



**SIXTH ANNUAL**  
**SYMPOSIUM ON FAIRNESS & EQUITY ISSUES**  
**IN CHILD WELFARE TRAINING AND EDUCATION**  
**APRIL 16 & 17, 2008**

**SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS**

**Soledad Caldera-Gammage, M.S.W.**, is Curriculum, Evaluation, & Trainer Development Specialist at Central California Child Welfare Training Academy at CSU Fresno. She is responsible for the Academy's coordination and implementation of the training curricula, including the standardized core trainings for child welfare workers and supervisors, and the coordination of its evaluation efforts, including the training evaluation of Child Welfare Social Worker and Supervisor Core Training, evaluation of the Field-Based Training program, and trainer evaluations.

**Mercedes Calixtro-Nuñez** was raised in kinship care, non-relative foster homes and group homes in Kern County. She plan to go to college and start her own life and hopes to become a probation officer. She is a Trainer for the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project.

**Jamie Lee Evans, M.S.W.**, is a foster care survivor, preferring to leave the word "alumni" to more pleasurable educational experiences outside of foster care. At age 40, Ms. Evans received her M.S.W., with the completion of her thesis "The Cost of Misdiagnosing Loss: Exploratory Research Study on Foster Youth, Grief, and Loss." When she is not making trouble or making community with former foster youth, Ms. Evans rides her bike, enjoys bad reality television, and listens to public radio. She is also the Director of the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project.

**Deborah Fitch, M.S.W.**, joined the Academy for Professional Excellence, Public Child Welfare Training Academy in March 2007. She is retired from the County of San Diego Child Welfare Services after 26 years of service.

**Phyllis Jeroslow, M.F.A., MFT**, Training and Curriculum Specialist at CalSWEC, manages the development and revision process for California's standardized common core curricula for child welfare workers in collaboration with the Regional Training Academies. She has produced the Symposium on Fairness and Equity Issues since 2004. Ms. Jeroslow has explored cultural and gender identity issues as a documentary filmmaker, thesis researcher, and clinical family therapist in a multicultural community healthcare setting.

**Barrett Johnson**, LCSW, Director of the Child Welfare In-Service Training Project at CalSWEC, has worked extensively on major statewide training initiatives related to the Federal Child and Family Services Review, AB 636, and the CWS Improvement Activities. He has a long-time interest in cross-cultural clinical social work practice, and has focused CalSWEC's attention on issues of fairness and equity within California's child welfare system.

**Charles Kahalifa King**, M.A., MFT, is in private practice, providing mediation services to the U.S. Postal Service and arbitration services to the Better Business Bureau. As a trainer for the Academy for Professional Excellence, Public Child Welfare Training Academy, he conducts training in the cycle of poverty, crisis intervention, and working in a multicultural environment.

**Meribe Martinez** is former president of the Contra Costa County CYC chapter and plans to become the first female President of the United States of America. Meribe is a strong-willed, independent person with a good sense of humor. She works full-time during the day, and is a full-time student at night.

**Mark Miller**, M.A., M.P.A., has trained in child welfare in Los Angeles and throughout the state since 1982. In conjunction with university partners, he oversees training for the Los Angeles Department of Children and Families Services, a department of over 7,000 child welfare services staff.

**Salvador Montana**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Fresno and a researcher and consultant with the Social Welfare Research, Evaluation, and Training Center at CSU, Fresno. His interest and expertise include program evaluation, organization and policy practice, child welfare services, immigrant populations, and university and community collaborations. Dr. Montana has 20 years of direct practice experience serving on issues related to public social services, administration and management, child welfare, adult services, and program design and evaluation.

**Barbara Needell**, M.S.W., Ph.D., is a Research Specialist at the Center for Social Services Research at the University of California, where she is Principal Investigator of the UC Berkeley Child Welfare Performance Indicators Project ([http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb\\_childwelfare](http://cssr.berkeley.edu/ucb_childwelfare)). She and her colleagues collaborate with CDSS and county staff to make data publicly available about our child welfare system.

**Jean Norman**, M.S.W., has worked in the field of social work for the past 25 years. She has worked in various professional settings, as a therapist with group home residents, a social work supervisor for a private foster family agency, and a foster parent recruiter and trainer. Currently, Ms. Norman is a field-based-trainer for newly hired child welfare supervisors at the Central California Child Welfare Training Academy at California State University, Fresno. She participates in Fresno County's Family to Family Community Collaborative initiative serving as a member, trainer, and cultural broker who provides services to children and their families involved in the child welfare system.

**Bridgett E. Ortega, M.A., J.D.**, is currently the lead consultant for Building Better Bridges, a consulting organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families at various levels of involvement in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. She specializes in process improvements and systems change efforts such as restorative justice, drug treatment and mental health courts, and most recently efforts aimed at improving outcomes for children of incarcerated parents. She is an attorney, national public speaker, trainer, and author of articles and briefs providing insights and strategies for working collaboratively across disciplines in criminal and juvenile justice. Ms. Ortega developed the *And How Are the Children: Multi-disciplinary Community Building Curriculum* to assist communities in understanding the cumulative risk factors and special needs of children of incarcerated parents. In 1998 she received the ABA Livingston Hall Award for outstanding advocacy in juvenile justice.

**Kimberly Papillon, Esq.**, is the Senior Education Specialist for judges and all court employees with the California Judicial Council's Administrative Office of the Courts. Ms. Papillon has served as faculty at the National Judicial College and California State University, Hayward for the past seven years. She holds a B.A. from UC Berkeley and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law.

**Whitney Rhodes** is a 20-year-old former foster youth from Humboldt County. She asked for help at the age of 11 and entered care at 12. At age 15 she was placed with her mentor and now permanent support person. Ms. Rhodes lives in Sacramento and works full time as a Youth Leader for the Independent Living Program. She plans to pursue a degree in social work.

**Salonje Rochell, B.A.**, is a 23-year-old former foster youth with a passion for diversity and the foster youth culture. She is a Senior Trainer for the Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project and also serves as the project's Administrative Assistant. Having worked for Stanislaus County's Community Services Agency as a Visitation Aide and an Independent Living Skills caseworker, Salonje plans on a career as a social worker. She is a graduate of Stanislaus State University with a B.A. in sociology. She plans to pursue her M.S.W. in the near future.