



A FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATING
VIRGINIA'S TRAUMA-INFORMED COMMUNITY NETWORKS

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | MAY 4, 2023 | 9:00am–3:30pm EST

Morning Keynote

9:00-10:00 The Impact of TICNs & Visions for Future Collaboration and Change: Perspectives from State Partners

Workshops

Cultivating Thriving Communities

10:15-11:15 Beyond Tokenism: Strategies to Really Bring Families with Lived Trauma Experience Into Shared Leadership

11:30-12:30 Creating a Culture of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion and Equity

1:15-2:15 LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention: A Healthy Relationships Course for Kids and Adults with Disabilities

2:30-3:30 EveryDay Strong: A Framework to Foster Youth Resiliency

Holistic Healing and Well-Being

10:15-11:15 Healing-Centered Engagement

11:30-12:30 Self-Care: Healing Racist Wounds

1:15-2:15 The Importance of Building Long-Lasting Relationships on the Road to Self-Sustainability

2:30-3:30 The Power of Storytelling & Cultural Narrative Reclamation

Supportive and Sustainable Systems

10:15-11:15 Respite Days: Addressing Staff Wellness on the Path to a Trauma-Informed School System

11:30-12:30 The Implementation of Trauma-Informed Practices at AHC, Inc.

1:15-2:15 Cultural Humility and Creating Supportive and Sustainable Systems for Unaccompanied Youth from Afghanistan

2:30-3:30 Critical Crossroads: New Resources for Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Children and Youth with Disabilities that Facilitate Collaboration between Families and Systems of Care

Morning Keynote

9:00-10:00

The Impact of TICNs & Visions for Future Collaboration and Change: Perspectives from State Partners

Join representatives from Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Health & Human Services, and Family & Children's Trust Fund for a discussion about the impact of TICNs on state-level practice and policy. Panelists will discuss their hopes for the future of trauma-informed and healing-centered efforts and collaborations between TICNs and state agencies. Moderated by Southside TICN Co-Coordinator Amanda Lynch.

Panelist Bios

Maria Altonen is a long-time advocate for sexual and domestic violence prevention. Maria currently serves as the Rape Prevention and Education Director for the Virginia Department of Health enhancing primary prevention efforts throughout the state. Maria was formerly the Program Manager for Project Empower, the sexual and domestic violence program for VCU Health. Maria worked daily with other advocates to end violence against all people, specifically women and girls, through direct intervention in the hospital. As well as, initiating IPV screening projects throughout the Health System to identify those experiencing IPV before they are in crisis. Prior to these positions, Maria had a unique experience in a dual role with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance and Virginia Anti-Violence Project. They were responsible for coordinating a large collaborative project between seven community agencies addressing IPV and SV services for the LGBTQ communities in the Richmond metropolitan area across the spectrum, with a specific focus on youth, older adults, and people of color. Maria was instrumental in developing the LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline; an LGBTQ-specific 24 hour hotline which is the first of its kind in Virginia.

Keith Cartwright is the Adverse Childhood Experiences Coordinator for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. In this role, Keith has led a movement that now has over 450 ACE Interface presenters across the state of Virginia. Since 2017, this group has educated over 100,000 Virginians on the impacts of positive and adverse childhood experiences on long term health and wellness. Keith also serves as the Alcohol and Drug Education Coordinator at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.

Laurie Crawford is the Director of the Office of Trauma and Resilience Policy at the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS). This inaugural Office, a first of its kind in the Commonwealth, is dedicated to infusing trauma-informed and healing-centered knowledge and skills into culture, policy, and practices within and across DSS and other child and family-serving agencies. As Director, Laurie is responsible for fostering collaboration with community-led organizers, state-level stakeholders and policymakers, and nationally recognized experts in the field to align and coordinate efforts and initiatives that promote healing and resilience. Prior to standing up the Office of Trauma and Resilience Policy, Laurie managed Virginia HEALS, a six-year, \$2 million state demonstration project. The most noteworthy accomplishment of the project is Virginia's Trauma-Informed Model of Service Delivery and a comprehensive toolkit of resources to support its implementation in community. Prior to her work at VDSS, Laurie was a Program Manager at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) where she implemented initiatives to enhance healthcare provider response to domestic and sexual violence. She has been responsible for statewide policy, training, and public awareness initiatives in criminal justice, public health, child welfare, and victim advocacy for 25 years. Laurie earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Virginia and a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Nicole Poulin worked for the first 14 years of her career in the nonprofit sector for programs which addressed domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect prevention, housing and homeless services and teen pregnancy prevention. She's carried that experience and perspective to her work within state government. Over the last 16 years, Nicole has worked in management positions within the Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Health, Department of Medical Assistance Services and now as Executive Director of the Family and Children's Trust (FACT) of Virginia. Nicole is a self-identified "policy nerd" with a particular interest in research around intersectionality as it relates to the health and welfare of families and communities. She believes that a society is only as strong as its most marginalized populations. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and volunteering with pit-bull rescue groups in Central Virginia.

