

Building a Hopeful Future Together: Biographies

Session 1A: Building a Primary Prevention Ecosystem in the U.S.



Jennifer A. Jones, MSW, Chief Strategy Officer - Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America). Jennifer has served as director of many child and family serving organizations and initiatives including but not limited to the Change in Mind Institute, Safety and Resilience and Child Safety Forward for the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, and as Associate and Interim Executive Director for the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund (CTF). Jones is an affiliate of the Institute for Child and Family Well-Being, a member of the National HOPE Advisory Board, and Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Hunger Task Force.

To read Jennifer's full bio visit: preventchildabuse.org/team/jennifer-jones/



Jamia (Mia) Crockett, MHA, Chief Executive Officer - Families Forward Virginia Jamia (Mia) is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and holds a Master's degree in Hospital Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Mia has worked in various health systems in both Virginia and North Carolina moving her career forward in Strategic Planning, Business Development, and Community Health.

As the CEO of Families Forward Virginia, Mia is an innovator with a keen desire to co-design a truly family centered model of well-being. By co-designing with families, state agencies, and other community partners, it is her hope that we can build a prevention ecosystem where families thrive by accessing education, resources, tools, and concrete wrap-around services and support.



Christine Tappan, MSW, CAGS, CWMF, Chief of Community Services & Advancement - Ascentria Care Alliance Christine specializes in applying progressive practice, program, policy, strategy, and financial expertise across the health and human services spectrum. She brings 25-plus years of experience working in the public, social, and for-profit sectors, as well as primary and higher education, both in the United States and internationally. Throughout her career, she's focused on building partnerships that use data and analytics to drive collaboration and integrate transformational change at key intersections

of the social determinants of health, including early childhood, economic mobility, housing, behavioral health, child welfare, and juvenile justice. Currently, Christine is the Chief of Strategy and External Affairs with Ascentria Care Alliance a 150-year-old New England based non-profit empowers people of all backgrounds to rise together and reach beyond life's challenges. Previously, Christine served as the Associate Commissioner of NH DHHS overseeing all human services and behavioral health services including those supporting and strengthening children, families and communities across the state. Christine is also the founder and lead guide for BirchWalking, a social impact organization that "brings beings together in nature and creates safe spaces to deepen connections that promote resiliency and capacity for all to thrive and live well".

Christine has a Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Michigan and Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from the University of New Hampshire. She also holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Education & Leadership from Plymouth State University and is a Certified Forest and Nature Therapy Guide and Trail Consultant through the Association for Nature and Forest Therapists (ANFT). Christine is also certified as a Workplace Mindfulness Facilitator (CWMF) through the Mindful Leader Institute, Brown University.



Erin Watson, Ph.D., Owner, Principal Associate - Weaving Change

Erin is the owner of Weaving Change and has extensive experience in the use of systems thinking and participatory action-learning to design, implement, and evaluate transformative change efforts aimed at promoting equitable outcomes for children and families. She received her Ph.D. in Community Psychology from Michigan State University. She has consulted with hundreds of organizations, public sector agencies, community coalitions, and foundations around their efforts to promote place-based change, service delivery reform, primary prevention, strategic alignment, adaptive action, parent leadership, and collaborative capacity. Her systems change frameworks have been adopted by communities, coalitions, funders, and government agencies around the world. She specializes in the areas of early care and education, systems of care, social determinants of health equity, and primary prevention.

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Session 1B: Supporting Individuals Experiencing Grief and Loss



Andrea L Jergensen, LICSW, Lead Clinician - Health First Family Care Center

Andrea is the Senior Clinician on the Behavioral Health team of Health First, a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary health care to anyone in the Twin Rivers and Lakes Regions of New Hampshire. After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from Colby-Sawyer, she received her Master of Social Work degree from Wheelock College in 2013. Andrea has worked with various populations, including early intervention with children from birth to 3 years old, adolescents, and late adolescence to early adulthood. Andrea has primarily focused on working with at-risk populations who have experienced various forms of trauma and clients who struggle with substance use. Andrea enjoys using multi-modal approaches to her counseling while also utilizing a trauma-informed approach. Andrea also provides school-based services for clients as well. She is a member of the NH Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, and the NH Chapter of the Association for Infant Mental Health. Andrea is passionate about providing opportunities to educate others on the integrated behavioral health model, removing the stigmas associated with pursuing mental health treatment, trauma-informed care, and promoting education to community agencies on supporting the complex social-emotional needs within their communities.



Laura Walker, CMHC, Behavioral Health Specialist, HealthFirst Family Care Center

Laura is a Behavioral Health Specialist who received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Michigan State University. She went on to become a Certified Holistic Health Coach, specializing in clean eating, diet management, and overall wellness. She received her Master of Science degree from Plymouth State University with certificates in Addictions Treatment and Personal Approaches to Transformation and Healing. Laura is currently trained to offer EMDR and Child and Parent Psychotherapy. She is credentialed to work with clients of all ages, and her practice focuses on trauma-informed treatment to address anxiety and depression, as well as issues related to self-esteem, self-care, emotional self-regulation, coping strategies, cognitive flexibility, interpersonal relationships, and life transitions. Laura uses an eclectic approach, drawing from a variety of theoretical models to meet client's diverse needs. In a safe, compassionate, and non-judgmental space, she will work collaboratively with clients to help identify what's holding them back. Laura works in both the Laconia and Franklin offices of HealthFirst. Laura is a proud mom of a talented teenager, and she enjoys reading, writing, delighting in time outdoors, playing cards, volunteering at her son's sporting events, and spending time with family.

Session 1C: Supporting Communities: The Evolution and Impact of Police Social Work in New Hampshire



Brooke Murphy, Police Social Worker - Portsmouth Police Department

Brooke has been working in the Social Work field for 12 years and most recently ventured into the evolving world of Police Social Work. Brooke is the first Police Social Worker with the Portsmouth Police Department and has assisted the department with the development of both the role and the Social Work program within the Investigative Division. Brooke, as well as Portsmouth PD, hope to see this program grow and hire more social workers to help with social services needs and advocacy for clients in the future. Prior to her role as Police Social Worker, Brooke was a Child Forensic Interviewer in Rockingham County. Brooke's range of different social work roles have helped her to have a diverse approach when working with clients and the community.



Nicole Petrin, Police Social Worker - Concord Police Department

Nicole is the first Police Social Worker with the City of Concord, she started her role in February 2024. Nicole's entire professional career has been spent serving the community of Concord and the greater Merrimack County. She was the first hired family support worker at Merrimack County Advocacy Center (CAC), she played a pivotal role in building the position for the agency. Nicole is most known for her decade long dedication at the Division of Children Youth and Families (DCYF). She was an assessment worker for many years and later promoted to assistant supervisor. Nicole remains very involved with her alma mater, Plymouth State, where she serves as a member to the Social Work department's advisory board. Nicole also serves as a Social Work field supervisor to both Plymouth State and UNH students.

[Session 1C Continued →](#)

Building a Hopeful Future Together: Biographies

Session 1C Continued



Kaitlin Jones, MSW, CPS, Social Work Unit Supervisor - Dover Police Department

Kaitlin earned her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work at the University of New Hampshire in 2010. Kaitlin worked within the field of Social Work at various nonprofit organizations delivering wrap-around supports to individuals and families. She then began working full-time on earning her Master's Degree in Clinical Social Worker at Bridgewater State University in 2016 after which she continued her work with a clinical focus, providing in-home family therapy services. Kaitlin left the nonprofit sector to transfer her skills as a Student Assistance Counselor at Rochester Middle School in 2017, providing students with substance misuse prevention and early intervention services. She earned her Certified Prevention Specialist credentialing in 2019. From Rochester, Kaitlin joined the Dover Police Department in February 2022 as the first Police Social Worker for the Dover Police Department. Kaitlin was promoted to Social Work Unit Supervisor in 2023. Kaitlin reports feeling more energized in her career than ever, being given the opportunity to create the wheel for programming within the Social Work Unit position. She expresses feeling honored to be a part of such an open-minded, progressive, trauma-informed police department, and hopes to continue to inspire and help blaze the trail for other police departments seeking to develop internal Social Work positions.



Kaitlynn Mello, LSWA, Police Social Worker - Keene Police Department

Kaitlynn is the first Police Social Worker with the city of Keene, and started her role in March 2024. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice in 2014 from Florida Gulf Coast University. In 2018, while working for Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, she obtained her License as a Social Work Associate (LSWA) in the state of Massachusetts to practice social work at a bachelor's level under the supervision of a master's level clinician. She has 9 years of case management and social work experience. She has worked with different populations in her career to include juveniles and families in in-home settings as well as in child protection services, criminal justice involved individuals in the correction system, and dual diagnosed mental health and developmental disabilities in the community. All of her roles have had a case management component that has been helpful in creating this new position with KPD.

Session 1D & 2D*: Building Trauma Responsive Communities



Dr. Cassie Yackley, Psy.D., Director - Center for Trauma Responsive Practice

Dr. Yackley is a licensed psychologist with more than 30 years of experience supporting families and communities impacted by trauma. She is the director of the Center for Trauma-Responsive Practice and the New Hampshire Child-Parent Psychotherapy Provider Network Provider Network. Dr. Yackley has trained hundreds of mental health clinicians in evidence-based mental health interventions for trauma and collaborated with hundreds of agencies to become more trauma-responsive. She has extensive experience presenting to audiences on mental health and trauma informed care.

Afternoon Sessions →



Building a Hopeful Future Together: Biographies

Genuine Happiness Plenary



Scott Noyes, Presenter - Empowering Programs

Scott has been professionally working, playing, writing, and talking about children for over forty years. He teaches graduate level courses in "Challenging Behaviors," "Mentor Pedagogy," and Perspectives in Leadership" and undergraduate courses in "Positive Discipline." Scott's first book "Positive Discipline - That Works!" is in its fourth publishing. His second book, "Intentional Language" was released in the fall of 2003. His newest reader, "This Child is Driving Us Crazy - What Should We Do?"

helps adults develop an effective behavior plans for children with feisty behaviors.

To read more about Scott and Empowering Programs visit: empoweringprograms.com/aboutep.htm

Session 2A: WorkWell: The Case for Family Friendly Workplaces



Joelyn Drennan, Senior Director, Early Childhood Initiatives - Granite United Way

Joelyn Drennan has dedicated 20 years to New Hampshire's nonprofit sector. She has extensive experience collaborating with national, state, and local agencies to drive systemic change and improve outcomes for children and families. Her work includes partnering with NH DHHS and community partners to develop programs and policies, secure funding, and implement best practices in early childhood education, family support, and child welfare. These collaborations have been instrumental in

creating comprehensive programs that address the diverse needs of communities across New Hampshire.

Joelyn joined Granite United Way in 2023 as the Sr. Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, where she continues to build comprehensive systems and programs to support children and families. One of her notable contributions is designing and leading Work Well NH, an initiative that recognizes the crucial role employers play in the well-being of their employees, communities, and New Hampshire's economy.

As a working parent and seasoned people leader, Joelyn understands the importance of creating workplace environments that support employees as whole beings. Through Work Well NH, she aims to equip businesses with the information, tools, and resources needed to build meaningful community partnerships and supportive work environments where working parents and caregivers thrive personally and professionally, ultimately benefiting the well-being of their children.

Session 2B: Connecting with New American Families



Rick Minard, Executive Director - Building Community in NH

Rick Minard is the executive director of Building Community in New Hampshire, an organization that helps refugees navigate their way to healthy, safe, prosperous, and connected lives in New Hampshire. Rick's training and experience have led him to hire a diverse and talented staff, all of them former refugees or immigrants, to do the important work of the organization. Over the last five years, those employees and the organization's board members have taught Rick lots of what he brings to this panel discussion about making social connections.



Building Community in NH

BCNH is a multi-ethnic Mutual Assistance Association that provides an array of services required by diverse refugee and immigrant communities that help newcomers to understand and navigate the systems that are part of everyday life. BCNH helps refugees and other immigrants navigate their way to safe, healthy, prosperous, productive, and connected lives in New Hampshire.

Building a Hopeful Future Together: Biographies

Session 2C: Strengthening Unhoused Families: Special Considerations in Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness



Hannah Stohler, MDiv, Executive Director - Marguerite's Place

Hannah Stohler is the Executive Director of Marguerite's Place, a non-profit providing housing, child care, and community programming to families experiencing homelessness in Nashua, NH. Before joining the team at Marguerite's Place, Ms. Stohler was the founder and director of Believe in Success, a workforce development program for domestic violence survivors in Boston, MA. Prior to that she led emergency domestic violence shelter programming for Voices Against Violence in Framingham, MA. Ms. Stohler has a BA in Spanish from Tulane University and a Master of Divinity from Harvard University.



Candace Gordon, Director Of Programs - Marguerite's Place

Candace Gordon, Director of Programs at Marguerite's Place, currently oversees the daily operations of multiple programs- residential, childcare and community-based. She is experienced in vision casting, team development, program management, and fostering trauma-informed cultures. She is dedicated to ensuring that individualized, strength-based supports for families and children are at the core of all programs and quality early childhood experiences are offered through intentional developmental assessments and family partnerships.

Candace's motivation for working with families that have experienced homelessness to stabilize, strengthen, build resilience, and propel their story to independence comes from her personal journey and lived experience as a single mother 30 years ago. She started her early career in Early Childhood education, working directly in childcare while pursuing her degree. Once she joined the team at Marguerite's Place, she recognized her desire to support families in as many ways as possible. While completing her Bachelor's degree in Human Services with an Early Childhood Leadership component, Candace advanced into a Director position, allowing her to continue her love of working with children while also supporting entire families with compassion and dedication to supporting their outcomes.

