MAKING EXTENDED CARE WORK FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION: The State of the Evidence

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Conference Program
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth in Transition: The State of the Evidence highlights new groundbreaking research on extending services to youth in foster care as they become adults, and engages the scholars who have produced this research with leaders in the policy and practice communities and with transition-age youth. Leadership in the field of youth transitions to adulthood from foster care has led to a proliferation of research documenting the needs of this group of young people. Due to the important work of these scholars, many of whom will be speaking at this conference, the US Congress, and local and state governments have paid increasing attention to the plight of young people who are expected to “make it” on their own after years of being cared for by the state. Approximately 25,000 young people age out of the foster care system in the US each year. Until recently, nearly all of these young people experienced an abrupt transition to life on their own with little resources and support. In recognition of this difficult transition, federal funding has been made available to support states in extending foster care to young adults up to age 21, and twenty-two states have opted to extend care until 21 years of age so that these youth have sustained support as they build the skills and knowledge needed to successfully transition to adulthood.

The “Making Extended Care Work” conference convenes professionals, students, advocates, members of the media, researchers, and others to discuss critical issues surrounding this important policy and service provision issue. The conference focuses on key issues facing older youth and young adults who have been in foster care, including employment, education, health, mental health, youth voice and youth engagement in services, pregnancy and parenting, and social relationships. Panels organized around these issues will include presentations summarizing relevant research followed by brief presentations from stakeholder groups (e.g., model program leaders, policymakers, and young people) and ample time for discussion with conference attendees. Professionals from throughout the US will come together in New York City to build understanding, network with others, and share insights with some of the most prominent leaders working on this issue today.

Funding for the conference was generously provided by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

This event is both NYSED and ACE Approved for 10 Continuing Education (CE) Contact Hours, awarding CE credits for social work in ACE-accepting jurisdictions. Learning Assessment: In order to obtain the credits, all participants are required to complete a short post-event learning assessment. The learning assessment will be sent out electronically via the e-mail address provided at registration. Upon completion of the learning assessment, the credits will be e-mailed to the participant.

The Silver School of Social Work is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0012.

This organization (NYU Silver School of Social Work, 1415) is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) www.aswb.org through the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. NYU Silver School of Social Work maintains responsibility for the program. ASWB Approval Period: 11/11/15 - 11/11/16. Social workers should contact their regulatory board to determine course approval for continuing education credits. Social workers participating in the post-master’s course will receive 10 continuing education clock hours.
MESSAGE FROM LYNN VIDEKA
Dean, NYU Silver School of Social Work

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the New York University Silver School of Social Work, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to New York City and to the 2016 conference Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth in Transition: The State of the Evidence. The conference will focus on key issues impacting older youth and young adults who have been in foster care as they transition to adulthood. It is an honor to bring together leading researchers, policymakers, program leaders and young people from throughout the United States and abroad to share our knowledge and discuss critical policy and program development intended to improve the lives of this group of young people in transition.

Until recently, youth aging out of the foster care system in the US experienced an abrupt transition to life on their own, after years of being cared for by the state, with little support or services. Thanks to leadership in the field of foster care and the important work of researchers and scholars, a proliferation of research documenting the needs of this group has led the US Congress and local and state governments to pay increasing attention to the realities of this difficult transition.

This conference was designed to highlight research on the potential benefits of extending services to youth in foster care during the transition to adulthood, and will feature panels on key issues facing this group of young people. Discussions will focus on employment, education, health, mental health, youth voice, and youth engagement in services, parenting, and social relationships. Each topic area will include brief presentations from program leaders, researchers, policymakers and young people, followed by conversations with the audience to address key questions and to identify strategies to build understanding and improve care for young adults in foster care.

The next two days will present a rich opportunity to share insights and exchange ideas with professionals, students, advocates, program leaders, researchers, policymakers, young people with experiences in care, and others, from states that have formally extended care and states that have not, and from abroad. Thank you for attending our conference and for bringing your expertise to our gathering, as we ultimately build a greater understanding of how to improve services and support for young adults in foster care.

We hope you find the experience personally rewarding, and that you enjoy the vibrant city of New York and our historic neighborhood in Washington Square Park.

