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**Understanding Texas’ Foster Care Capacity Crisis**

**July 29, 2021, 10am-3pm**

**AT&T Conference Center, Austin, TX**

**BIOS**

**Anne Heiligenstein,** *Casey Family Programs*

Anne is the Texas Strategic Consultant for Casey Family Programs. She began working for the foundation after retiring from the State of Texas where she served as the Commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Prior to leading DFPS, Anne served as the Deputy Executive Commissioner for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. In that role, she managed the state’s Medicaid/CHIP, TANF, SNAP and Refugee Assistance eligibility programs. In response to a gubernatorial executive order, she led the effort to reform Texas' child welfare system, including significant improvements in medical and behavioral health care services for children in foster care. Anne served in the White House as the Director of Policy and Projects for First Lady Laura Bush, as Governor George W. Bush's Director of Health and Human Services Policy and as Legislative Policy Consultant for the Texas Catholic Hospital Association. Anne has a BA from The University of Texas at Austin, an MS from Trinity University and is a Fellow of the Eli Broad Foundation Superintendents’ Academy, which trains and develops education leaders throughout the country.

**Katie Olse,** *TACFS*

Katie Olse was appointed CEO of the Alliance in December of 2016. She formerly served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). Prior to her role as Deputy Commissioner she was Associate Commissioner for DFPS and Chief of Staff for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. She served as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Executive Commissioner for DFPS and the former Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. She was previously the Director of the Center for Consumer and External Affairs at DFPS where she worked closely with the DFPS Commissioner and the Legislature on critical issues within the child protection, regulatory, adult protective and prevention/early intervention realms. Prior to joining the HHS system, she was the executive director of a statewide nonprofit organization where she worked on health and human services issues as well as other issues including education, criminal justice, and mental health. Katie has a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University and has completed graduate studies at the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

**Commissioner Jaime Masters,** *DFPS*

Jaime Masters is the Commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). She was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott effective December 2, 2019, for a term set to expire September 1, 2021. "The Department of Family Protective Services is one of our most important state agencies and needs a leader who has the experience to build upon its recent successes and improve care for all Texas families," said Governor Abbott. "Jaime is that leader and I am confident in her ability to keep Texas families, children and vulnerable adults safe from neglect and abuse. I am proud to appoint her as the new DFPS Commissioner and will work with her to create an even brighter future for the Lone Star State." Previously, Jaime Masters served as the Chief of Health Services and Acting Chief of Operations for Jackson County Missouri. She also served as the Deputy Secretary of Family Services and as the Director of Economic and Employment Services for the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). Prior to her service with the Kansas DCF, Ms Masters served as the Director of Procurement and Contract Compliance for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas and as a Mental Health Program Manager for the Wyandotte County Sheriff’s Office. Additionally, she served as a member of the Kansas Sentencing Commission and the Kansas Board of Indigent Defense. Masters received a Bachelor of Science in human resource management and a Master of Science in marriage and family therapy from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

***What the data tells us about why Texas is in a capacity crisis?***
**Katy Bourgeois*,****TACFS – Moderator*

Katy joined TACFS as the Vice President of Systems Advancement in April 2021.  Before joining the team, Katy served as the Director of Aligned Impact at Mission Capital, where she managed a team responsible for implementing and advising cross-sector collaborative projects designed to address complex community problems. At Mission Capital, Katy led the development and growth of the Travis County Collaborative for Children – a high-impact, cross-sector collaborative designed to bring healing and permanency to children in foster care. In addition, she facilitated the creation of Foster Community, a collaborative initiative aimed at increasing the number and diversity of healing kinship, adoptive and foster families in Central Texas. Prior to Mission Capital, Katy worked with nonprofit and government organizations as an independent consultant, specializing in grant writing, fund and program development, and building government/nonprofit partnerships that expanded service capacity and increased impact. Her expertise in these areas came from work within state agencies where she conducted program evaluations for the Legislative Budget Board, provided fiscal policy analysis to the Governor of Texas, and managed activities related to federal fund development and strategic planning for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. In addition, Katy worked with the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to oversee a study of services to adults with autism in Texas and review recommendations for pilot projects to address gaps in services. She also worked with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to design a method for distributing $7.2 million in federal funding to support pilot programs targeted at providing home visitation services to at-risk infants and children. Katy received a MSW from The University of Texas and a BA in Psychology from Mount Holyoke College.

**Jeff Cox,** *TACFS*

Jeff Cox joined the TACFS team as the Senior Data Analyst in September of 2020. Prior to his role with TACFS, Jeff worked for four years at Statewide Intake, the abuse and neglect hotline with the Texas Department of Family and Protective services, as an intake specialist and supervisor. He has eight years of operations management and data analysis experience working in private sectors from green energy tech start-ups to independent restaurant groups. Jeff earned his Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Texas Tech University.

**Adam King**, *DFPS*

Adam King is the Director of Data and Systems Improvement at the Department of Family and Protective Services. He has a degree in psychology from the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor and has been with the Department in various roles for over 12 years. The Division of Data and Systems Improvement enhances the Department’s interactions with data by gaining key insights and embedding those back into practice.  This work leverages the Department’s internal data to assist leadership and field staff to better fulfill our mission of protecting the unprotected.

***Significant Events Discussion***

**Judge John Specia,***Ret. Judge-Texas, Former DFPS Commissioner*

Judge John J. Specia, Jr. (Ret.) serves as the JCMH Jurist in Residence (JIR). John Specia’s life-long dedication for more than three decades to public service includes work in civil, family, and juvenile programs with a special commitment to children and the prevention of child abuse. He provided leadership in establishing the Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission and forming Child Protection Courts throughout the state. Judge Special further brought his experience and vision to the Texas judiciary as the first Jurist in Residence with the Children's Commission in 2009. Judge Specia established both the Bexar County Children's Court, which provides specialized services for children and also the Family Drug Treatment Court, which handled Child Protective Services cases and became a model for the state.  He was vice-chair of the Supreme Court's Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families and chair of the Supreme Court Task Force on Foster Care. Judge Specia served as District Judge of the 225th District Court in San Antonio and was the administrative judge for Bexar County district courts.  He also served as Master of the 289th Family and Juvenile District Court. In 2012 Governor Rick Perry appointed Judge Specia as Commissioner of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and served in that capacity until May 2016. Judge Specia spearheaded an overhaul of Child Protective services, developed system enhancements, and significantly expanded the child abuse and neglect prevention and early intervention program. Under his leadership, Texas became a national leader in child welfare transformation efforts and research into child abuse and neglect fatalities.

*Panel: What does it take to serve a child with high needs and serve them well?*

**Katie Olse,** *TACFS - Moderator*

**Megan Zellner,***Settlement Home*

Megan began working at The Settlement Home in 2003 as a houseparent and in 2004, she returned to graduate school at the University of Texas.  Megan graduated with a Master of Education in Vocational Rehabilitation in December 2005, and spent the next five and a half years as a therapist at The Settlement Home. Megan is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Board Certified Clinical Supervisor (LPC-S) and a Licensed Child-Placing Agency Administrator (LCPAA). In 2011, Megan transitioned into the Foster and Adoption Program with The Settlement Home.  In April 2012, she took the helm of the program and has since facilitated adoptions and helped connect kids with foster families.  She strongly believes, and trains her families as such, that children adopted from the foster care system deserve parents who are equipped to meet their needs. She is a leader in the community and The Settlement Home is fortunate to have her working hard for kids and families every day.

**Jimmy Moore**, *Lubbock Home for Children*

Jimmy grew up in Morton, Texas, a small farming community in West Texas, where his life as a child was full of hard knocks.  With the investment and blessings of a good mentor in his life, Jimmy earned a scholarship to play basketball at Lubbock Christian University.   After graduating from Lubbock Christian University, Jimmy established himself as a successful coach, athletic director, and public-school administrator for Lubbock Independent School District. While there, Jimmy was asked to lead schools that had a history of not meeting TEA standards, and, through his leadership, he successfully led each school to higher ratings than they had previously experienced. Jimmy now serves as the President/CEO of The Children’s Home of Lubbock: Jimmy and his wife of 33 years Shelley, served as foster parents in the early 1990s, and Jimmy later served The Children’s Home of Lubbock’s Home’s Therapeutic Recreation Director. Jimmy is serving or has served on the following boards, panels, committees, and organizations: The Children’s Home of Lubbock, The Children’s Home Foundation, Lubbock Christian University, Texas Tech Osher Life-Long Learning Institute, GEAR UP, Texas Hunger Initiative, Blue Ribbon Panel, Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, Texas Coalition of Homes for Children, Department of Family Protective Services - Public and Private Partnership, Network 1:27, and Kiwanis of Lubbock. Jimmy Moore has an impressive skillset and a history of proven leadership.  He is passionate about helping kids coming from hard places.  He enjoys watching those same kids become adults, while growing in wisdom and stature, and loving God and others unconditionally.

**Angela Humphrey**, *Adiee Emergency Shelter*

**Brenda Keller**, *TACFS*

Brenda has been working in the field of social work for over 18 years. She earned her bachelors degree in social work from the University of North Texas and her masters degrees in social work from Eastern Washington University. Brenda has worked in child welfare, hospitals, community mental health, in-patient psychiatric units, Active Duty Military and volunteered in the AmeriCorps. She worked as an Active Duty Clinical Social Worker in the U. S. Air Force with Active Duty service members from all military branches and their families specializing in PTSD, trauma and crisis intervention. She currently serves in the U. S. Air Force Reserves and has her advanced clinical license.

*Panel: Innovations Across the Country*

**Peter J. Pecora,** *Casey Family Programs* - Moderator

Peter has a joint appointment as the Managing Director of Research Services for Casey Family Programs, and Professor, School of Social Work, University of Washington. He began his career with an internship in a group home for runaway children in Milwaukee and has worked with a number of state departments of social services in the United States and in other countries to refine foster care programs, implement intensive home-based services, and design risk assessment systems for child protective services. Current projects include:

* Assessment of youth placed in group homes and residential treatment in Arkansas, Montana and Texas.
* Evaluation of Family Resource centers in California, Colorado and New York City.
* Parent Legal Representation Evaluation.
* With NYU School of Law and Action Research Partners evaluate the program in New York City. Super utilizers in Child Welfare.
* With Florida and Tennessee, work with Medicaid and CW data to look at the characteristics of those who become super-utilizers and the actions of CW in making them super utilizers. (Mathematica was the primary contractor on this joint effort.)
* He has published many journal articles and books. From 2010 to 2011, he served on the (1) National Advisory Committee for the Child National Traumatic Stress Network; and (2) Committee on the Prevention of Mental Health Disorders and Substance Abuse for the Board on Children, Youth, and Families. (This is a joint board of the National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. The committee report was issued in the summer of 2009.)

**Lindsey Jones,***Oklahoma Department of Human Services*

Lindsey Jones is a Program Field Representative with the Foster Care and Adoption Program at the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma in 2005. She began her career with OKDHS in 2010, working with kinship and traditional families for 5 years in the field, and as a Program Field Representative since 2015. As a Program Field Representative with the foster care program, Lindsey works with policy, training, assessment, and maltreatment in care.

**Melissa Lloyd,***Sacramento County, CA*

Melissa Lloyd is the Child Welfare Director for Sacramento County in California. Her professional career has been in Public Child Welfare where she has worked in a variety of roles for the past 21 years, starting as a front-line Social Worker in Sacramento County Child Protective Services.  Before being selected as the Child Welfare Director for Sacramento County, Melissa was in leadership roles as a Division Chief over Emergency Response services and as a Program Manager in Permanency & Kinship.   Additionally, in 2011, in an effort to learn about a state-run Child Welfare system, Melissa took a two year leave from service in Sacramento to work in Portland, Oregon where she worked as a Social Worker in Emergency Response Investigations and as a Family Engagement Specialist. Melissa holds a strong passion for working for children and families, is an advocate for family inclusion in decision making, and partnering with community. Melissa holds a strong focus and dedication on strengthening families and creating and supporting efforts toward prevention of child abuse. Melissa holds an M.S.W. and B.S.W. both of which she earned at California State University, Sacramento.

**Mollie Greene,***New Jersey Department of Children and Families*

Mollie Greene is the Department of Children and Families (DCF)'s Assistant Commissioner for the Children's System of Care (CSOC), New Jersey's comprehensive public behavioral health system for children and adolescents with mental health and substance use treatment needs, and children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.  Previously Ms. Greene was DCF's Director of Clinical Services. Prior to her time at DCF, Mollie was with the Department of Human Services, first serving as the Deputy Director of the Division of Addiction Services and later as Assistant Division Director of the Office of Care Management in the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.  Before entering state service, she was recruited by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of New Jersey to create the Work First New Jersey Substance Abuse Initiative.

**Michele Boguslofski,***Teaching Family Model*

Dedicated to service, Michele has worked in non-profit human services for 34 years. Her experience living and working with children, teens, young adults, and their families has profoundly impacted her life in numerous positive and life-affirming ways. Michele's work has and continues to focus on implementation of the Teaching-Family Model (TFM), an international model of care and treatment that is researched, evidence based, and trauma-informed. The TFM is effectively used across treatment settings, ranging from foster care, academic, and preventive in-home services to higher levels of care including family and group care homes, hospitals, and emergency shelters. She is hopeful for a time when systems of quality care and services across a continuum, done in genuine partnership with those receiving services, will be the primary concern and focus of everyone interested and involved.

*Youth and mentor perspective*

**Erin Argue,***Partnerships for Children- Runs the Mentor Program)*

Erin Argue is the Director of Support Services at Partnerships for Children. Having worked to transform the lives of current and former foster youth for over a decade, she uses her experience to develop and grow programs. Erin has a natural ability to connect with others and when she isn’t encouraging everyone to get involved, you can find her riding her bike or stand-up paddleboarding on Town Lake with her pup, Charlie the Bandit.

**Clare Ivey** *(Partnerships for Children- Mentor)*

**Alexandria Woods** *(Partnerships for Children- Young Adult with Lived Experience)*

Alexandria Woods currently serves as a teacher assistant for AISD at Navarro High School. I love my job, it’s extremely rewarding! Ria is the proud mother of Joshua Morgan-Woods, and when she’s not working hard to keep her students engaged, they enjoy road trips and spending time together doing fun things around Austin. Ria, having spent time in foster care, is an experienced speaker sharing her insights with child welfare organizations and individuals to advocate for youth in care. I enjoy basketball, shopping and spending time with family.