

Thomas L. Sexton, Ph. D., ABPP

Thomas L. Sexton is a Professor Emeritus at Indiana University and an expert on family-based treatment interventions for youth. He is one of the developers of Functional Family Therapy (FFT, FFT-Foster Care & FFT-TCM), evidence-based family therapy programs for families in justice, mental health, and child welfare systems. Sexton's contribution to the field of family psychology focused on the effectiveness of Family Psychology and Therapy in community settings, evidence-based practices, translational science, and the integration of psychological practice and technology through the development of measurement feedback systems to bring research and practice together in tools for treatment models, therapists, and organizations. Sexton developed the Care4 measurement feedback system, a software program designed to help make every clinician their local scientist improve clinical outcomes. He has authored or co-authored ten books, over thirty book chapters, and fifty articles published in national and international peer-reviewed journals. He is the author of *Functional Family Therapy in Clinical Practice* (2010) and the *Handbook of Family Therapy* (2003 & 2015). Sexton served as Editor for the *Journal of Couple and Family Psychology: Research and Practice*. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Diplomate in Couple and Family Psychology (ABPP). He served as President of the American Board of Professional Psychology Couple and Family Psychology Board (2012-2014) and President of the Society for Family Psychology, Division 43 of the American Psychological Association (2009). Throughout the years, he has received numerous awards, among which was the prestigious Family Psychologist of the Year award, which was bestowed to him by the Society of Family Psychology of the American Psychological Association in 2011. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and a Diplomate in Couple and Family Psychology (ABPP)

Paula Young, MUP

As Director of Growth and Innovation of Plummer Youth Promise, Paula designs and implements a sustainable business and operations plan to support permanency and expand best practices nationally, ultimately creating positive outcomes for youth and transforming the child welfare system.

Prior to coming to Plummer Youth Promise, Paula was the Director, Strategy and Implementation for Child, Youth, and Family Initiatives at Lutheran Services in America. In that role, she led results-based leadership initiatives to support members in improving outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. She has 17 years of experience in systems change, program development, and community engagement.

Previously, Paula led public-private partnership development and community engagement at KABOOM! as an Associate Director. Prior to KABOOM!, Paula worked at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and was responsible for youth advocacy and engagement, technical assistance, and the fellowship program for the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative and served as a strategic consultant with the Child Welfare Strategy Group where she supported assessments

and strategy development for state child welfare agencies. Earlier in her career, Paula worked at the Michigan Department of Human Services managing older youth policy, data systems, grants, and statewide program management.

Paula also works as an independent consultant as a racial equity facilitator. She is originally from the South Side of Chicago and has a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Angel Knapp (Gehring), MSW, CSAYC

Angel Knapp serves as the Senior Director of External Initiatives & Quality Services for Damar Services in Indianapolis. She has served in various Damar leadership positions for the past 17-years. Her current leadership role is assuring that all clients, families, and community partners experience exemplary service throughout the agency that is reflective of best practices and family engagement. Previously, Angel served as the State Director of Integrated Services (ISP) in Indiana. ISP is the State's clinical and financial residential reform model - deploying the services and resources historically associated with residential facilities to the homes, schools and communities of families and children served. Angel led the collaboration with 13 partnering agencies to assure best practices in reducing the number of children experiencing out of home placements and improving long-term sustained outcomes for those youth and families touched by residential care. Before joining Damar Services in 2005, Angel worked as a G.E.A.R U.P. counselor thru Ball State University Admissions Department and then as the program coordinator for Indiana's Homes for Black Children adoption initiative. Angel currently serves as the Board President for Stopover, Inc. and serves as a practicum supervisor for the Indiana University School of Social Work where she earned bachelors and master's degree in social work. Angel is a member of the National Association of Social Workers.