Sincerely Yours,

LYNN VIDEKA, PHD
Dean and Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS
Mark Courtney and Michelle Munson

Dear Attendees,

Recently there has been a fundamental shift towards greater federal responsibility for supporting the transition to adulthood for youth in foster care. Research over the past two decades has demonstrated the difficult transition to adulthood for foster youth and the potential benefits of allowing young people to remain in care past age 18. Moving away from a longstanding federal policy focused on preparing youth in care for discharge from care and “independence” at age 18, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to extend the age of eligibility for foster care from 18 to 21. States are now able to claim federal reimbursement for the costs of foster care payments made on behalf of eligible foster youth until they are 21 years old. Twenty-two states that care for the majority of youth in care in the US have chosen to extend foster care to young adults.

While states now have the option to extend care with federal financial support, providing foster care to young adults still remains a brave new world for child welfare agencies and other organizations that have a responsibility to assist these young people. Extending state care into early adulthood in a developmentally-appropriate manner challenges multiple publicly-supported organizations (e.g., public child welfare agencies, not-for-profit providers, the courts, postsecondary educational institutions, employment support programs, and adult health and behavioral health systems) to adapt to meet the needs of young adults. Professionals and caregivers who have been used to serving minors need to develop new behaviors, and services, that are appropriate to young adults.

We are pleased to welcome you to Making Extended Care Work for Foster Youth in Transition: The State of the Evidence. This is the first national meeting devoted to examining what available research and practice wisdom says about the needs of this population and the evidence supporting policies, programs and practices likely to best meet those needs. We look forward to participating with you in an exchange of ideas between policymakers, program developers and managers, advocates, practitioners, researchers, and young people who have experienced foster care about how best to provide foster care to young adults.

MARK COURTNEY
Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago
School of Social Service Administration

MICHELLE MUNSON
Associate Professor of Social Work and Co-Host, NYU Silver School of Social Work
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Day 1: Monday, April 18

Each panel is organized around a topical issue and will include presentations summarizing relevant research followed by brief presentations from stakeholder groups (e.g., model program leaders, policymakers, and young people) and ample time for discussion with conference attendees.

9:00 - 9:15 AM  WELCOME
Lynn Videka, Dean and Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
Michelle R. Munson, Associate Professor and Co-Host, NYU Silver School of Social Work
Mark Courtney, Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

9:20 - 10:20 AM  OPENING PLENARY
THE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENTAL CONTEXT OF EXTENDED CARE: LESSONS FROM PRIOR RESEARCH
Mark Courtney, Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

10:30-11:30 AM  PANEL 1: SOCIAL CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILY, PEERS AND INTIMATE PARTNERS
Andrew Zinn, Assistant Professor, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare
Susan Grundberg, Executive Director and CEO, You Gotta Believe
Anni Keane, Director, Nobody Ages Out Youth Movement, You Gotta Believe
Rosie Williams, Young Adult

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  LUNCH

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  PANEL 2: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
Lionel D. Scott, Jr., Associate Professor, Georgia State University School of Social Work
Michelle R. Munson, Associate Professor and Co-Host, NYU Silver School of Social Work
Clark Peters, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri
Anthony Turner, Young Adult

12:30 - 2:00 PM  PANEL 3: EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION
Michael Pergamit, Senior Fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population, The Urban Institute
Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Children
Howard Knoll, Casey Family Programs
Shavonn Wheeler, Young Adult
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
Day 2: Tuesday, April 19

9:00 - 9:05 AM  WELCOME BACK
Michelle R. Munson, Associate Professor and Co-Host, NYU Silver School of Social Work
Mark Courtney, Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration

9:05 - 9:30 AM  INTRAC
THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK ON THE TRANSITIONS TO ADULTHOOD FROM CARE: LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF CROSS-NATIONAL RESEARCH ON CARE LEAVING
John Pinkerton, Professor of Child and Family Social Work, Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland

9:30 - 11:00 AM  PANEL 4: HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION
Curtis McMillen, Professor, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Kym Ahrens, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington
Julie Shapiro, Executive Director, The Door
Jen Miles, Young Adult

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  PANEL 5: PREGNANCY AND PARENTING AMONG FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION
Sarah Narendof, Assistant Professor, University of Houston
Linda Lausell Bryant, Clinical Assistant Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
Rekisha Jones, Young Adult
Michelle Washington, Young Adult

