

Session 1.6 Defining and Measuring Permanency

Presenter Biographies

Matt Hudson

Matt entered the foster care system in Kansas when he was 14 years old. He struggled, as many do, in a system of instability. He spent the first few months moving around from place to place. He eventually found a stable home in Pittsburg, KS. He began to focus on school and was able to get his life on track. He ended up moving back to his hometown, Humboldt, Kansas with another wonderful family, and continued on a path of success. He graduated at the top of his high school class, went on to earn his degree in Psychology from the University of Kansas, and now attends law school at Washburn University School of Law.

Over the years, while he has attended school, he has stayed active in promoting positive outcomes for youth in foster care and to improve child welfare systems across the country. Before becoming too old to remain a member, he was the longest serving member of the Kansas Youth Advisory Council, an advocacy board for current and former foster youth, and served as its president in his last years. As a member of the Youth Advisory Council he worked on improving the child welfare system for older youth; obtaining tuition waivers for foster youth to attend universities in Kansas, enhancing aspects of social worker visitation with youth, and improving other parts of Kansas' child welfare system. He serves as a consultant for the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Youth Development in Tulsa, OK. Through his consulting work he has presented at workshops and at conferences all over the country promoting youth involvement in states' child welfare systems.

Sarah Kastelic

In 2011, Dr. Sarah Kastelic joined the National Indian Child Welfare Association—the only national organization charged with improving the lives of Native children and families and building tribal child welfare capacity-- to serve as Chief of Staff. She is Alutiiq, an enrolled member of the Native Village of Ouzinkie. From 1998- 2010, Sarah worked for the National Congress of American Indians, serving as Welfare Reform Program Director and later, Founding Director of the Policy Research Center, a national think tank that supports tribes in developing a proactive, data-driven policy agenda as well as supports and conducts tribally-driven policy research. Sarah received her MSW and PhD from the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University.

Ruth G. McRoy, PhD

In September 2009, Ruth G. McRoy became the first holder of the Donahue and DiFelice Endowed Professorship at Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. From 2005-2009, she served as a Visiting Research Professor and Consultant at Boston College.

Prior to joining the Boston College faculty, McRoy was a member of the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work faculty for 25 years. While there, she served for 12 years, as the Director of the Center for Social Work Research, Director of the Diversity Institute and in 2002, became the Associate Dean for Research. In 1999, McRoy was selected for membership in the University of Texas Academy of Distinguished Teaching Professors.

A practitioner, academician, researcher, trainer and lecturer in the field for over 30 years, her work has focused on such topics as open adoptions, kinship care, adoptive family recruitment, minority recruitment, racial identity development, transracial adoptions, family preservation, adolescent pregnancy, African American families, family violence, disproportionality in child welfare, older child adoptions, and post-adoption services. She has received federal, foundation, state and local research funding and has served as PI or Co-PI on numerous research and evaluation projects over the years. As part of the federally funded AdoptUSKids project, McRoy and her research team at the University of Texas at Austin, completed two nationwide studies on barriers to adoption and factors associated with successful special needs adoptions. McRoy is currently leading an evaluation team which is conducting a five year (2007-2012) evaluation of AdoptUSKids, a service of the Children's Bureau.

She serves on the Board of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Boston and was recently elected as a board member of the Society for Social Work and Research. She is President of the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) Board and is a Senior Research Fellow and a member of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute Board.

McRoy has authored or co-authored numerous articles and nine books, including: *Transracial and Inracial Adoptees: The Adolescent Years* (with L. Zurcher), *Special Needs Adoptions: Practice Issues*, *Openness in Adoption: Family Connections* (with H. Grotevant), *Challenging Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare* (with Deborah Green, Kathleen Belanger, and Lloyd Bullard) *Intersecting Child Welfare, Substance Abuse and Family Violence: Culturally Competent Approaches* (with R. Fong, and C. Ortiz-Hendricks) and many articles and book chapters on child welfare issues.

