



COLORADO CASA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PROGRAM DETAILS
OCTOBER 6, 7 & 8, 2020

[COLORADOCASA.ORG/CASACONFERENCE](https://coloradocasa.org/casacconference)



COLORADO CASA **2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



FULL SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

9:30 - 10:00 am	Welcome and Kickoff.....	Stage
10:00 - 11:00 am	Breaking down LGBTQ+ and advocating for LGBTQ+ Youth	Sessions
10:00 - 11:00 am	Now what? On Becoming Anti-Racist Within Your Sphere of Influence	Sessions
11:00 - 11:30 am	Live Vendor Chat.....	Expo
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Keynote: Jelani Freeman	Stage
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Working with Respondent Parents	Sessions
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Building a Relationship with Children Impacted by Trauma	Sessions
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Live Vendor Chat.....	Expo

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

10:00 - 11:00 am	Creating a Cohesive Culture.....	Sessions
10:00 - 11:00 am	Supporting Older Youth: A Panel Discussion	Sessions
11:00 - 11:30 am	Live Vendor Chat.....	Expo
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Keynote: Victoria Rowell	Stage
2:00 - 3:00 pm	The Culturally Intelligent Leader	Sessions
2:00 - 3:00 pm	National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD).....	Sessions
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Live Vendor Time	Expo

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

10:00 - 11:00 am	Mindset Coaching for the CASA Advocate	Sessions
10:00 - 11:00 am	An In-Depth Look at Inclusion versus Diversity.....	Sessions
11:00 - 11:30 am	Live Vendor Chat.....	Expo
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Keynote: Adam Foss	Stage
2:00 - 3:00 pm	2020 Statewide Summary	Stage

DAILY SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, **OCTOBER 6TH**

WELCOME AND KICK-OFF: 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

BREAKING DOWN LGBTQ+ AND ADVOCATING FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH

SPEAKER: Madison Partridge, Mountain Youth

Madison Partridge graduated from the University of Nebraska Omaha with a bachelor's degree in Multidisciplinary Studies. She came out during her freshman year of college and throughout her college career, she was an avid part of the universities Gay, Straight Alliance. She continues her advocacy by providing LGBTQ education.

SPEAKER: Karin Watervoort, CASA Volunteer

Karin is a CASA volunteer for Advocates for Children. She has been a CASA for 5 years and has always especially enjoyed working with teens.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Madison will begin this session by breaking down the acronym LGBTQQIAAP. Attendees will learn about the LGBTQ+ Spectrum, the appropriate use of gender pronouns and nationwide and Colorado LGBTQ+ data.

Karin's first case was a youth who had been in the system for a few years already and had recently come out as being transgender. They got to know each other quite well over the 3 years of the case, until he moved to another state. They are still in contact and whenever he visits Colorado they catch up over a cup of coffee. Karin would like to share with you some of their experiences together.

NOW WHAT? ON BECOMING ANTI-RACIST WITHIN YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

SPEAKER: Shari Johnson, Traveling Diversity Professor

Shari L. Johnson is both a social worker and an anthropologist by educational training. Both graduate experiences were completed at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where she was born and lived for nearly 50 years.

After a nearly 10-year career as a professional social worker working solely with older adults in health care settings, Shari stumbled into my first taste of teaching when asked to present a substitute guest lecture for one of her mentors and former professors. After co-teaching a course with her the following semester, there was no turning back!

For the past several decades, Shari has developed and taught a wide variety of both undergraduate and graduate social work courses, primarily in Queer studies, diversity, race and social justice, and aging at several colleges and universities in Michigan and Massachusetts. Shari also developed and taught cultural anthropology courses and

social work continuing education/professional development workshops at a community college in Michigan. In addition to her teaching experiences, Shari has also held several positions in faculty development and student affairs.

As the sole proprietor for The Traveling Diversity Professor consultation services, Shari L. Johnson is thrilled to be joining CASA-GAL for her sixth conference! Be sure to have a paper and writing utensil available.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Attendees will be given a brief overview of DE&I & anti-racism, complete the Sphere of Influence wheel and develop an action plan. At the end of this workshop, attendees will have created their own plan for moving forward in their anti-racist journey within their own sphere of influence. Attendees will also receive a complimentary reading list.

KEYNOTE: 12:00 PM / JELANI FREEMAN

JELANI FREEMAN is a community leader, attorney and inspirational speaker who has dedicated his life to serving children. His commitment to kids grew from his time in multiple foster homes, shelters, group homes and juvenile facilities. Currently he works as an Appellate Attorney for Department of Veterans Affairs. Jelani relishes being a mentor and an advocate for the rights of children in the DC foster care system in his role as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.



BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

WORKING WITH RESPONDENT PARENTS

SPEAKER: Graham Peper, GAL & Respondent Parent Counsel

Graham Peper works as an ongoing Guardian ad Litem and Respondent Parent Counsel in Jefferson County through Peper Law Office. With both the GAL and RPC perspective, Peper brings valuable information to our CASA programs. Graham frequently partners with CASA Jeffco/Gilpin to help educate CASA volunteers on how to better support the children, parents, and families that we serve.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CONTINUED

SPEAKER: Kim Ferraro and Geneva

Kim is an Advocates for Children CASA volunteer and Geneva was the respondent mother for one of her CASA youth.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Interacting with respondent parents varies from case to case. In this pre-recorded session you will hear advice from a respondent parent attorney on best practices when working with respondent parents and view an interview between a CASA volunteer and the respondent mother on their case. The interview explores their perspectives of collaborating on the case and the journey of their relationship.

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN IMPACTED BY TRAUMA

SPEAKER: Kevin Bixenmann, Mount Saint Vincent

Kyle has 13 years of experience working with children who have been impacted by trauma and childhood adversity. Trained in the Neurosequential Model in Education, Kyle provides resources to a wide variety of audiences on understanding the impacts of trauma and supporting the children who have been impacted.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: This session will explore the impacts that trauma can have on children's ability to build healthy, trusting relationships with adults. Providing trauma-informed insights into why relational challenges may exist, participants will then be introduced to strategies that can help with the relationship building process. Dr. Bruce Perry, a world-renowned child trauma expert, says, "People, not programs, change people," and this session will provide insights into how we can become those kinds of people in the lives of the young people we serve.

DAILY SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, **OCTOBER 7TH**

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

CREATING A COHESIVE CULTURE

SPEAKER: David McGlennen, Culture and Growth Guide for Impact Leadership Consulting, LLC

David is a business growth guide helping leaders integrate high performance and living at company values.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Attendees will learn about the five components of a cohesive and high performing company as well as an eight-step framework for creating a world-class culture.

SUPPORTING OLDER YOUTH THROUGH & BEYOND CASA PROGRAMMING: A PANEL DISCUSSION

PANELIST: Laura Arentsen, Advocate Supervisor, Kids in Court Program at Boulder Voices for Children

Laura oversees Boulder Voices for Children's Kids in Court Program, a program aimed at empowering youth to engage directly with the Court in their dependency and neglect cases. Laura joined BVFC after serving as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem at the Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center for 5 years.

PANELIST: Mariah Emond, Chief Operating Officer for CASA of the 7th Judicial District

CASA 7JD offers three program areas of services; CASA, Supervised Visitation, and a robust Youth Services program that includes Chafee. We have a 1,000 sq. ft. Youth Access Center that services as a daily drop-in center for youth aged 14-24 years old needing support services. Mariah has a background in providing mental health and addiction therapy services to Drug Treatment Court participants and Juvenile Justice involved youth before joining CASA.

PANELIST: Maggie Dawson, Continuum of Services Manager for Advocates for Children CASA

Maggie oversees the Continuum of Services at Advocates for Children CASA which includes the Legacy Project, the Truancy and Juvenile Delinquency CASA programs and tutoring services. Maggie joined Advocates for Children CASA after serving in a residential treatment facility for juvenile offenders in Oklahoma.

PANELIST: Candice Gottlieb, Youth Alliance Coordinator for CASA of Jefferson & Gilpin Counties

Candice manages the Youth Alliance Initiative for CASA of Jefferson & Gilpin Counties which is a program to support young adults emancipating from foster care and moving into their first apartments. The Youth Alliance Initiative provides a 1:1 mentor and wrap-around services to support youth on their journey to independence.

DESCRIPTION: Panelists will discuss the needs of older youth and how CASA programs are supporting them through the core CASA program and other auxiliary programs. The panelists will include staff from CASA programs across Colorado. Attendees will come away with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by youth in Colorado and an overview of how CASA programs are stepping up to make a difference.

KEYNOTE: 12:00 PM / VICTORIA ROWELL

Victoria Rowell is an award-winning actress, producer, international lecturer, advocate, and the New York Times bestselling author of *The Women Who Raised Me*, (HarperCollins), an inspirational memoir that details her rise out of the foster-care system through the stories of the incredible women who lifted her up and inspired her in different ways. Rowell's messaging is one of survival, inspiring hope, remembrance, leadership and reciprocity.



BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

THE CULTURALLY INTELLIGENT LEADER

SPEAKER: Erin Yoshimura, Chief Empowerment Officer for Empowerful Changes, LLC

Erin Yoshimura's career spans high-tech software development to low-tech dragon boats. She is the Founder and Chief Empowerment Officer of Empowerful Changes, LLC, and empowers clients through leadership and diversity training and executive coaching. She combines her corporate and non-profit experience and her passion for equity and inclusion with training and coaching to teach empowering leadership and cultural agility skills. Imagine how different the world would be if everyone were a skosh more responsible for their impact rather than in defense of their intent.

