

27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA  
**PERMANENCY CONFERENCE**



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statewide adoption and permanency network

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independent living services

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**June 12–14, 2019 • Kalahari Resorts & Conventions**  
Pocono Manor, PA

**REGISTRATION MATERIALS ENCLOSED**

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services,  
Office of Children, Youth and Families, Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network,  
and Independent Living Services



## Conference at a Glance



### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

**11:30 a.m.**  
Conference Registration Begins

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Registration

**1:00 p.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Begins

**1:15 – 2:45 p.m.**  
Conference Opening  
Welcome and Keynote Address

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**  
Workshop Session 1

**4:30 – 5:00 p.m.**  
Break / Networking Time

**4:15 – 5:30 p.m.**  
Pre-Banquet Reception for Honorees  
(By invitation only)

**5:30 p.m.**  
Recognition Banquet

**8:00 p.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Ends

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### THURSDAY, JUNE 13

**8:00 a.m.**  
Conference Registration Begins

**8:30 a.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Begins

**9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
Institute Session 1

**OR**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**  
Workshop Session 2

**10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
Workshop Session 3

**12:15 – 2:00 p.m.**  
Lunch (On Your Own)

**2:00 – 5:15 p.m.**  
Institute Session 2

**OR**

**2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**  
Workshop Session 4

**3:45 – 5:15 p.m.**  
Workshop Session 5

**5:30 p.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Ends

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**  
Family Fun Night

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### FRIDAY, JUNE 14

**8:00 a.m.**  
Conference Registration Begins  
Child / Teen Care Begins

**8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**  
Workshop Session 6

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m.**  
Hotel Checkout Break

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
Conference Closing and Keynote Address

**12:00 p.m.**  
Adjourn

**12:30 p.m.**  
Child / Teen Care Ends



## General Information



### Purpose

The 27th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference focuses on ways families and professionals from all aspects of the child welfare system can support one another and work together to achieve permanent connections for all children and youth.

The conference serves as a forum to train participants who will prepare children and families for their journey through the child welfare system towards permanency. The conference is designed to educate and support current and prospective foster and adoptive families, kinship care providers, permanent legal custodians, attorneys, child welfare professionals and others with a vested interest in permanency for children. The conference is a focal point for networking and sharing information to increase the knowledge base on the issues for children and youth in special needs adoptions and permanency.

### Audience

The conference is designed for current and prospective foster and adoptive families as well as families providing other permanency options such as kinship care or permanent legal custodianship, attorneys, mental health professionals, independent living professionals, public and private agency professionals and the children on behalf of whom they work.

### Session Descriptions

Each conference session is described in this brochure. The session categories and target audiences for the workshops and institutes are listed below.

### Session Categories:

- Foundational
- Traditional
- Innovative

### Target Audiences are:

- Families
- Advocates
- Permanency Professionals
- Child Welfare Workers
- Legal Professionals
- Independent Living Professionals

### Continuing Education Credits, Continuing Legal Education Credits and Certificates of Training

Approval is pending for continuing education credits for social workers through the University of Pittsburgh and continuing legal education credits through the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. Certificates of training will be available.

## Hotel Information

### Accommodations

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is located at 250 Kalahari Blvd., Pocono Manor, PA 18349. Hotel reservations must be made directly by calling 877-525-2427.

Special rates have been arranged for conference participants. Mention the code "2019 Permanency Conference" to receive the flat rate of \$159/night (plus applicable taxes). This discounted rate only applies to the Kalahari's "Desert Room". This room comfortably sleeps four and includes up to four waterpark admission wristbands.

Additional occupants (up to two per room) will be charged \$25/person/night (plus applicable taxes).

This cost includes a waterpark admission wristband.

Check-in time at the Kalahari is at 4:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

### Accessibility

The Kalahari is a large resort, so attendees should be prepared for a lot of walking (including long hallways). Hotel areas and attractions are handicapped accessible. Scooters can be rented in advance by contacting the Kalahari.

## Registration Information

### Conference Registration

To register for the conference, please complete the registration form included in this brochure or register online at [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org). **The last day for Early Bird Registration is May 10, 2019.** Any registrations postmarked after that date will receive the regular registration rate. Preregistered attendees will receive a name badge, banquet and Family Fun Night dinner tickets, a program and other materials at the registration area. Confirmation emails will be sent to those who register by May 10, 2019. **The last day to register is May 24, 2019. Walk-in registration is accepted on-site dependent on availability and is not guaranteed. Payment is due at time of walk-in registration.**

Conference registration will be held:

Wednesday, June 12	11:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, June 13	8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Friday, June 14	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

### Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellations received after May 10, 2019, will be assessed a \$25 processing fee. No refunds will be given after registration closes on May 24, 2019.

Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled because of unforeseen circumstances. Schedule changes and cancellations will be posted at the registration area and noted in the program distributed at the conference.