12:00 - 1:00 PM  LUNCH
SPECIAL SESSION: FOSTERING MEDIA CONNECTIONS
Daniel Heimpel, Lecturer, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California Berkeley; Founder, Fostering Media Connections

1:00 - 2:00 PM  PANEL 6: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUNG ADULTS TRANSITIONING FROM CARE
Amy Dworsky, Research Fellow, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago
Denise Hinds, Associate Executive Director, Foster Care, Juvenile Justice and Supportive Housing Division, Good Shepherd Service
Shantice Boothe, Young Adult

2:00 - 3:00 PM  PANEL 7: STATE OF POLICY AND INTERVENTIONS FOR YOUTH IN EXTENDED CARE
Mark Courtney, Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Sarah Hurley, Research Director, Youth Villages, Memphis Tennessee
Catherine Heath, Child and Family Specialist, Children’s Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

3:00 - 4:00 PM  PANEL 8: CLOSING - BRINGING IT BACK TO MAKING EXTENDED CARE WORK
Mark Courtney, Professor and Co-Host, University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration
Gladys Carrión, Commissioner, Administration for Children’s Services
Trudy Festinger, Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
MAKING EXTENDED CARE WORK FOR FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION: THE STATE OF THE EVIDENCE

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Lynn Videka, PhD
Lynn Videka has served as Dean of the NYU Silver School of Social Work since 2009. She has led the School in advancing its reputation for strong preparation in clinical social work practice; in broadening the mission of the School to embrace social justice, human diversity, and global social work; and in strong engagement with the School’s local and global communities. Dr. Videka’s research interests include peer-helping models for people managing life crises or disabilities; the effectiveness of social work practice; and the intersection of family life and mental health, especially among vulnerable populations. She has held many leadership roles in social work education, including president of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work and the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, vice president of the Society for Social Work and Research, and commissioner of accreditation and treasurer of the Council on Social Work Education, among others. Dr. Videka is a widely published author; among her publications are research on self-help groups for bereavement and loss focusing on widowhood and the death of a child, the first social work meta-analysis of mental health practice effectiveness (in 1986) with a subsequent book (Advances in Clinical Social Work Research). In recent years, her work has focused on recovery approaches for persons diagnosed with mental health disabilities and child maltreatment. She has joined these two interests in her work on parenting support needs for mothers diagnosed with psychiatric disabilities.

Mark Courtney, PhD
Mark is a Professor in the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. His fields of special interest are child welfare policy and services, the connection between child welfare services and other institutions serving vulnerable populations, and the professionalization of social work. His current work includes studies of the adult functioning of former foster children, experimental evaluation of independent living services for foster youth, and the influence of juvenile courts on the operation of the child welfare system. Professor Courtney is a Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and the Society for Social Work and Research. He received the 2015 Society for Social Work and Research Distinguished Career Achievement Award and the 2010 Peter W. Forsythe Award for leadership in public child welfare from the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators.

Michelle Munson, PhD, LMSW
Michelle is an Associate Professor of Social Work at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. Her research focuses on the mental health and overall well-being of marginalized transition-age youth and young adults, including young people who are or have been involved with the foster care system. Michelle is currently directing NIH-sponsored research studies focused on developing an intervention program designed to increase youth engagement in needed social and mental health services, while also reducing mental health symptoms, improving education, employment, residential stability, and community integration.

Andrew Zinn, PhD
Andrew Zinn is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare and an Affiliated Faculty at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Prior to receiving his PhD, Dr. Zinn served as an independent living program coordinator for foster youth and child welfare case manager in Rock County, WI. His research has focused on foster family care, the juvenile court, and the service needs and outcomes of foster youth.