Continued

BREAKOUT SESSION 2: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CONTINUED

DESCRIPTION: Addressing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are top challenges facing many organizations today, but to make DEI more than just buzzwords, organizations need to close the gap between well-meaning to well doing. Cultural Intelligence (CQ), a combination of emotional intelligence, cultural awareness and neuroscience provides a great framework to challenge unconscious biases that prevents organizations from building a truly inclusive workplace. If you have a brain your biased.

NATIONAL YOUTH IN TRANSITION DATABASE (NYTD)

SPEAKER: Ricardo Matthias, Youth Engagement Specialist, NYTD Coordinator

Ricardo Matthias is the Youth Engagement Specialist for the Division of Child Welfare. He is the National Youth in Transition Coordinator for the State of Colorado. He has worked with youth for over 30 years in various capacities.

SPEAKER: Derek Blake, Chafee Program Coordinator

Derek Blake is the Chafee Program Coordinator for Colorado Department of Human Services and has been in this role since November 2015. He is passionate about improving educational outcomes, providing supportive services, and preparing youth to thrive in adulthood after experiencing foster care. He has over 15 years of experience working in multiple roles and with varied populations within social services.

SPEAKER: Raquel Flores, Federal Data Analyst

Raquel Flores is the Federal Data Analyst for the State of Colorado, Division of Child Welfare. She has over two decades of experience and work in quantitative and qualitative public health research, program evaluation and data analyses.

DESCRIPTION: Attendees will learn and understand the Federal Chafee Program and how it relates to NYTD. They will understand the NYTD Program and it's federal requirements. They will also get an introduction to the NYTD data sets and how youth voice informed the process.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

MINDSET COACHING FOR THE CASA ADVOCATE

SPEAKER: Lisa Drake, Everyday Strong Coaching, Inc.

Lisa was the Executive Director for CASA of DuPage County, Illinois, from 2009 to 2020. She combined her decade of CASA experience and Life Coach certification to create a training that teaches mindset work to CASA staff and volunteers. The tools and concepts she teaches helps individuals in the child welfare system care for themselves while doing critical yet often mentally and emotionally painful work.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: CASA volunteers find themselves enmeshed in the child welfare system by choice. These brave and caring individuals are determined to ensure the children they are privileged to stand up for have their voice heard and best interests represented. This type of advocacy work can be challenging under normal circumstances. Now add in the complexities of current times, and not only does the challenge become greater, the work becomes even more important. Learning the tools of self-coaching is the quickest way to go from feeling frustrated or upset to accepting your next case.

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT INCLUSION VERSUS DIVERSITY

SPEAKERS: Zane Grant, Executive Director for CASA of Pueblo
Tammy Prutch, Program Director for CASA of Pueblo

Zane Grant is a licensed clinical social worker and has served as CASA of Pueblo's Executive Director for over 18 years. Tammy Prutch is CASA of Pueblo's Program Director and has worked with the program for over 12 years as an employee and 2 additional years as a volunteer advocate. Together, Zane and Tammy have over 30 years of combined experience in the non-profit sector building inclusivity within their CASA organization.

SESSION DESCRIPTION: Attendees will discuss and explore the differences between being a diverse organization versus an inclusive organization and how that effects volunteer recruitment, retention, case management and public perception.

KEYNOTE: 12:00 PM / ADAM FOSS

Adam J. Foss is the Founder and Executive Director at Prosecutor Impact (PI), a non-profit organization that develops innovative curriculum and experiential training for prosecutors across the country. PI's goal is to reduce the use of incarceration by training criminal prosecutors to employ data-informed, sustainable, and safety-focused interventions that are aimed at fostering more equitable outcomes for the communities they serve.



2020 STATEWIDE SUMMARY: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Join us for this final session, Colorado CASA Awards Ceremony and a 2020 Statewide Summary by Colorado CASA Executive Director, Jenny Bender. There are so many outstanding people who are involved with CASA, help us celebrate the award winners for volunteer, advocate, employee, professional partner, judicial partner and funder of the year!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to our generous sponsors and amazing conference planning committee for making this year's event happen. To our staff, volunteers, and community supporters; the work you do in CASA programs across the State of Colorado is not possible without your dedication and commitment to serving children. Thank you for all you do!

AWARD WINNERS

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Rosanne and Steve Elkins | CASA of Jefferson & Gilpin Counties

PROFESSIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Susan Guio | CASA of Larimer County

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Abbie Foley | CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Adriana Medina López-Portillo | Child Advocates Denver CASA

JUDICIAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Judge Troy Hause | CASA of Weld County

FUNDER OF THE YEAR

11 Summits | Advocates for Children

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Jenny Bender, Colorado CASA

Tisa Kunkee, Colorado CASA

Lily Sussman, Colorado CASA

Maggie Dawson, Advocates for Children

Maddy Wellum, CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

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