Her recent honors include the following: 2004 Flynn Prize for Social Work Research from the University of Southern California, the 2005 George Silcott Lifetime Achievement Award from the Black Administrators in Child Welfare, the 2006 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Society for Social Work and Research and the 2006-2007 University of Texas at Austin Graduate School's Outstanding Alumna Award. In 2010 she was selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare and also was named the recipient of the St. John's 2010 Outstanding Scholar in Adoption Award.

James W. Payne, JD

A graduate of DePauw University and the Indiana University Law School, James Payne is currently the Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services. He was appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2004 to head up the newly created Department of Child Services. DCS is an agency with 3,000 employees responsible for child protection services and child support. DCS is receiving national recognition for its efforts to improve child protection in Indiana and its CFSR results demonstrate that. Prior to being appointed by Governor Daniels he served the last 20 years as the Juvenile Court Judge in Marion County, Indiana. During that tenure he was responsible for the development of case management software for juvenile justice and many statewide and national award winning programs.

Judge Payne speaks frequently around the country on issues of delinquency, abuse and neglect, case management and juvenile justice practice and policy. He has served on many Boards and Executive Committees developing Juvenile Court policy both in Indiana and throughout the Country. Judge Payne was featured in a Dateline NBC and MSNBC special "For Their Own Good", a documentary addressing child abuse and neglect cases in the Marion

County Juvenile Court. This involved allowing cameras to record the hearings and events of abuse and neglect cases and explaining to the public the efforts provided by Courts and the system to protect children, preserve families and provide permanency.

A member of many associations including the Child Welfare League of America, American Public Human Services Association and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Judge Payne has also received numerous awards including the Distinguished Hoosier Award from the Indiana Governor's Office and the Juvenile Court Judge of the Year award for the State of Indiana.

He has served as a Council Member of the NIAAA, National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. He has also served on an advisory committee for the Federal Government to review the Children and Family Services Review, CFSR. CFSR is the major initiative to improve the child welfare system in each state and to measure that improvement in tangible and measurable outcomes. CFSR is the single most important initiative driving the system to improve itself. Indiana will be a leader in its outcome improvements.

Judge Payne is married to Terrie, his wife of 42 years. They have two children and five grandchildren.

Gina Miranda Samuels, PhD

Dr. Gina Miranda Samuels is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Service Administration and a Faculty Affiliate of the Center for the Study of Race Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago. Her research includes a national study of adult multiracial adoptees; a longitudinal qualitative project on youth aging out of foster care, an investigation of Illinois youth who have histories of running away from foster care, and a national study exploring relationships among young adults with foster care backgrounds. Her published work explores issues of ambiguous loss, relational permanence, racial socialization, colorblindness, family and racial identity, and challenges in developing a sense of belonging among youth and adults whose lives and family systems have been shaped by adoption or foster care. Dr. Miranda Samuels' scholarship situates these lived experiences in a broader historical, cultural, and theoretical context to critically explore how personal identity and well being are constrained and promoted by child welfare policy and practice and by societal and personal constructions of race and family. She also makes use of interpretive methods to inform foster care and adoption practice and policy.

Samuels' work and its impact extend through many networks. She regularly speaks to adoption and foster care agencies, conducts trainings with adoptive parents, and consults on the rigorous use of interpretive research methods. She also regularly teaches courses on transracial adoption, family systems theory, direct social work practice, and interpretive and qualitative research methods. Professor Miranda Samuels is cited as an expert resource by local and national media, and is consulting editor for a number of journals across several disciplines and substantive areas including *Child Welfare*, *Social Service Review*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal of Race and Ethnic Studies*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, *Social Problems*, and *Family Process*.

Dr. Miranda Samuels practiced social work in child welfare, juvenile probation, and adolescent group therapy. She currently serves as an advisory board member to Casey Family Services,

and is a board affiliate of the MAVIN Foundation, a national organization addressing the needs and concerns of multiracial populations and transracial adoptees.