Susan Grundberg, MSW, MPA
Susan is the Executive Director/CEO of You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc. (YGB). YGB is one of the few agencies in the country and the only agency in NYC that works solely to connect teens and young adults to permanent families before they age out of foster care and face the extremely high risk of homelessness and other dire outcomes. Having started out as a foster care caseworker in 1989, Susan has spent more than 25 years in child welfare in both Chicago and New York City. Between 1999 and 2009, she served in a number of positions with the City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), including four years as Associate Commissioner for Child Welfare Programs.
SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Anni Keane
Anni Keane is a foster care alumnus who has worked in the foster care system for over 13 years. She is a fierce advocate for youth and has touched the lives of hundreds of youth in care through her direct service and advocacy on their behalf. Anni is the Director of You Gotta Believe’s Nobody Ages Out Youth Movement. In this capacity, she leads the core group of alumni Advocates for Youth – all working to change the system with a laser focus on permanency. Using their personal stories, the team advocates with public officials and child welfare leaders, works directly with young people in care, delivers workshops to youth and caseworkers, and co-facilitates all foster/adoptive parent training. Anni spent time in the foster care system during her childhood, was placed into her permanent family at 17, and chose to be legally adopted at 24. She has been sharing her story publicly for many years on a local and national level, including as a panelist at a US Senate Caucus on Foster Youth and Homelessness. She is a powerful speaker and a source of ongoing support and inspiration to her team and to youth throughout the child welfare system.

Rosie Williams
Rosie is currently 22 and serves as an Advocate for Youth with You Gotta Believe’s Nobody Ages Out Youth Movement. Rosie entered foster care as a baby of just 8 months and over the next 20 years was in more than 30 foster care placements, including foster homes, group homes, residential treatment centers and hospitals. At the age of 19 Rosie met a woman named Danielle who made a commitment of unconditional love and support to her, and who she calls ‘Mom.’ She successfully obtained her GED and believes she was able to focus on that important milestone because of the support and encouragement (and late night tutoring) that she received from Danielle. Rosie works as an Advocate for Youth and shares her powerful, thoughtful message that family is every youth’s right because she does not want youth in the system to suffer the same losses or live through what she lived through.

Lionel D. Scott, Jr., PhD
Lionel is an Associate Professor of Social Work and a Fellow at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. His expertise is in the area(s) of socio-cultural and interpersonal determinants of health, ethnic minority youth transitioning from the foster care system, and racial disparities in mental health service use.

Clark Peters, PhD, JD, AM
Clark Peters is an Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri School of Social Work and Truman School of Public Affairs, focusing his work primarily on child welfare, adolescents in state care, and juvenile justice. He is also a Policy Fellow at the Institute of Public Policy, holds a courtesy appointment at the University of Missouri School of Law, and is a Faculty Director of Youth Development at the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis. Before arriving in Missouri in 2009, he spent 14 years as a researcher at Chapin Hall, a children’s policy research center at the University of Chicago. Dr. Peters received his undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and his law degree from Cornell Law School, where he was articles editor of the Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy. As a Skadden Fellow at the Youth Law Center in San Francisco, he represented youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in civil rights actions. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees in social policy from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. He has presented, taught, and written widely on issues of juvenile justice, foster care, and child welfare. His current research work focuses on youths in foster care, asset building, and youth engagement, and appears in Social Work, Missouri Law Review, and Children and Youth Services Review.

Anthony Turner
Anthony spent seven years in New York’s foster care system and is an excellent advocate and voice for foster youth and other youth who are involved with various child serving systems. While attending Columbia University, Anthony is employed as a Peer Specialist at the Mental Health Association of NYC. He has written articles for the New York Times and Huffington Post, and for the past six years has been a journalist for Youth Communication Represent - a magazine for and by foster youth. Anthony is a co-chair for the Youth Advisory Council at Youth Power!, president of the New Yorker’s for Children Youth Advisory Board, core member of Fostering Advocacy and Empowerment, and member of Youth in Progress at Administration for Children’s Services. Anthony’s main career goal is to become Commissioner of New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services.
SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Michael Pergamit, PhD
Michael is a Senior Fellow in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. He is a labor economist whose research focuses on vulnerable youth, particularly in the transition to adulthood. He was the project director for the Chafee evaluation and currently conducts evaluations of other programs designed to help vulnerable youth gain education and enter and succeed in the labor market. Past research has included projects exploring the relationship between growing up in a vulnerable family and moving into education and the labor market as a young adult.

Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, MPA, MSW
In March 2016, Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez joined New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) to serve as the Executive Director. New Yorkers For Children is a public/private partnership with New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) with the goal of improving the lives of children in foster care by engaging New Yorkers in that effort. NYFC is best known for its Guardian Scholars and Back to School scholarship programs, although it operates several small-scale pilot educational and vocational programs. Prior to joining NYFC, Friedman-Gonzalez served as the Managing Vice President for the National Urban League’s (NUL) Workforce Development Division.