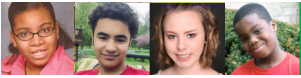
### Conference Questions

If you have questions about registration, child care, accessibility, directions or other logistical considerations, please contact:

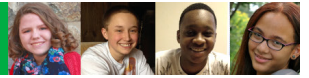
### Conferencing

**Toll Free: 888-793-2512**

**Email: [conferencing@diakon-swan.org](mailto:conferencing@diakon-swan.org)**



## Conference Opening



### **The Honorable G. Helen Whitener Superior Court of Washington, Pierce County**

Judge Whitener is active locally, nationally and internationally. She presents talks about human rights, access to justice and the responsibility of the judiciary to ensure the rights of all that appear before the court to basic dignity and respect in judicial proceedings.

In 2015, at the request of the U.S. Embassy, Judge Whitener visited her home country of Trinidad and Tobago to speak about human rights. In 2017, Judge Whitener adapted and organized a Color of Justice event for her court through the National Association of Women Judges. The success of this event compelled the Washington State Superior Court Judge's Association to sponsor three more events throughout Washington. Judge Whitener also gave a TedxPortofSpain talk titled "Claiming your Identity by understanding your Self-Worth."

Judge Whitener has served on the Pierce County, Washington Superior Court since she was appointed in 2015 by Governor Jay Inslee. Judge Whitener previously served as a judge on the Washington State Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals and as a pro-tem judge in Pierce County District Court as well as the Tacoma Municipal Court. Prior to becoming a judge, she worked as a prosecutor and a defense attorney.



Judge Whitener is co-chair of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, Chair of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association – Equity and Fairness Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of LGBT Judges. Judge Whitener is also a member of the International Association of Women Judges, the National Association of Women Judges and the American Judges Association, the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee, the Washington Women Lawyers and is a judicial member of the Advisory Council for the QLaw Association of Washington.

### **Conference Opening**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 1:15 p.m.**

***Adoptions: Transcending Differences***

In her keynote speech, Judge Whitener will discuss the importance of understanding implicit and explicit bias, cultural competency and why diversity, equity and inclusion is important in the adoption process.

### **Teen Keynote Presentation**

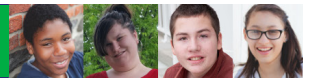
***I Believed in me Because you Believed in me: Anna's Story***

***(Teen Program Only)***

Judge Whitener will share the story of Anna, a disabled child from China who was adopted by white American parents. This keynote is meant to inspire and encourage young children to embrace their differences while pursuing their dreams.



## Special Conference Features & Events



### Recognition Banquet

Teresa Miller has served as Secretary of the Department of Human Services (DHS) since August 2017. In her time at DHS, Miller has focused on collaborating across agencies to advance Governor Wolf's health innovation, early childhood, and workforce development agendas, overseeing the successful launch of managed care for long term care services, and supporting efforts to address social determinants of health such as food security and housing. Prior to leading DHS, Miller served as Pennsylvania's Insurance Commissioner beginning in January 2015. As Insurance Commissioner, Miller prioritized increasing the Insurance Department's consumer protection, outreach, and education efforts. Before coming to Pennsylvania, Miller held positions at the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where she worked on implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Miller also previously served as the administrator of the Oregon Insurance Division. Miller received her J.D. from Willamette University College of Law, and her B.A., magna cum laude, from Pacific Lutheran University.



Recognition awards will be given during the banquet on Wednesday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m. for:

- Permanency Professional
- Permanency Teamwork
- Independent Living Professional
- Permanent Family
- Permanency Advocate
- Philanthropy
- Youth Advocate
- County Collaborative

### Family Fun Night

On Thursday, June 13, starting at 6:00 p.m., share food and information with other families who support permanency for children! A buffet-style dinner will be served until 7:30 p.m., but stay longer to mingle and network before you explore the Kalahari's many delightful forms of entertainment. **Participants with hotel reservations at the Kalahari receive access to the indoor waterpark. Please refer to page 14 for additional Family Entertainment Center information.** Use the registration form to confirm your participation in the Family Fun Night and to purchase extra meal tickets for guests, friends or children who are not registered for the conference or child/teen care.

## Conference Closing

**Jessica Damiano**

**Conference Closing**

**Friday, June 14, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

***Growing Up Adopted***



Jessica Damiano was placed for adoption as an infant and learned she was adopted as a small child – long before she understood the many emotions that are associated with the word adoption. In fact, the first time her parents told her that she was adopted, Jessica responded with a little confusion and immediately asked the question, “What? I’m a doctor?!”

In the Damiano household, the topic of Jessica's adoption – and adoption in general – has always been surrounded by love and sorrow, warmth and tears, loss and laughter. Jessica's story of growing up adopted includes her experience of welcoming more siblings into the family and all will be presented with humor, sincerity, and possibly some tears.

Jessica had the opportunity to tell her story at the 2018 SWAN Permanency Conference and she is back with new tales to tell!

Jessica is now 30 years old living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She recently received her Master's degree in Biology and is working for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in the Clinical Neurophysiology Department as a Senior Surgical Neurophysiologist.



## Workshop Session 1 • Wednesday, June 12, 2019 • 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- W-WK1 Coaching: The Key to High Performance\*\***  
**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers  
 This session is designed for leaders at all levels of an organization. It will focus on coaching techniques and methods to encourage high performance in staff, which in turn will result in improved outcomes for children, youth and families.  
**Christina Fatzinger**, University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center and **Sarah Finkey**, Adams County Children and Youth Services
- W-WK2 Ask the Attorneys**  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates, Legal Professionals  
 This workshop offers a panel presentation and discussion regarding common child welfare legal issues and questions that arise through the SWAN Legal Services Initiative Warmline. A panel of legal training specialists will discuss various sides of popular legal issues, and participants will have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.  
**Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.**  
**SWAN Legal Services Training Specialists**, Diakon/Family Design Resources
- W-WK3 The Gathering\*** **NETWORKING SESSION!**  
**Audience** - Families (current and prospective), Adoptive, Foster, Kinship and PLC Families  
 Adoptive, foster, kinship and PLC families can benefit from strong support networks that include families like their own. This session is designed as an opportunity for families to get to know other adoptive/foster families at the beginning of the conference and develop deeper relationships throughout the conference and beyond. During the session, there will be discussion of relevant issues affecting families offering permanency to children and youth.  
**Pam Wagner**, Diakon/Family Design Resources
- W-WK4 Worker to Worker\*** **NETWORKING SESSION!**  
**Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Affiliate Agencies, Independent Living Professionals  
 This session is designed to bring workers together to examine issues related to current permanency practices. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with other workers from throughout the state and share their experiences and knowledge about different aspects of the field.  
**Currin Haines-Yoder**, Dauphin County Children and Youth
- W-WK5 Achieving Permanency Through CSR/Strengthening Youth\*** **NETWORKING SESSION!**  
**Audience** - Affiliate CSR Workers, OCMI Recruiters, Child Welfare Workers, Independent Living Professionals  
 This networking session will offer older youth workers, including those providing child specific recruitment, an opportunity to build connections and discuss thoughts and ideas for getting youth to permanency in the most expedient, efficient and successful manner.  
**Jane Johnston**, Diakon/Family Design Resources and **Meghan O'Hare**, University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

## Workshop Session 2 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- TH-WK1 Lost on an Island**  
**Category** - Foundational **Audience** - Families  
 Resource families sometimes feel as though they are stuck on an island, isolated from support and at risk of disruption. This workshop will look at engagement issues between resource families and their agency and discuss methods for establishing an effective, stable support network. Upcoming changes resulting from the Family First Prevention Services Act will be incorporated.  
**Colleen Slebodnik** and **Annette Gross**, Wesley Family Services
- TH-WK2 Ask a Question, Save a Life; Be a Gatekeeper**  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - All  
 This session will discuss Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), an interactive, evidence-based program providing guidance on asking "the suicide question," persuading the person to get help, and referring them to the appropriate professionals. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response tool to help someone in crisis.  
**Dwaneen Hicks**, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health and **Beth-Ann McConnell**, Pennsylvania Care Partnership
- TH-WK3 Finding the Golden Keys to Self-Esteem\*\***  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates  
 This session will discuss Virginia Satir's "Self Esteem Maintenance Toolkit" for self-care. Satir believed interpersonal relationships are greatly affected by a person's self-esteem and created this toolkit to help discuss this issue. Participants will learn when and how to share these strengths-based tools with others who are struggling to accept, understand and grow themselves.  
**Caren Rosser-Morris**, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

\* Back by popular demand  
 \*\* Suggested for supervisors

## Workshop Session 2 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (continued)

### TH-WK4 Youth Leading Youth Through the YAB Experience

**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates

Setting up a youth advisory board for your agency or county is one way to build youth engagement in your agency. This presentation by the Pennsylvania Youth Advisory Board (YAB) will give an in-depth look at how a YAB can be developed to offer professional and leadership opportunities for older youth.

**Lindsey Glezen**, Lackawanna County Office of Youth and Family Services and **Marvin Butts**, University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center and Panel

### TH-WK5 Finding Hope in Addiction and Recovery Through FGDM

**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Advocates

This session provides an opportunity to learn about the Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) process and its benefit to families from a parent and professional's perspective. Participants will learn about engagement strategies with special consideration for working with parents who experience substance abuse issues.

**Eliza White** and **Felicia Matriccino**, University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center

### TH-WK6 Telling Your Story

**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - Families

Anyone can be a spokesperson for their own story. Families interested in telling their adoption story to the media or within their own social network can learn how to tell their story, how to use technology and social media to spread their message, and how to interact with media.

**Ali Fogarty**, Department of Human Services Communications Office

## Workshop Session 3 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### TH-WK7 Substance Abuse Issues: Dealing with the Roller Coasters

**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates

Prevention, treatment and teamwork can reduce the impact of substance abuse on permanency, and real emotional reactions to substance abuse issues can be transformed into helpful responses. This session will present insights into working with those affected by substance abuse, and the presenters will facilitate a discussion about personal experiences working with affected children and families.

**Rob Henry**, Project STAR at the Children's Institute and **Jordan Shoenberger**, Jeremiah's Place

### TH-WK8 OCMI and Recruitment Collaboration for Success

**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

This workshop will engage recruitment professionals (CSR, Child Prep, Family Recruiters, and IL workers) in a discussion about barriers they face. Participants will learn about effective collaboration strategies to overcome real world obstacles and yield positive best practice outcomes for children and families.

**Nic Landon**, Diakon/Family Design Resources and **Russ McCurdy**, Project STAR at the Children's Institute

### TH-WK9 Prudent Parent Party Planning

**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - All

Help plan the ultimate party... prudent parent style! This session will incorporate a discussion of the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard requirements into a (pretend) birthday party planning activity. Participants will be challenged to apply the standards to each scenario presented and will discuss any questions that arise.

**Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.**

**Rachel Thiessen, Esq.**, Diakon/Family Design Resources

### TH-WK10 Youth Stepping Down to Success: Enhancing Collaboration from Residential Treatment to In-Home Services

**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Advocates

This session will provide an overview of a pilot program in Philadelphia to improve the successes of youth after they discharge from a psychiatric residential care treatment facility (PRTF). Participants will gain insight into the program's aim to improve continuity of care through increased clinical collaboration and engagement in the home community prior to discharge from PRTF.

**Soledad Retamar**, **Kristen Bielecki** and **Veronica Lattanzi**, Devereux Children's Behavioral Health Services

### TH-WK11 Effective Representation and Permanency Planning for Child Sexual Abuse Cases

**Category** - Foundational **Audience** - All

Child welfare cases involving sexual abuse can raise challenges for permanency planning and create additional legal issues. This training will address how to navigate legal proceedings, advocate for services for child survivors, and sensitively plan for permanency.

**Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.**

**Tim McKinney** and **Jane Kim, Esq.**, Support Center for Child Advocates

## Workshop Session 3 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (continued)

<b>TH-WK12</b>	<p><b>Through the Eyes of a Child</b>  <i>Category - Foundational Audience - All</i>            Children spend varying lengths of time in foster care; in 2016, the median length was 13.9 months, which is an enormous amount of time for a child. This workshop will examine how children perceive their placements and how this impacts behavior. Participants will explore ways to help children better understand and process their experiences.  <b>Tanya Schillawski</b> and <b>Sheila Milnes</b>, <i>TRAC Family Services</i></p>
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## Institute 1 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

<b>TH-IN1</b>	<p><b>Parental Acceptance and Rejection: The Impact on LGBTQ Youth</b>  <i>Category - Traditional Audience - All</i>            When LGBTQ children are rejected by their parents, they face challenges that can result in poorer academic, social, and emotional outcomes. This workshop will educate parents about the coming out process, the impact of rejection, and discuss resources available to help them best support their children.  <b>Mitchell Hortert</b>, <i>PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Pittsburgh</i></p>
<b>TH-IN2</b>	<p><b>Broken Dreams – Accepting and Loving Your Child</b>  <i>Category - Traditional Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals</i>            Every parent has dreams and hopes for their child, but sometimes circumstances in the child's past can prevent those from becoming a reality. This workshop will discuss the ramifications of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and how to best deal with our expectations when faced with these situations.  <b>Lea Moyer</b> and <b>Denise Sheffield</b>, <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i></p>
<b>TH-IN3</b>	<p><b>The Impact of Grief and Loss*</b>  <i>Audience - All</i>            When a child welfare agency intervenes to remove children from their homes, the family members involved experience grief and loss related to the events. This workshop will explore the impact of grief and loss on children and examine behaviors children may exhibit as a result of significant losses. Attendees will learn about the roles caseworkers, legal advocates and judges play in diminishing children's grief, and discuss resources available through the SWAN Child Preparation unit of service.  <b>Pam Wagner</b>, <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i></p>
<b>TH-IN4</b>	<p><b>Safe Space: Addressing Domestic Violence and Child Welfare**</b>  <i>Category - Foundational Audience - All</i>            This workshop highlights the direct impact domestic violence has on the children we serve. Participants will learn about factors employed by abusers and about laws addressing domestic violence in and out of the child welfare system. The session will equip participants with skills that will help them thoughtfully prioritize the safety of those they work with.  <b>Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.</b>  <b>Ilene Dubin, Esq.</b> and <b>Megan McConahy</b>, <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i> and <b>Christine Pfau Laney, Esq.</b>, <i>Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County</i></p>

## Workshop Session 4 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

<b>TH-WK13</b>	<p><b>Financial Aid for the Independent Student*</b>  <i>Category - Traditional Audience - All</i>            Children who are in care have opportunities to receive additional education funding and support, depending on their situation. This session will discuss the required forms, processes and knowledge to help students or upcoming students move forward and develop career choices.  <b>Linda Pacewicz</b> and <b>Marla Kane</b>, <i>Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency</i></p>
<b>TH-WK14</b>	<p><b>Trauma 103: Recognizing Vicarious and Secondary Trauma for Caregivers</b>  <i>Category - Traditional Audience - All</i>            The cost of being an engaged and empathetic caregiver can be an occupational hazard. This workshop will discuss the potential impact of compassion fatigue and burn-out. Participants will learn how to identify signs of each and engage in critical steps for prevention.  <b>Saraliz Gausz</b> and <b>Ellissa Collier</b>, <i>Lakeside Global Institute</i></p>

\* Back by popular demand  
 \*\* Suggested for supervisors



## Workshop Session 4 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (continued)

TH-WK15	<p><b>Beginners Guide to Permanency Roundtables and Providing our Youth with Permanency!**</b>  <i>Category</i> - Traditional <i>Audience</i> - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates            Permanency Roundtables (PRT) engage a wide range of professionals to collaborate in providing youth with timely permanency. This workshop will discuss this process, outline permanency values and highlight success stories.  <b>Kate Grant</b>, Washington County Children and Youth Agency, <b>Sherie Ehman</b> and <b>Melissa Eller</b>, Diakon/Family Design Resources</p>
TH-WK16	<p><b>Improving Services for LGBTQ+ Youth Involved in the Child Welfare System**</b>  <i>Category</i> - Innovative <i>Audience</i> - All            This session will present comprehensive data on and address systemic issues faced by LGBTQ+ youth in the child welfare system. Presenters will outline best practice methods and discuss ways to support LGBTQ+ youth.  <b>Nicholas Ranney</b>, University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center and <b>Youth and Direct Service Panel</b></p>
TH-WK17	<p><b>Digital Storytelling: as an IL Lifebook</b>  <i>Category</i> - Innovative <i>Audience</i> - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates            This session will discuss digital storytelling as a means for youth to tell their life stories. For older youth, implementing multi-media digital storytelling can be an effective replacement of the Lifebook. Attendees will learn about different ways to combine technology, performance and personal experience to help engage older youth in storytelling activities.  <b>Jennifer Gaskill</b>, <b>Constance Orkin</b>, <b>Jane-Rebecca Cannarella</b> and <b>Tiffany Lewis</b>, Delta Community Supports, Inc.</p>
TH-WK18	<p><b>If not You, then Who? – Intentionally Recruiting and Training Mentors for Older Youth in Foster Care</b>  <i>Category</i> - Innovative <i>Audience</i> - Child Welfare Workers            Project Hope has employed intentional mentor recruitment strategies that have helped their program grow by over 300% in less than two years. This session will discuss those strategies as well as the importance of community connections and training and support in creating an effective mentorship program for youth.  <b>Tessa Adams</b>, Adams County Children and Youth Services</p>

## Workshop Session 5 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

TH-WK19	<p><b>Focus on the Forgotten: Recruiting Outside the Box</b>  <i>Category</i> - Traditional <i>Audience</i> - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals            There are many ways for workers to think outside the box when recruiting for permanency resources. By exploring individuals already connected to the child/youth, either past or present, caseworkers may find greater resources that can lead to connections. This session will help workers overcome common barriers or resistance to looking at kin or fictive kin.  <b>Katie Juliana</b> and <b>Karen Knodel</b>, Diakon Adoption and Foster Care</p>
TH-WK20	<p><b>Experiential Preparation: Active Activities to Engage with Sibling Groups and Families</b>  <i>Category</i> - Innovative <i>Audience</i> - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates            Experiential learning is a well-known model in education. Pressley Ridge has used this model to help strengthen the relationships when providing Child and Family Preparation sessions. Attendees will practice applying this model through hands-on activities designed to share with the youth they serve.  <b>Krista Bremer</b> and <b>Kristina Gibson</b>, Pressley Ridge</p>
TH-WK21	<p><b>Building Bridges Between Adoptive and Birth Families</b>  <i>Category</i> - Innovative <i>Audience</i> - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates            Presented by a group of individuals who each have personal connections to adoption and foster care, this session will discuss firsthand experiences with the challenges of transracial adoption, open adoptions, and connecting with kids' first families. Attendees will learn about the importance of these connections and their significance to the children of foster care and adoption.  <b>Kelly Hughes</b> and <b>Emily Thornton</b>, Foster Love Project and <b>Heather Leveck</b>, Foster/Adoptive Parent</p>
TH-WK22	<p><b>That's not my Color!</b>  <i>Category</i> - Foundational <i>Audience</i> - Families, Child Welfare Workers            As families, workers and professionals interact with a child, they must be mindful of that child's unique personality. This workshop will incorporate a hands-on activity to illustrate this concept and facilitate discussion about the importance of understanding diversity.  <b>Lee Anne Rauch</b>, Lycoming County Children and Youth Services</p>

\* Back by popular demand  
 \*\* Suggested for supervisors

## Workshop Session 5 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. (continued)

- TH-WK23 Kinship Care and Generational Trauma\*\***  
**Category** - Foundational **Audience** - All  
 This workshop will discuss the effects of generational trauma within the kinship family. It will detail the reeducation needed to break cycles of trauma, assist workers in assessing and identifying trauma triggers, and provide strategies and resources for workers to use when providing trauma-informed care.  
**Jessica Bishop and Tiffany Byrd, A Second Chance, Inc.**
- TH-WK24 Understanding Adoption Assistance\***  
**Category** - Foundational **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals  
 It can be difficult to obtain information about adoption assistance for children with special needs in Pennsylvania. This course will provide essential information concerning adoption assistance, including what it is, who is eligible, how to negotiate rates and much more.  
**Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.**  
**Alicia Tyler and TaWonda Jones-Williams, Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families**

## Institute 2 • Thursday, June 13, 2019 • 2:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

- TH-IN5 A Groundwater Analysis of Racial Inequities in Allegheny County\*\***  
**Category** - Innovative **Audience** - All  
 This workshop will provide an inside view of Allegheny County's experience with addressing institutional and structural racism using the highly effective Texas Model, developed under the leadership of nationally recognized child welfare expert, Joyce James. The presentation will discuss Allegheny County's progress in reducing disparities through change in practice, policy and culture of the agency.  
**Joyce James, Joyce James Consulting and Angela Steele, Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Family Services**
- TH-IN6 Hot Topics in Child Welfare Law, 2019\***  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Child Welfare Workers, Legal Professionals, Advocates  
 Bring your legal questions to this session focused on legal hot topics, including recent court decisions and legislative changes. A panel of attorneys experienced in child welfare and termination of parental rights will represent the perspectives of children, parents and agencies.  
**Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.**  
**Ilene Dubin, Esq., Diakon/Family Design Resources, Marisa McClellan, Esq., Dauphin County Children and Youth, Kathleen Creamer, Esq., Community Legal Services of Philadelphia and Jennifer Gelet, Esq., Defender Association of Philadelphia**
- TH-IN7 Social Media and Data Privacy Awareness**  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - All  
 Social media and data privacy awareness are vital for anyone who engages in online activity and the youth with whom they work. This session will discuss technology topics that directly impact youth, including preventing and addressing the consequences of risky online behaviors.  
**Devin Petrucky, Northumberland County Juvenile Probation**
- TH-IN8 Picking Your Battles with Teens; Relationship Based Discipline\*\***  
**Category** - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates  
 Teens can have a lot of challenging behaviors to overcome. This session, presented by both trainers and adoptive parents of a teen, will give participants the tools to understand tough behaviors and intervene without causing damage to the relationship.  
**Jordan Shoenberger, Jeremiah's Place and Candace Shoenberger, Allegheny County Children, Youth and Families**

\* Back by popular demand  
 \*\* Suggested for supervisors

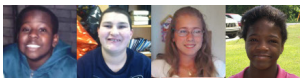


## Workshop Session 6 • Friday, June 14, 2019 • 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

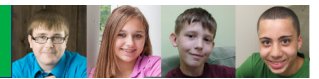
<b>F-WK1</b>	<b>Philadelphia Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)</b> <i>Category - Innovative Audience - All</i> Recognizing that excellent caregiving is the most important service a system can provide to children in foster care, Philadelphia has implemented the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), a model developed by the Youth Law Center. Participants will learn about this successful strategy built on partnerships between resource parents, birth parents, youth and child welfare practitioners. <b>Cecilia Rivas</b> and <b>Beth Vogel</b> , <i>Philadelphia Department of Human Services</i> and <b>Phyllis Stevens</b> , <i>Together as Adoptive Parents</i>
<b>F-WK2</b>	<b>Top 20 Resources for PA's Permanency Families</b> <i>Category - Foundational Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals</i> Being a resource family can be difficult, as can finding services in times of need. This workshop will discuss adoption-competent resources available for adoptive, PLC and kinship families. <b>Lea Moyer</b> and <b>Denise Sheffield</b> , <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i> and <b>Tonya Hottenstein</b> and <b>Jennifer Bornman</b> , <i>Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit</i>
<b>F-WK3</b>	<b>Making Connections: Exploring Diligent Search Research and Practice</b> <i>Category - Traditional Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Legal Professionals</i> Diligent Search is the SWAN Legal Services Initiative process for locating connections for children and youth. This session will review a research study completed recently in select counties, explore practice implications, and provide opportunity for discussion about search practices and tools. <b>Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.</b> <b>Scott Shannon</b> , <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i>
<b>F-WK4</b>	<b>Is this How All Teenagers Act?</b> <i>Category - Innovative Audience - Families</i> This presentation will provide an overview of the CORE Teen curriculum specifically designed for those families who support older youth. You will get a sampling of "real-life" tips and tools that foster, kinship and adoptive parents can use. <b>Sue Cohick</b> , <i>Spaulding for Children</i> , <b>Cassandra Dry</b> , <i>Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries</i> and <b>Amanda Wargo</b> , <i>Berks County Children and Youth Services</i>
<b>F-WK5</b>	<b>Energizing Your Staff**</b> <i>Category - Innovative Audience - Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates</i> Designed for anyone who may be leading or facilitating groups of other professionals, children or families, this session will explore creative ways for leaders to engage a group. Participants will learn about strategies to effectively organize and motivate their group to help achieve a desired goal. <b>Jill Bruce</b> and <b>Marvin Butts</b> , <i>University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center</i>
<b>F-WK6</b>	<b>Leading with Kindness and Strength**</b> <i>Category - Innovative Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates, Legal Professionals</i> This session, presented by two experienced directors in the field of adoption and foster care, will discuss leadership strategies specific to casework. Participants will learn techniques to help lead by example, empower decision making, and provide support for each employee. <b>Kelly Weidner</b> and <b>Sarah Magarity</b> , <i>Haven Adoptions and Foster Care</i>

\* Back by popular demand

\*\* Suggested for supervisors



## Conference Registration Form



To register for the conference, please register online at [www.diakon-swan.org](http://www.diakon-swan.org) (preferred) or complete this form. Please note the dates for Early Bird and Regular Registrations. Preregistered persons will receive a name badge, banquet and Family Fun Night dinner tickets, a program and other materials at the registration area. Confirmation emails will be sent to those who register by May 10, 2019. For questions about completing the form, please email [conferencing@diakon-swan.org](mailto:conferencing@diakon-swan.org). **The last day to register is May 24, 2019. Walk-in registration is dependent on availability and is not guaranteed. Payment is due at time of walk-in registration.**

**\*\*Please type or print clearly. Please complete one form per person.**

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Professional Title
Agency Affiliation		Department	Email
Address (agency participants use company address)		City	State
			Zip Code
Daytime Phone		Evening Phone	Cellphone

Please check all that apply: I am a ☐ Child Welfare Worker ☐ Advocate ☐ Legal Professional ☐ Permanency Professional  
☐ Family ☐ Independent Living Professional ☐ Other

Special Needs: We want each participant to have the most enjoyable and accessible experience possible. Please let us know your special need in advance.

Specify needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Specify dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Session Selection:** To help us determine space requirements, please mark your preferred sessions in the appropriate spaces. Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled because of unforeseen circumstances. Schedule changes or cancellations will be posted at the registration area and noted in the final program that will be distributed at the conference.

### Wednesday, June 12 (Choose one)

Workshop Session 1 • 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

☐ W-WK1 ☐ W-WK2 ☐ W-WK3 ☐ W-WK4 ☐ W-WK5

### Thursday, June 13 Morning (Choose two workshops — one from Workshop 2 **AND** one from Workshop 3 — **OR** one Institute)

Workshop 2 • 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

☐ TH-WK1 ☐ TH-WK2 ☐ TH-WK3 ☐ TH-WK4 ☐ TH-WK5 ☐ TH-WK6

**AND**

Workshop 3 • 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

☐ TH-WK7 ☐ TH-WK8 ☐ TH-WK9 ☐ TH-WK10 ☐ TH-WK11 ☐ TH-WK12

**OR**

Institute 1 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

☐ TH-IN1 ☐ TH-IN2 ☐ TH-IN3 ☐ TH-IN4

### Thursday, June 13 Afternoon (Choose two workshops — one from Workshop 4 **AND** one from Workshop 5 — **OR** one Institute)

Workshop 4 • 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

☐ TH-WK13 ☐ TH-WK14 ☐ TH-WK15 ☐ TH-WK16 ☐ TH-WK17 ☐ TH-WK18

**AND**

Workshop 5 • 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

☐ TH-WK19 ☐ TH-WK20 ☐ TH-WK21 ☐ TH-WK22 ☐ TH-WK23 ☐ TH-WK24

**OR**

Institute 2 • 2:00 – 5:15 p.m.

☐ TH-IN5 ☐ TH-IN6 ☐ TH-IN7 ☐ TH-IN8

### Friday, June 14 (Choose one)

Workshop 6 • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

☐ F-WK1 ☐ F-WK2 ☐ F-WK3 ☐ F-WK4 ☐ F-WK5 ☐ F-WK6



## Registration Options



*Please complete one form per person*

**OPTION 1: ENTIRE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION JUNE 12, 13, 14** (Includes two continental breakfasts, two afternoon breaks, Recognition Banquet, Family Fun Night dinner, opening and closing keynote general sessions and up to six concurrent workshops)

**EARLY BIRD** (postmarked on or before May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$180.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$100.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$75.00 – One parent

**REGULAR RATE** (postmarked after May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$200.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$120.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$95.00 – One parent

**Please indicate if you will attend the Wednesday, June 12 banquet:**

- ☐ Yes – I will attend
- ☐ No – I will not attend

**Please indicate if you will attend the Family Fun Night Dinner on Thursday, June 13:**

- ☐ Yes – I will attend
- ☐ No – I will not attend

### OPTION 2: A LA CARTE REGISTRATION (SELECT ONE)

☐ **Wednesday, June 12 ONLY** (Includes: opening keynote general session, afternoon break, one workshop and Recognition Banquet)

**EARLY BIRD** (postmarked on or before May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$35.00 – One parent

**REGULAR RATE** (postmarked after May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$120.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$65.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$55.00 – One parent

**Please indicate if you will attend the Wednesday, June 12 banquet:**

- ☐ Yes – I will attend
- ☐ No – I will not attend

☐ **Thursday, June 13 ONLY** (Includes: continental breakfast, afternoon break, Family Fun Night dinner and up to four concurrent workshops)

**EARLY BIRD** (postmarked on or before May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$35.00 – One parent

**REGULAR RATE** (postmarked after May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$120.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$65.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$55.00 – One parent

**Please indicate if you will attend the Family Fun Night Dinner on Thursday, June 13:**

- ☐ Yes – I will attend
- ☐ No – I will not attend

☐ **Friday, June 14 ONLY** (Includes continental breakfast, one workshop and closing keynote general session)

**EARLY BIRD** (postmarked on or before May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$80.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$25.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$15.00 – One parent

**REGULAR RATE** (postmarked after May 10, 2019)

- ☐ \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- ☐ \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- ☐ \$25.00 – One parent





## Registration Options (continued)



### ADD ONS:

☐ **CHILD CARE/TEEN CARE** (\$50 per child/teen) \_\_\_\_\_  
(See page 15 for Child/Teen Care Registration Form). Child care/teen program registrations INCLUDE Thursday's Family Fun Night Dinner (in addition to other meals and snacks listed on the Child/Teen Care Registration Form).

☐ **ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS** (\$20/person) \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra banquet tickets may be purchased for guests not registered for the conference or child care/teen programs.

☐ **ADDITIONAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT DINNER TICKETS** (\$20/adult; \$10/child) \_\_\_\_\_  
Extra Family Fun Night Dinner tickets may be purchased for guests not registered for the conference or child care/teen programs.

**Payment Options:** Complete **one form per person** and attach check or money order made payable to *Diakon - SWAN, LLC*, or complete credit card information below and mail to **Conferencing, Diakon/FDR, 471 JPL Wick Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111**

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL CHILD CARE/TEEN REGISTRATIONS: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS/FAMILY FUN NIGHT DINNER TICKETS : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Information:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Verification code (3-4 digits on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Address & Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Special pricing is available for individual groups of 10 or more for the Kalahari's Family Entertainment Center, which features fun games and activities for people of all ages such as miniature golf, miniature bowling, an arcade, and much more. Packages including "game card" passes to attractions and arcade tokens at reduced rates must be pre-purchased at least three days before you arrive. If you are interested in taking advantage of this special group offer for your party, contact Erika Almeida, Waterpark Group Sales Manager, at (570) 580-6025 or [EAlmeida@KalahariResorts.com](mailto:EAlmeida@KalahariResorts.com), and mention code FFN2019.



## Child/Teen Care Program Information



### Child Care and Teen Registration

We are pleased to provide on-site child care, as well as activities for older children.\* Additional forms and payments are required if you are requesting child care. A Child/Teen Care Registration Form (included below) must be completed for EACH child and teen who is participating in the sponsored activities. **Child/teen care is offered on a first-come basis. The deadline for child/teen care registration is May 3, 2019.** All child/teen care registrations received before May 3, 2019 will receive an informational confirmation packet. Permission forms from this packet must be filled out and brought with you to the conference. **Drop-in care is NOT available.** Children and teens must be preregistered to receive care.

### Child Care and Teen Activities

**Ages infant through 11:** Child care is a supervised program that includes special activities. The rate is \$50 per child for the entire conference.

\*Priority will be given to current and prospective adoptive, foster, kinship care and permanent legal custodianship individuals and families for child/teen care. Individuals and families who are employees of Pennsylvania county children and youth and affiliate agencies may register for child/teen care, but will be placed on a waitlist and notified regarding acceptance into child/teen care.

\*Individuals and families who are employees of the prime contract, Child Welfare Resource Center or those who work for the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services are not eligible to register for child/teen care.



## Child/Teen Care Registration Form

Please complete **one form per child/teen**. Photocopy the form for additional children/teens if necessary.

**FEE:** \$50 per child or teen includes daily snacks, meals and activities for the duration of the conference.

Parents must provide food for children who are unable to eat table food (e.g., formula, baby food, bottles, special diets, allergies, etc.). Child/teen care staff will **NOT** administer medications.

### THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER CHILDREN/TEENS IS MAY 3, 2019.

☐ Child care for children ages infant through 11 years **OR** ☐ Teen program for children ages 12–17 years

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age as of June 12, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Initial Last

Parent/Guardian Attending Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone (in the event of an emergency) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any accommodations your child will need to fully participate in child care activities:

Please list any dietary restrictions your child may have:

Please disclose any medical conditions (failure to disclose this information could result in removal from the child/teen care program):

Please list anything that would be helpful for the child/teen care staff to know about your child (likes, dislikes, fears, allergies, medications, etc.):

For child/teen care registration to be complete:

- ☐ Complete form. **One per child/teen.** ☐ To secure a space for your child, all registrations **must** be accompanied by payment.  
☐ Attach payment. **NOTE:** Make check payable to: *Diakon – SWAN, LLC*. ☐ Enclose form and payment with your completed conference registration form.

**An informational confirmation packet will be forwarded to you if the completed child/teen care registration form(s) and payment are received by May 3, 2019. You will need to complete the forms in the information packet and bring them with you to the conference. No child/teen care registrations will be accepted after May 3, 2019.**





**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES