

5th Annual Utah Indian Child Welfare Conference

Presenter Biographies

Tami DeCoteau, Ph.D.

Strategies for Understanding and Working with Trauma Survivors

Dr. DeCoteau obtained a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology in 2003 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with specialization in the cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders for adults, adolescents and children.

Dr. De Coteau is a Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioner. TBRI is a therapeutic model that trains caregivers to provide effective support for at-risk children. She is also trained in various other trauma treatment modalities including EMDR, somatic processing, attachment intervention, NMT (neurosequential model of therapeutics), and TF-CBT. Dr. De Coteau has extensive experience working with patients who suffer from complex trauma, neurodevelopmental disorders, grief, anxiety, depression, and suicidal thinking.

Dr. DeCoteau has worked in a variety of outpatient settings and with a diverse patient population, including Veterans and Native Americans. She received the Indian Health Service 2009 Health Professional of the Year Award for outstanding service and the American Psychological Foundation 2010 Early Career Award for providing culturally competent practice techniques for Native Americans and for developing training programs in rural, underserved areas. This year Dr. DeCoteau was appointed by a member of the U.S. Congress to serve the Commission on Native Children to help address the challenges faced by Native children.

Aside from clinical work, Dr. DeCoteau has given numerous lectures on how trauma impacts attachment and brain development, in-school strategies for working with traumatized children, and historical trauma. She is a long-standing member of the American Psychological Association, an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation and a descendant of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

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Rachael Groves

Kinship Panel

Rachael received her Master's degree in social work from the University of Utah. She has over 15 years' experience working with youth and their families. Having worked with people from diverse backgrounds, from all different walks of life, Rachael has come to believe in the human spirit and has adapted a strengths based therapeutic approach; focusing on building on the unique strengths of each individual leads to mind, body and spiritual healing. Rachael has extensive experience in treating trauma, abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, self-harm and other women's issues. She has a certification in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). Rachael loves spending time with her family, adventure and her culture. Rachael is an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe.

Shuli Baram-Guzman

Kinship Panel

Shuli Baram-Guzman graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor degree in Family, Consumer, and Human Development in 2012. In 2013 she was hired as a case manager at Ute Family Services (Ute Tribe Social Services) where she worked with families to create, develop and implement plans towards reunification. In 2016 she and her family moved to Salt Lake City, UT and is currently working as a case manager for the Inter-tribal Council of Nevada Child Care development Fund, a federally subsidized program that assists native families with the cost of child care.

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Virgil Johnson

Kinship Panel

Virgil Johnson is Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation. His experience includes 35 years as Educator and Principal along with coaching extracurricular activities in football, wrestling, track and girls basketball. He has held many education leadership positions with school districts and in state education.

Chairman Johnson attended National, State and local seminar in best teaching practices, including many seminars dealing with coaching clinics. In leadership positions he gave seminars to Educators in elementary and secondary schools.

His life experiences include the following: United States Marine Corps, with year in Danang, South Vietnam. A two year Church Mission for Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in New England States as well as serving in many church leadership positions. Graduate of Southern Utah University with bachelor's degree in Sociology and Education, Utah State University Masters Of Education.

Alisa Lee

Kinship Panel Moderator

Alisa Lee is an enrolled member of the federally-recognized Fort Independence Paiute Tribe in Owens Valley, California. Alisa received her B.S in Psychology and a minor in Native American studies and a J.D from Brigham Young University. Alisa also completed a Master's degree from UCLA in American Indian Studies. Her thesis focused on the implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA). Her education and research at UCLA increased her desire to work with Indian families and improve compliance with ICWA. Alisa is currently the Indian Child Welfare Administrator for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services and she also serves as the Native American Liaison for the Department of Human Services.

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After graduation from law school, Alisa returned to California and worked for her Tribe as the Director of Community and Economic Development. Alisa enjoyed addressing the barriers to economic success for her community and worked to establish internal capacity so the Tribe could reassume and expand self-governance. Alisa also worked for the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians as their Enrollment Officer. As Alisa worked with Indian communities in California, she realized that there was a consistent shortage of foster and adoptive homes for Indian children. Alisa and her husband became licensed foster parents and later were able to adopt three siblings who are Yokut/Navajo.

Alisa is a champion of ICWA. She is excited to be working in the field of Indian child welfare during this pivotal time as federal agencies are increasing their collaboration and support of ICWA. She is especially passionate about ensuring the best outcomes for Indian children and is working to increase preventative and culturally relevant services for Indian families in Utah.

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel

Celebrating Our Heritage: Our Time Honored Tradition, Our Kin

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel is the Founder, President and CEO of A Second Chance, Inc., the nation's leading nonprofit voice on kinship care. Raised in the foster care system through kinship care herself, the model of kinship care she developed serves over 1,800 children and 800 families daily with offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Because she values family, Dr. McDaniel has led the way in demonstrating that families have the power to transform child welfare as they are the safest, most secure and nurturing caregivers.

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Recognizing her insightful, compassionate, and tenacious advocacy for kinship care, she was appointed to the prestigious Casey Family Programs Board of Trustees in 2005. In 2007, she assumed the position of Treasurer. They are the nation's largest foundation dedicated to improving, and ultimately preventing, the need for foster care. She is also served as a Trustee of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiative from 2005-2016. The Initiative was one of the leading national voices in child welfare, particularly focused on supporting young people transitioning from foster care to adulthood.

In other notable appointments, federally, she was appointed to the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, a Congressional forum to discuss and develop policy recommendations for the child welfare system, the Quality Improvement Center on Post Permanency Services through HHS and Spaulding for Children, as a consultant for Federal Quality Child and Family Services Review and was a Federal Adoption Lead Reviewer. Dr. McDaniel also served as a panel member for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Advisory Kinship Panel that was assembled under the Adoption and Safe Families Act. Presently, she sits on the National Center on Grandfamilies Council for Generations United.

A trusted industry leader and change agent, Dr. McDaniel was also an inaugural member of the Casey National Center for Resource Family Support Advisory Board and a Children's Defense Fund Advisor. On a State level, she is a longtime member of the Pennsylvania Quality Assurance Committee for Child and Family Service Review. Additionally, she is a member of Allegheny County Children's Cabinet.

Always contributing to moving the national dialogue on kinship care forward, Dr. McDaniel notably served as a co-investigator and author of "Subsidized Legal Guardianship: A Permanency Planning Option Study for Children Placed in Kinship Care" and "Subsidized Legal Guardianship Update" Her research supported the development of a subsidized legal guardianship proposal for the State of Pennsylvania, which, at that time, had no such legal status in its legislation. This work, which commenced around the State of Pennsylvania, was also used by national organizations to form their positions and proposals on Subsidized Legal Guardianship. Civically, she is the President of Black

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Administrators in Child Welfare, on the Board of Coro Pittsburgh and is founding President of The African American Strategic Partnership.

In 2014, Dr. McDaniel authored the book, "On My Way Home – A Memoir of Kinship, Grace, and Hope". The autobiographical account retells her personal journey through child welfare, her experiences in starting a nonprofit agency and her reflections on the philosophies and policies that must change to better address the needs of kinship families in child welfare. A sought-after lecturer, she has presented at the University of Barcelona, Oxford University, Howard University and others.

Grateful to where her journey has taken her, Dr. McDaniel values both her family and the families of all others. She makes certain that visitors and new staff are always welcomed and treated as such. Dr. McDaniel's value for family is the driving force for her advocacy, innovation and embracement of kinship care.

JeanMarie Morris

Kinship Panel

JeanMarie has been in child welfare for over 23 years. She has been a child and family services caseworker and supervisor throughout the various programs within Child and Family services, including child protection, foster care, and family preservation. She and her husband became kin caregivers to their great niece who was born meth addicted in 1998. This experience gave JeanMarie a new perspective into kinship and the need to engage family in the healing process. She helped to develop the kinship program in the northern part of Utah and is currently the State of Utah Kinship Program Administrator. She has received her masters in social work and is a licensed clinical social worker. She has provided individual and family therapy in several settings including pediatric psychiatry, juvenile justice, substance abuse, hospice, and privately.

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Hon. Jeffrey J. Noland

Master of Ceremonies

Judge Jeffrey J. Noland was appointed to the Second District Juvenile Court by Gov. Gary R. Herbert in July 2010. He serves Davis, Morgan, and Weber counties. Judge Noland has a law degree from the University of Utah College of Law. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Noland served as a managing attorney for the Salt Lake Office of the Guardian ad Litem (GAL). Before joining the GAL in 2006, Judge Noland worked in private practice. Judge Noland currently serves as the Chair of the Court Improvement Program where he provides leadership in improving outcomes for older youth in foster care as well as developing strong Tribal-State Court relationships.

Robert Schulte

Kinship Panel

Bob Schulte graduated from Utah State University in 1981 with a B.S. in Accounting. He entered the oil and gas industry as a field accountant and over a 30+ year career working around the world returned in 2012 to work for the Ute Indian Tribe as a Financial Officer and Title IV-E Specialist. Ute Family Services has submitted an Approvable Title IV-E Plan that is waiting on final approval and implementation. Bob is responsible for the licensing of tribal kinship placements. Using both state and federal guidelines as a background along with tribal culture and tradition, the Ute Tribe has developed one of the top kinship placement programs in Indian Country.

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Phillip L. Smith, M.D., M.P.H.

Sustaining Health Through Kinships

Dr. Smith is currently the senior clinician in the Utah Navajo Health Systems, a tribal health program on the Navajo Indian reservation serving as the primary source of health care service for people living in the remote portion of the Navajo reservation in Utah. In addition, Dr. Smith serves as a Senior Clinical Consultant to several University research programs conducting research in AI/AN Communities. He serves as the medical consultant to the San Juan County Public Health Department, and works with Medical, Nursing and other Health Services students as Associate Professor at the Center for American Indian Health in the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Dr. Smith worked in the US Public Health Service for over 30 years before retiring at the rank of Rear Admiral. During his tenure there he served in many clinical and administrative capacities, including service as the Chief Medical Officer, Clinical Director, Director of the National Research program, Hospital Administrator as well as providing clinical care as a medical officer for the Indian Health Service and National Health Service Corp. He also served for several years as director of the Maternal and Child Health program, working as Medical advisor to the American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start programs. Following his retirement he started working directly for his Indian Tribe on the Navajo reservation.

Dr. Smith received his Medical Degree from the University of Utah, School of Medicine and his Masters of Public Health Degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. A Family and Community Medicine Physician, he is both a recognized Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice and Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Smith (Diné) is a member of the Navajo Tribe. He grew up on the Navajo Indian reservation and comes from a long line of traditional healers in his family. His older

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brothers served as members of the famed Navajo Code talkers during WWII. He currently lives in Monument Valley on the Navajo Reservation with his wife JoAnn.

Sandra White Hawk

Truth Healing Reconciliation in Indian Child Welfare

Sandra White Hawk is a Sicangu Lakota adoptee from the Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota. She is the founder and Director of First Nations Repatriation Institute.

First Nations Repatriation Institute (FNRI) is the first organization of its kind whose goal it is to create a resource for First Nations people impacted by foster care or adoption to return home, reconnect, and reclaim their identity. The Institute also serves as a resource to enhance the knowledge and skills of practitioners who serve First Nations people.

Sandra organizes Truth Healing Reconciliation Community Forums that bring together adoptees/fostered individuals and their families and professionals with the goal to identify post adoption issues and to identify strategies that will prevent removal of First Nations children. She has also initiated an ongoing support group for adoptees and birth relatives in the Twin Cities Area.

Sandra is a consultant for the Center for Tribes, Center for Regional and Tribal Child Welfare Studies University of Duluth, Minnesota and The Hennepin County Indian Child Welfare Unit.

Sandra has become a spokesperson on the issues of the adoption and the foster care system and how it has impacted First Nations People. She has traveled throughout the

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United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Australia and Japan, Alaska sharing her inspirational story of healing. She served as Commissioner for the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission and served as an Honorary Witness of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Residential Schools in Canada.

She is a contributing author to, *Outsiders Within: Writing on transracial adoption* (pp), J. J. Trenka, J. C. Oparah & S. Y. Shin (Eds.), Cambridge, MA, South End Press, *Parenting as Adoptees*; Adam Chau, Kevin Ost-Vollmers (Editors) and *The Kinship Parenting Toolbox*, Edited by Kim Phagan-Hansel.

Sandra has received the following awards:

The National Indian Child Welfare 2017 Champion for Children Award

Women in Wellbriety Dana Tiger Award for Creating Change in Nations, 2014

Named one of The INNOVATORS in *Color Lines Magazine*, 2008

Named one of the 50 Visionaries Who are Changing Your World *Utne Reader*, 2008

Named Outstanding Native Women Award from the University of Minnesota 2003

Named one of the "50 Most Influential and Cool People" of Madison, WI, in *Madison Magazine*, November 2002.