Howard Knoll, MSW
Howard is the Senior Director for Casey Family Programs, a national operating foundation addressing the needs of vulnerable children, teens and families in the nation’s foster care system. Mr. Knoll works with New York’s State Office of Children and Family Services and upstate counties in improving outcomes for youth in care and the communities they reside in. Prior to Casey Family Programs, Mr. Knoll served as Senior Director for ARBOR E&T, a national workforce development organization. Mr. Knoll developed and managed youth and adult workforce development programs within community-based, One-Stop and Job Corps settings.

Shavonn Wheeler
Following her first semester at Kingsborough Community College, Shavonn Wheeler applied for the New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) Guardian Scholars program. Shavonn’s acceptance into NYFC’s Guardian Scholars Program was a major turning point in her life. Her involvement with NYFC helped her become the impassioned young leader and advocate she is today. As Shavonn approached her 21st birthday she realized she would soon age out of foster care. However, she knew she would not face this daunting reality alone. Rather, she relied on her family at NYFC to provide her the emotional, academic and financial support she needed. NYFC connected Shavonn with a leadership program offering her the opportunity to grow and become an empowered young adult. When Shavonn struggled academically, NYFC connected her with a tutoring program to help her excel in the classroom. As 2014 began so did an exciting new chapter in Shavonn’s life. She moved into her first apartment and was accepted to John Jay College as a transfer student.

John Pinkerton, BSSC, MSSC, MSC, CQSW, PhD, ACSS
John is a Professor of Child and Family Social Work, Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland. He focuses on youth transitioning from out of home care as a global phenomenon and is a leader in the International Research Network on the Transitions to Adulthood from Care.

Curtis McMillen, PhD
Curtis is a Professor at the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. His research on youth aging out of foster care laid the foundation for understanding the mental health complexities of unmet needs among young adults in transition. He focuses his work around improving mental health services for children and youth in foster care, including developing and testing interventions for youth in the foster care system, helping youth develop emotion regulation capacities, and helping their caregivers better de-escalate young people in the midst of an emotional episode.

Kym Ahrens, MD, MPH
Kym is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, and a practicing physician at Seattle Children’s Hospital and Research Institute. Her interests are in promoting positive physical and mental health outcomes in at-risk youth. She has a particular interest in understanding and developing ways to improve health outcomes among youth transitioning out of the foster system. Her current work is focused on developing both youth and caregiver-focused interventions to improve reproductive health outcomes among adolescents in foster care.
SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Julie Shapiro, MPP
Julie is the Executive Director of The Door, one of New York City’s leading youth development agencies, offering comprehensive health, legal, mental health, career and education, housing and arts programs to nearly 10,000 adolescents and young adults each year. She has extensive prior experience in human services, broadly, and in workforce development specifically. The Door runs one of the most highly regarded reproductive health programs for marginalized youth in the state.

Jen Miles
Jen Miles is a 22-year-old young adult who aspires to be a social worker, to let children in care really know that someone truly cares about them, and that there is someone there for them. She enjoys dancing, listening to music, and watching K.C. Undercover. Jen also wants to become a hip-hop dancer. Finally, Jen works as a peer navigator for the ‘Bravehearts’ of New York Youth MOVE.

Sarah Narendof, PhD, LCSW
Sarah is an Assistant Professor at the University of Houston. She has research expertise in marginalized youth and young adults, and has conducted research on pregnant and parenting young people in transition from foster care. Her areas of expertise, more broadly, are adolescent and young adult mental health, youth aging out of public systems of care, and psychotropic medication experiences among youth in care.

Linda Lausell Bryant, PhD, MSW
Linda Lausell Bryant is the Katherine and Howard Aibel Executive-in-Residence, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Field Learning at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. Prior to joining NYU’s faculty, she served 9 years as Executive Director of Inwood House, an agency serving pregnant and parenting teens. Dr. Lausell Bryant’s career spans 30 years in youth services including serving as associate commissioner for the Office of Youth Development at the New York City Administration for Children’s Services. At Inwood House, she convened a Citywide Dialogue on Teen Pregnancy with stakeholders from government child welfare, health, education, and poverty agencies, as well as research, philanthropy and policy agencies.

Rekisha Jones
Rekisha Jones is currently a kinship foster parent for her 13-month-old niece Makenzie, along with her partner, Michelle. She works as a barista at Starbucks and is also working on going back to school to pursue a career in early childhood education. She was in foster care beginning in 1996, and aged out on her 21st birthday.

Michelle Washington
Michelle Washington is a 24-year-old foster parent of 13-month-old Makenzie, along with her partner Rekisha, and was a young person who aged out of foster care. She has experience in advocating for youth and in sharing her perspectives about foster care. She would like to pursue a career as an actor in the future.

Amy Dworsky, PhD
Amy Dworsky is a Research Fellow at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago whose research has focused on vulnerable youth populations including youth aging out of foster care, homeless youth, foster youth who are pregnant and/or parenting and dually involved youth. Dr. Dworsky is currently the PI for several projects including an evaluation of a program for dually involved youth and a home visiting program for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. She is also working with colleagues on Voices of Youth Count, a national initiative aimed at increasing knowledge about runaway and homeless youth in communities across the US and on evaluation activities related to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. Dr. Dworsky has a PhD in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her most recent publications focus on the predictors of homelessness among former foster youth and child welfare services involvement among children born to youth in foster care.
SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Daniel Heimpel
Daniel is a Lecturer at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. He is an award-winning journalist, and the founder of a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children through solution-based journalism. In 2010, Heimpel founded Fostering Media Connections, a non-profit with the mission of harnessing the power of media and journalism to drive public and political will behind improving the lives of vulnerable children. Since its inception, FMC has been central to policy-change to the child welfare system on both the state and federal level.

Denise Hinds, LMSW
As Associate Executive Director, Denise Hinds oversees all Good Shepherd’s Child Welfare residential and family foster care programs as well as several residential Juvenile Justice programs, and two supportive housing programs for young adults who have aged out of Foster Care. In 2002, Denise played a significant role in the development and implementation of the Chelsea Foyer the agencies first supportive housing program for young adults and one of the first programs of its type in the country. During her 30 plus years at Good Shepherd Services, Ms. Hinds has been instrumental in developing a variety of innovative youth development driven programs for young people. She serves on a number of citywide workgroups and initiatives and is certified as a New York State Licensed Master Social Worker as well as a Clinical Field Instructor.

Shantice Boothe
Shantice is a 20-year-old young adult who is studying psychology at Borough of Manhattan Community College. As an aspiring psychologist, she wants to utilize her experiences to help guide the transitioning youth of future generations. She loves to sing and cook in her free time.

Sarah Hurley, PhD
Sarah is the Director of Data Science at Youth Villages in Memphis Tennessee. In this role, Dr. Hurley leads the development of business intelligence applications that draw from the agency’s electronic medical records, HR, and finance systems, providing program and agency leadership with mobile data visualizations to monitor critical operational and clinical indicators. She manages the agency’s outcome evaluation process that tracks youth discharged from Youth Villages. She directed all activities related to participation in the recent random assignment evaluation of the YVLifeSet program and continues to work to establish evidence for YV programs.

Catherine Heath
Catherine is a Child and Family Program Specialist at the Children’s Bureau, US Department of Health and Human Services, which partners with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to improve the overall health and well-being of children and families. In addition to serving as the bureau’s youth specialist, Ms. Heath is responsible for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, which provides age-appropriate independent living services to youth and young adults who are in out-of-home placements. Prior to joining the Federal Government, Catherine worked as a statewide independent living coordinator for the State of Florida.

Gladys Carrión, JD
Commissioner Carrión is the reform-minded leader of New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services. She is a nationally-recognized advocate for improving the lives of children and families. As an attorney, she built a reputation for pushing the boundaries to develop and implement policies and programs that were evidence-based. She has repeatedly gone against special interest groups to transform New York State’s public children’s systems of care to improve child well-being in New York State.

Trudy Festinger, DSW
Trudy is a Professor of Social Work at the NYU Silver School of Social Work. She has been a professor for over 40 years, and is internationally recognized for her pioneering book, No One Ever Asked Us: A Postscript to Foster Care. Her child welfare research, starting in the 1970’s, has focused on 1) various aspects of the adoption of abused and neglected children, 2) various aspects of foster care of children, and 3) most recently on caseworker experience and measurement issues with respect to emotional abuse.
THANK YOU
TO THE CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION