



Volunteers
Make a
WORLD
of Difference



Agenda



- 7:30 - 8:15** Registration
(Continental Breakfast)
- 8:30 - 8:45** Welcome
- Caroline Lutt-Owens, *Director, Dependent Children's Services*
 - Justice Beene, *Arizona Supreme Court*
- 8:45 - 10:00** Parent Panel
- 10:00 - 10:15** Break
- 10:15 - 11:30** Break Out Sessions A
- 11:30 - 12:30** Lunch
- 12:45 - 2:00** Break Out Sessions B
- 2:00 - 2:15** Break
- 2:15 - 3:45** Everest-Level Resilience
- 3:45 - 4:00** Wrap-up

STAMPS



STAMPS



Housekeeping



- Restrooms are at the end of the hall
- Please quiet all cell phones and electronic devices
- You must sign-in at registration, as well as in each breakout session, to receive training credit (6 hours of credit)
- No need to turn anything in for the training - it will automatically be added to your record
- If you need a certificate of attendance, contact: Victor Machiche (602)452-3525 | vmachiche@courts.az.gov
- WiFi is available "We-Ko-Pa Guest" and there is no password
- Please leave your name badge on the table so they can be recycled
- Evaluations will be sent by email or scan the QR code to fill out

Thank you for joining us!



Descriptions

Parent Panel: Stories of Resilience and Transformation

Moderator: Honorable Peter Hochuli, Pima County Juvenile Court

Panel: Krista, Kristy, Marcel, Mariana, and Vanessa

Join us for an inspiring panel discussion featuring parents who have successfully graduated from the foster care system. These courageous individuals will share their personal journeys, offering unique insights into their experiences with the system, the challenges they faced, and the triumphs that shaped their lives. Gain a deeper understanding of their perspectives and explore the invaluable lessons they've learned along the way. This session aims to foster empathy, encourage open dialogue, and celebrate stories of hope and perseverance.

A1/B1: Walk in Their Shoes - Dependency Simulation - Room 107-108

Honorable Lori Bustamante, Maricopa County Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

This interactive simulation will encourage participants to better understand the unique issues children and families face while concurrently navigating the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. With the focus on the child, this activity will enhance empathy and highlight the importance of implementing and ensuring best practices to improve outcomes for children and families. By fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges they face, it encourages professionals to adopt approaches that are compassionate, effective and aligned with the best interests of those they serve.

A2/B2: FCRB: Findings and Elements - Yow' Boardroom/Room 110

FCRB Program Staff

The new Foster Care Review Board Findings and Elements Guidebook and FCRB Findings and Recommendations Report are about to roll out! Attendees will be the first to see the new report and get an overview of the new findings and elements before we go live. If you are a FCRB member, you will not want to miss this!

A3/B3: Planting Seeds of Hope: Volunteering with Purpose and Cultural Understanding - Room 109

Elisia Manuel

What started as a simple desire to help one child has grown into Three Precious Miracles, an organization that has touched thousands of lives by providing cultural connection, essential resources, and hope to Native foster children and families. In this session, Elisia will share her personal journey of turning compassion into action and will show how the kindness of volunteers continues to shape futures. You'll discover that it doesn't take grand gestures to change a life. A backpack, a handmade craft, a few hours of your time can leave an imprint that lasts forever. Join us to learn how your small, good deeds can ripple into lifelong impact.

Notes

Notes

Descriptions

A4/B4: Transition Youth Plan - Room 104-105

Honorable Anna Young and Barbara Guillen

The Transition Youth Plan is designed to help ensure that valuable questions are asked and information is shared that will benefit a child as they approach the transition out of care and into young adulthood. While the DCS case manager will “track” the items from the Transition Youth Plan, it’s important that other involved professionals and court volunteers (CASA, FCRB) have access to this tool so they can help to ensure that the questions are being asked and answered. The Transition Youth Plan addresses key areas like vital records, education (college and vocational career exploration), juvenile delinquency court involvement, physical and mental well-being, social security, community connections, and placement.

A5/B5: Fatherhood Engagement - Room 106

Sleepy Vildosola

Why is engaging fathers in their dependency case important and how do we do that? Join Sleepy Vildosola as he addresses this and more in this presentation that will emphasize how children do better with fathers in their lives.

A6/B6: The Uncoupling of Poverty and Neglect - Room 110/Yow’ Boardroom

Erica Quintana

Poverty can lead to material hardships, such as lack of food, housing, or clothing, but this can be mistaken for neglect. A parent's inability to provide due to poverty is not the same as an unwillingness to provide – this distinction is critical. Mistaking poverty for neglect can lead to unnecessary child welfare involvement, including removal of children and even eventual termination of parental rights.

A7/B7: Fentanyl & Opioid Awareness, Overdose Prevention - Room 102-103

Desiree Voshefsky-Auge

Fentanyl is flooding our communities. Some teens are purchasing, through social media, pills that they think are Adderall, Percocet, Oxycodone or Xanax; what they’re getting are fakes made from the cheap, deadly and more potent synthetic drug called fentanyl. Fentanyl is up to 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. The number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses has grown significantly. Prevention is critical to reducing overdoses and overdose deaths.

Everest-Level Resilience: How to Maintain Passion, Presence, and Perseverance During Your Climb

John Beede

In this closing keynote, Mount Everest summit climber John Beede will take you on a journey to the top of three of the world’s tallest mountains. You will experience gripping stories and gorgeous media, but more importantly, you will discover techniques to maintain passion in the face of life’s most demoralizing storms, how to generate energy while staying laser-focused on your end-goal, and how you can adapt, collaborate, and persevere your way to the top. This wildly inspirational keynote will give you tools to maintain course with decisiveness and calm, even as unforeseen obstacles and new challenges appear in your path.

Bios

Justice James P. Beene

Justice Beene was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2019. Prior to his appointment, Justice Beene spent two and a half years on the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, and seven years on the Arizona Superior Court for Maricopa County. He graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1988 and earned his J.D. from the University of Arizona in 1991. Justice Beene began his legal career at the Pinal County Attorney's Office, and then worked as a trial attorney in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. In addition, Justice Beene served as Chief Counsel at the Residential Utility Consumer's Office, and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Capital Litigation Section of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, where he argued cases before the Arizona Court of Appeals, the Arizona Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Arizona and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to being appointed to the superior court bench, Justice Beene served as the Appeals and Extraditions Bureau Chief in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Justice Beene has also served on the Town of Gilbert Planning and Zoning Commission, the Arizona State Bar Committee on Criminal Practice and Procedure, the Arizona Supreme Court Death Penalty Task Force, the Arizona Supreme Court Task Force on Rule 32, the Arizona State Bar Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, and he currently serves on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission and is the Chairperson for the Arizona Supreme Court Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards and the Task Force on Public Communications.

Bios

Erica Quintana

Erica Quintana is a Senior Research Analyst for ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy. She holds a Master's in Public Policy from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a Bachelor of Science in Family and Human Development with a minor in Psychology from Arizona State University. In 2017, Erica partnered with DCS to review 800 cases of child neglect to identify the prevalence of various types of neglect reported to the hotline. Erica has also conducted research on the cost of childhood trauma in Arizona Medicaid dollars and has helped state agencies with home visiting needs assessments across the state.

John Beede

Adventurer John Beede has been struck by lightning, attacked by a 5-foot iguana, and he once did the hokey-pokey in the eye of a hurricane. He's been swimming with Hammerhead, Great White, and Whale sharks. He was even trapped in the Indonesian jungle between warring tribes and the world's largest goldmine. His travels have taken him to 56 countries and every continent including Antarctica.

In his presentation, you're going to learn the peak performance and leadership lessons that John learned while pursuing his life's biggest dream; reaching the summit of Mount Everest. After two months of climbing, 9 months of full-time preparation, and 17 years of mountaineering, he planted his trusty ice axe into the summit of Mount Everest. Subsequently, he was featured on TV's 60 Minutes and media outlets across the globe.

He is not sponsored. All funding for his expeditions comes from building and selling his own companies. Additionally, he has authored two books, including *Climb On! Success Strategies for Teens* and *The Mini-Manual for Becoming Super Awesome*. Together, they have sold over 50,000 copies. After his talk, you're welcome to purchase a copy of your own and take your picture with this extraordinary gentleman.

Get ready to laugh and be inspired. John's integration of outdoor adventure stories and powerful success strategies are going to catapult you to a new level of personal achievement.

Bios

Barbara Guillen

Barbara Guillen has a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University. She started her career working as an Early Childhood Educator. In 2007 Barbara began working to train and license foster families for a non-profit community provider and in 2009 moved to the role of Supervisor for the Independent Living Skills Program for young adults in Arizona. Through this experience of working with youth transitioning out of Foster Care it became apparent additional interventions were needed to assist youth to a successful transition to adulthood. In 2011 Barbara transitioned to the State Independent Living Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and held that position until 2017. Barbara is now the Permanency and Youth Services Administrator for DCS and actively focuses her work on the policies and programs to support young adults and their preparation for adulthood.

Sleepy Vildosola

Sleepy is a single father to two children and a native of Arizona. He enjoys spending time outdoors with his children and loves being a father and role model for other dads. Sleepy was incarcerated for a number of years before he began his work with fathers. Sleepy spent time working in addiction/behavioral health at Community Bridges Inc. and is currently employed at the Family Involvement Center as the manager of the Dad Together Program. Sleepy has been working with fathers exclusively in the Dad Together Program as a Father Support Specialist for 4 years and has been certified to facilitate the Nurturing Fathers, 24/7 Dad, and Marriage and Parenting programs. Sleepy's work as a Father Support Specialist has him actively engaging with Fathers and helping those fathers navigate services and resources as they go through dependency.

Desiree Voshefsky-Auge

Desiree Auge, Community Impact Manager for Arizona at Community Medical Services, brings over five years of dedicated service and a powerful blend of professional expertise and lived experience to her work. Starting as a Peer Support, she has risen through the ranks, including three years with the Correctional Health Team. A seasoned presenter, she has addressed audiences at prominent events like the Southern Arizona Opioid Misuse Symposium and the Arizona District Court Conference. Desiree is a passionate advocate for expanding access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and Harm Reduction, fueled by her own seven-plus years of recovery. She is currently advancing her knowledge by pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University.

Bios

Judge Peter Hochuli

Judge Hochuli received his undergraduate degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Juvenile Corrections from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1977. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1980. He has practiced law in Tucson since 1981. He was in private practice with an emphasis in Juvenile delinquency defense and dependency matters as well as family law/domestic relations cases. In 1996, he joined the Pima County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division, and was promoted to supervisor in April, 2003. During that time he represented the Pima County Attorney during the implementation of the Juvenile Detentions Alternatives Initiative.

He was a founding member of the Juvenile Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona and was Section Chair from June 1999 to June 2000. Over the course of his career he has participated in a number of state and local juvenile committees, collaborations, and faculty for legal education. Peter W. Hochuli was appointed to the Pima County Bench as a Court Commissioner/Judge Pro Tempore of the Superior Court, Juvenile Division effective March 17, 2008. In October 2013, he was rotated to the Pima County Probate/Adult Mental Health bench, where he served for 27 months. On December 11, 2015, he was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey, to the Pima County Superior Court Bench, Division 13, and is currently serving on the Juvenile Bench.

He has been married for almost 46 years and has four beautiful children and four exceptional grandchildren.

Bios

Judge Lori Horn Bustamante

Judge Bustamante is an Arizona Native who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Grand Canyon University and Cum Laude from Pepperdine University School of Law. While at Pepperdine, Lori served on the Law Review and received a Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution. Lori began her career in 1997 as a prosecutor in the Maricopa County Attorney's Office then moved into the civil arena in 2001 doing insurance defense work as a litigator for Allstate Staff Counsel. In 2006, she started her own law firm and handled personal injury cases, practiced in city courts, and defended children in juvenile court. In 2011, Lori was appointed as a Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner and became the Presiding Probate Commissioner. In 2014, Lori was appointed as a Maricopa County Superior Court Judge and was assigned to the Civil Department where she served as the Associate Civil Presiding Judge. Lori was then assigned to a blended Family and Probate calendar and was the Presiding Judge of the Northwest Facility. Lori was subsequently assigned to the Juvenile Department where she handled dependency cases for two years and was the Associate Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Department. Lori is currently the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Department. Lori is a Co-Senior Editor of the Fifth Edition of the Arizona Probate Code Practice Manual, a Board Member for the Canyon Institute Board of Trustees, and a Mock Trial Coach for Mountain Ridge High School.

Bios

Elisia Manuel

Advocate, Leader, and Changemaker

For over a decade, Elisia Manuel has been a relentless advocate for Native American children and families impacted by the child welfare system. With a heart full of passion and a vision rooted in cultural strength, she has dedicated her life to ensuring that Native foster children remain connected to their heritage, traditions, and community.

As the Founder and President of Three Precious Miracles (TPM), Elisia leads a grassroots nonprofit that has become a beacon of hope for Native foster youth, kinship caregivers, and families navigating the child welfare system. Elisia's impact extends beyond her nonprofit work. As the Foster Care Recruitment Manager for StepStone Family & Youth Services, she plays a critical role in finding and supporting Native foster homes. She is also a certified trainer in Protective Factors and the Caring for our Own Kinship Program, specializing in cultural awareness and the Indian Children Welfare Act (ICWA). Her leadership and expertise have made her a respected voice in the field, helping to shape policies and programs that prioritize Native children's well-being.

In 2024, she earned national recognition, including being named a CNN Top 10 Hero, receiving national TV coverage on The Jennifer Hudson Show, and being invited to speak before the U.S. Congress at the Ways and Means Committee to advocate for Native children and families. She was later honored with the Children's Bureau and Adopt US Kids Excellence Award for her outstanding contributions to child welfare.

Elisia serves on multiple boards and committees, ensuring Native voices are heard in key decision-making spaces. And despite her many accolades, Elisia remains deeply connected to her roots and community. She lives in Casa Grande, Arizona, with her loving husband and their three beautiful children.

Judge Anna Young

Judge Young has been the Presiding Juvenile Judge of the Superior Court in Yavapai County since January 2013. She presides over the juvenile delinquency and dependency cases in Yavapai County. She currently serves as the Chairperson of the Court Improvement Advisory Workgroup and the Supreme Court's Committee on Juvenile Courts. Judge Young was the 2022 recipient of the Arizona Bar Association's Terry L. Chandler award for excellence in the area of juvenile law. She is a long-time resident of Prescott, where she was in private practice for fourteen years before becoming a judge in 2011. She is passionate about child welfare and served on the board of Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters for six years while in private practice where she saw the importance of a collaborative approach to bettering the lives of the children in the community.