10:00 **Medicaid**

*Timothy Sweeney, Senior Healthcare Analyst, GBPI*

This session will examine the Affordable Care Act with a special emphasis on how the new law will affect Georgia's Medicaid Program. The session will provide a brief overview of the new law in general, and will also examine other aspect of the law where the state will have a major role in implementation.

C-6 8:30-10:00 **Ethics (Part 1 of 3)**

*Jeff Lawrence, The Methodist Homes of Children and Youth*

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

D-1 12:45-2:15 **Georgia's Statewide Implementation of SafeCare® Curriculum**  
*Nia Imani Cantey, MS, Director of Home Based Services, DHS; Dr. Jenelle R. Shanley, Training Director of the National SafeCare® Training and research Center; Toni DeWeese, Data Manager, DFCS Data Analysis, Accountability, Research and Evaluation (DAARE)*

This presentation will cover an overview of SafeCare® in Georgia and current statewide implementation across Georgia. Included in the presentation are background information and history, pilot efforts, and evaluation efforts.

D-2 12:45-2:15 **Strengthening Couple and Marital Relationships for Children's Sake: Does it Really Matter and What Can be Done?**

*Ted Futris, PhD, Extension Specialist, Family Life, College of Family and Consumer Sciences, University of Georgia; Virginia Dick, PhD, Public Service Assistant, Carl Vinson Institute of Government; John Jauregui, MS, Vice President of Community Initiatives, Georgia Family Council*

The welfare of Georgia's children can be greatly enhanced by the development of healthy relationship skills of their parents and caregivers that result in healthy and stable families. These skills can be taught and learned. This session will describe current and future resources for professionals to teach these skills. The session will highlight research on the relevance of relationship and marriage education for children and families, clarify what relationship and marriage education entails, and describe resources available to support healthy relationship development among youth and adults.

D-3 12:45-2:15 **The 'New' Healthcare Imperative: Bearing Witness**  
*Bob Climko, MD, MBA, Senior Medical Director, APS Healthcare*

An experiential and slide drive overview of the history gathering process in the American health system of care - where we are - and were we must go if we are to salvage the healing process of the clinical encounter. Through the use of didactic slide-driven presentation and active audience experiential work and participation, we will review the art of the clinical encounter and the healing process.

D-4 12:45-2:15 **Permanency Roundtable Project**  
*Cynthia Davis, PhD, Vice President, Research and Evaluation, Care Solutions, Inc.; Carla S. Rogg, MSW, President, Care Solutions, Inc.; Kirk O'Brian, PhD, Director of Foster Care Research, Casey Family Programs; Linda Jewell Morgan, MSW, Senior Director, Strategic Consulting, Casey Family Programs; Millicent Houston, BSW, Permanency Project Administrator, Georgia Department of Human Services, DFCS*

In 2009, Georgia, with the support of Casey family Programs, implemented a Permanency Roundtable Project to address permanency for approximately 500 children who were 'stuck' in foster care. See a mock roundtable demonstration and learn how these structured learning labs affected practice, permanency, planning, and permanency results for children statewide.

D-5 12:45-2:15 **Impact of Budget Cuts on Children and Families**  
*Clare Richie, BA, Math Econ; MPA, Nonprofit Management; Senior Policy Analyst, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute*

This session focuses on: Rising Poverty in Georgia and the Impact of Budget Cuts on Children and Families; Solutions in the Areas of Transportation, Career Pathways, and Asset Building; A Call for Statewide Poverty Taskforce; Efforts to Increase Family Self Sufficiency.

D-6 12:45-2:15 **Ethics (Part 2 of 3)**  
*Jeff Lawrence, The Methodist Homes of Children and Youth*

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

E-1                    2:30-4:00                    **WIN Georgia - Northwest's System of Care Transformation and SAMHSA Grant Implementation**

*Margaret Cawood, MA Criminology, District One Director, DJJ; Honorable Velma Tilley, Bartow County Juvenile Court Judge*

Interagency leaders from Northwest Georgia describe their journey of collaboration for system change and their current implementation with a regional SAMHSA Grant. This presentation will focus on: What are their successes, challenges and lessons learned? How has regional collaboration provided support to practice level community services and collaboration? How did they leverage judicial leadership for maximum impact?

E-2                    2:30-4:00                    **The Elements and Benefits of Meaningful Visitation**

*Jane Okrasinski, JD, Executive Director, Georgia Association of Counsel for Children*

This presentation will review visitation protocols from a number of jurisdictions and address the elements and benefits of meaningful visitation practices. The program will offer summaries of visitation protocols from a number of different jurisdictions and visitation coaching programs. The presenter will engage the audience in discussion of the ways visitation practices in Georgia might be improved.

E-3                    2:30-4:00                    **Juvenile Justice 101: What You Need to Know!**

*Lisa Casey Bryson, BSCJ, MPA, Case Expeditor, DJJ*

This training will provide participants with important information about the juvenile court system along with the Department of Juvenile Justice and how it operates. A major portion of this presentation, critical to teenagers, deals with the laws that affect teens and the consequences of violating these laws. For youth who are under 17, it could mean involvement with the juvenile court and possibly Superior Court for certain offenses. Currently in the State of Georgia, there are seven offenses, which if committed by a youth 13-16, the youth is charged and sentenced as an adult. Most of these offenses carry life sentences or mandatory minimums of 25 years in adult prison. There are also a series of offenses known as designated felonies for which a youth under age 17 can be sentenced up to 5 years in a YDC--one of these is carrying a weapon on school property. In Georgia, a teen is considered to be an adult in regards to criminal offenses at age 17. This session will increase awareness of the ramifications of violating the law and the affect on youth of having an adult record.

E-4                    2:30-4:00                    **Preventing Childhood Obesity: State and National Strategies**

*Joann Yoon, JD, Associate Policy Director for Children's Health, Voices for Georgia's Children; Whitney Brown, Health Policy Intern*

Childhood obesity is a matter of urgent concern. Georgia ranks second highest in the nation in the percentage of overweight/obese children (37.3%) This presentation will outline efforts underway to address childhood obesity prevention programs.

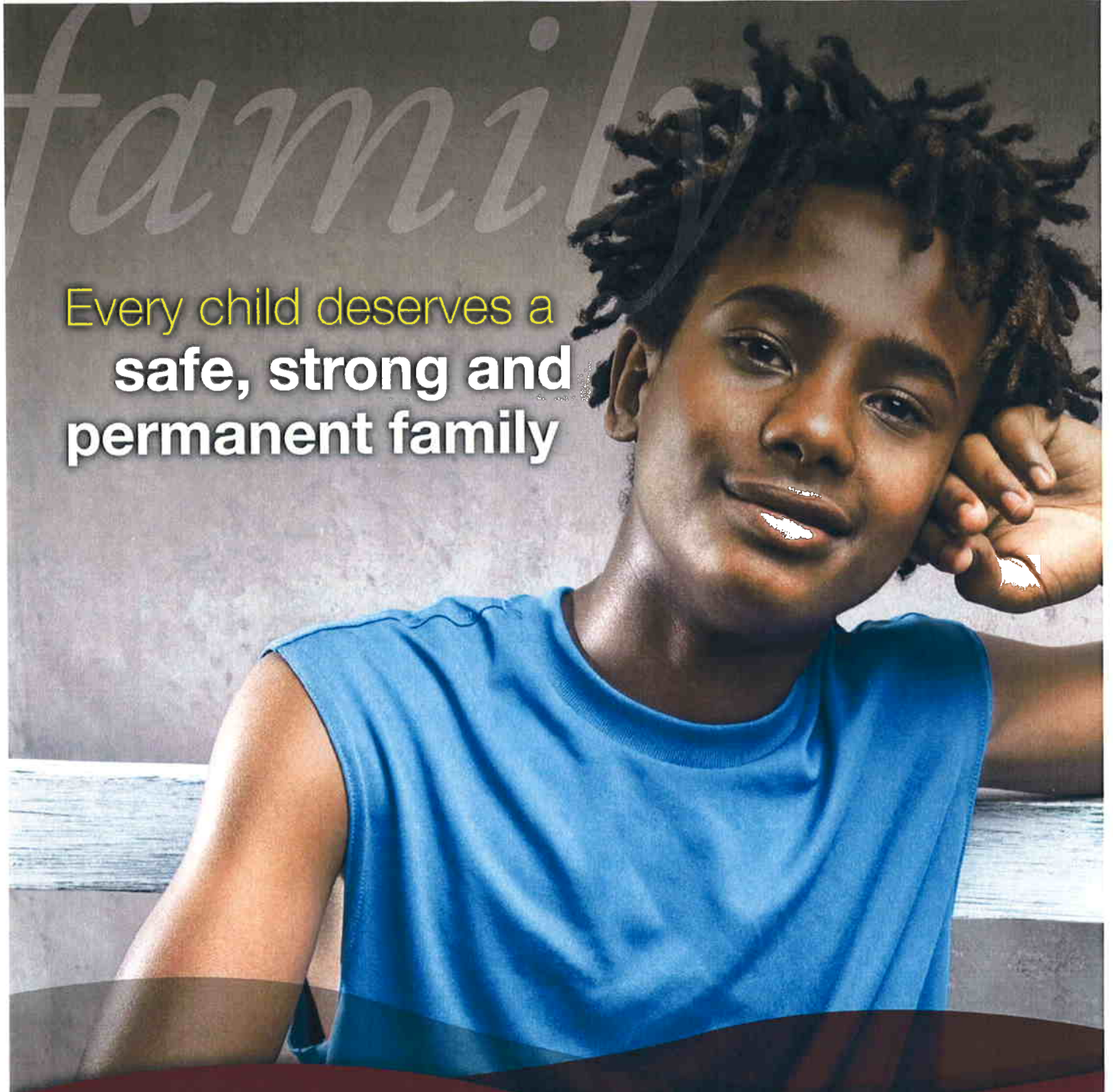
E-5                    2:30-4:00                    **Testimonial from Successful Performance Based Contracting Agency**

*PBC Agencies*

E-6                    2:30-4:30                    **Ethics (Part 3 of 3—extended session)**

*Jeff Lawrence, The Methodist Homes of Children and Youth*





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