Moderator **Amanda Lynch** serves as the Trauma-Informed Care Specialist for Crater Health District and co-coordinator of the Southside Trauma-Informed Community Network. Through her work, she provides professional development for communities and schools throughout the country, that address issues related to poverty, mental health, cultural competency, and addiction. She is a licensed classroom teacher, Registered Yoga Teacher (200 hours), MindUp trainer, Koru Mindfulness teacher, ACE Interface Master Trainer, and Stewards of Children facilitator. She brings both her lived and professional experience to help others understand the impact of trauma on learning and long-term societal outcomes. She currently resides in Northside Richmond with her four children.

10:15-11:15 **Beyond Tokenism: Strategies to Really Bring Families with Lived Trauma Experience Into Shared Leadership**

For nearly 4 decades, best practice across systems of care has promoted the centering of key stakeholders, namely families and youth, in the planning and delivery of behavioral health and social services. Including family members with lived experience on decision-making teams is critical to providing culturally inclusive and trauma-informed practices that can heal communities. Three family members will share their journeys working to end the stigma of trauma. Session participants will gain practical strategies for engaging families in ways that truly improve outcomes for trauma impacted children, youth and adults. Tips will include how to recruit families, prepare families to serve on teams and committees, and work collaboratively with staff across child- and family-serving systems. **Led by Jenna White, Kelly Henderson, and Beth Spivak.**

11:30-12:30 **Creating a Culture of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion and Equity**

This workshop will first cover important information including statistics about the need for inclusive services for the LGBTQIA+ population. We assert that protective policies precede cultural shift. Secondly we will delve into the experiences of LGBTQIA+ individuals that highlight the dire importance of this shift. Third we will cover some important terminology and concepts regarding the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity. We will share several videos providing education and enriching discussion. Fourth we will discuss micro and macro ways to be inclusive. Lastly, we will facilitate discussion on how to be an ally. **Led by Lauren E. Brown and Jordan L. Costen-Sumpter.**

1:15-2:15 **LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention: A Healthy Relationships Course for Kids and Adults with Disabilities**

Children and adults with developmental disabilities have exponentially more adverse life events than people in the general population. They are more likely to be victims of hate crimes, are at risk of experiencing violence, more likely to experience sexual assault and abuse, to encounter abuse and neglect, and to be targets of bullying. LEAP (Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention) is a educational training for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that teaches about how to identify unhealthy relationships and next steps if a relationship is unhealthy. It has been studied as an intervention under rigorous research protocols and determined to successfully improve people's ability to identify unhealthy relationships and better communicate what to do next. It has recently been adapted to a teen audience as an online training. This workshop will discuss some of the reasons that kids and adults experience more trauma, an overview of the LEAP curriculum and research outcomes. It also will discuss some person-centered strategies to empower people with disabilities to avoid abuse. **Led by Molly Dellinger-Wray and Kayla Diggs Brody.**

2:30-3:30 **EveryDay Strong: A Framework to Foster Youth Resiliency**

EveryDay Strong is a simple, research-based framework that any caring adult can use to help build a sense of emotional safety, connection and confidence in young people. The presence of caring and committed adult is a key protective factor for young people experiencing trauma. However, 30% of Virginia teens report not having an adult to talk to about their problems (2019 Virginia Youth Risk Behavior Survey). Through a facilitated conversation, session participants will learn and share practical strategies to build emotional safety, connection and confidence with youth. They will be empowered to use the EveryDay Strong framework to support the emotional needs of youth and help build their resiliency. We will speak to how the Petersburg Police Department has started using the EveryDay Strong framework and how we are building a coalition to share this framework throughout Petersburg and our region. **Led by Genevieve Lohr and Emily Watkins.**

10:15-11:15 **Respite Days: Addressing Staff Wellness on the Path to a Trauma-Informed School System**

When teachers are feeling emotionally overwhelmed and stressed, this can also impact their ability to build relationships with their students and make the strong connections that help students be more emotionally regulated and engaged. In the fast-paced and demanding environment of school, teachers and staff need breaks to regulate their own nervous systems, rest, and recenter. When teachers are well they are better able to meet the needs of their students. In their work in Richmond Public Schools, Greater Richmond SCAN's Trauma-Informed Education Specialists heard many times from teachers that they needed a break. To respond to this need, SCAN staff developed and provided Respite Days to promote teacher wellness. Learn about this much-needed and transformative service, including testimonials from teachers. **Led by Surprize Parker.**

11:30-12:30 **The Implementation of Trauma-Informed Practices at AHC, Inc.**

Founded in 1975, AHC develops affordable housing and helps communities thrive in the Northern Virginia, Washington DC and Baltimore region. We provide a wide array of educational programs and social services in our community centers to help residents build more stable and successful lives. Over the last several years, we have a renewed focus as a resident-centered organization and are working to implement best practices around trauma-informed service delivery models. We have developed an organizational change plan that focuses on four main areas: Staff training (for all levels of staff), Peer support, Policies/Procedures, and Practices. We are excited to share about the work AHC is doing around trauma in the affordable housing industry and why it's important that we are talking about TI practices in this nontraditional setting. **Led by Stefanie Bass and Roxana Hernandez.**

1:15-2:15 **Cultural Humility and Creating Supportive and Sustainable Systems for Unaccompanied Youth from Afghanistan**

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) is the preeminent U.S.-based nongovernmental organization devoted to the protection of unaccompanied and separated children. KIND envisions a world in which every unaccompanied child on the move has access to legal counsel and has their rights and well-being protected as they migrate alone in search of safety. One of KIND's services in the United States is to provide trauma-informed legal and social services to unaccompanied and separated children. KIND does this by bringing a truly holistic approach to protecting children after their arrival in the United States. In 2022, KIND's Northern Virginia office (KIND NoVA) started to receive referrals from unaccompanied Afghan minors and children from other regions outside of the Northern Triangle (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras). KIND's NoVA office was able to quickly pivot in its response to these referrals because of its trauma-informed and cultural humility framework, which was instrumental in assessing new forms of available legal relief and social services. Taking steps to carefully evaluate complex issues relating to trauma from war and country instability, family separation, and insufficient social support systems, the team elevated observations for advocacy in national networks and worked directly to support clients in accessing services. Using this framework to create a space for adaptability and learning, KIND NoVA acted with heightened flexibility and cultural sensitivity to meet the legal and social services needs of its expanding client population. **Led by Blanca Castillo and Reta Arbusto.**

2:30-3:30 **Critical Crossroads: New Resources for Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Children and Youth with Disabilities that Facilitate Collaboration between Families and Systems of Care**

Research shows that children and youth with disabilities are much more likely to be exposed to traumatizing events and circumstances than their nondisabled peers. However, accessible and culturally relevant resources specific to trauma on children and youth with disabilities are limited. In this session, we will share videos and print resources designed to fill the knowledge gap. These resources can be used by families and professionals to collaboratively improve outcomes for this vulnerable population by recognizing the intersectionality of trauma and disability, as well as the benefits of trauma-informed care across all systems. Resources are available in English and Spanish; the English versions will be screened in this session. Note that Spanish materials are not translations of the English materials but rather contain unique content that is relevant to Spanish-speaking communities. **Led by Beth Spivack and Kelly Henderson.**

Holistic Healing and Well-Being

10:15-11:15 Healing-Centered Engagement

Trauma-informed care has been widely used as a practice in schools and agencies that serve young people who have been exposed to trauma to disrupt behaviors and prevent harsh discipline. They provide services, such as counseling or positive behavioral intervention. However, while trauma-informed care offers an important lens to support young people who have been harmed and emotionally injured, it also has its limitations. The term healing-centered engagement expands how practitioners think about responses to trauma and offers a more holistic approach to fostering well-being. It proposes the question, instead of, "What's wrong with you?" or, "What's happened to you," but "What's right with you," in leveraging the assets of youth in the creation of their own well-being. We will explore concepts related to the heart of what healing-centered engagement means and practices to support implementation. Participants will engage in some healing-centered practices ranging from recovering from the hustle n frenzy addiction of capitalism to pursue a lifestyle of hustle n flow in alignment with meaning and life's purpose. If you are familiar with the concepts of trauma-informed care, you will want to attend this workshop to further enhance the practice! **Led by Ram Bhagat, Christina Bowman-Peterson, Chlo'e Edwards, and Kristin Lennox.**

11:30-12:30 Self-Care: Healing Racist Wounds

Racism, in all its forms, is trauma. Through this workshop, participants will: 1. Explore the complexities of epigenetics, historical, and racial trauma. 2. Understand how trauma, and the way it impacts systems, may impact brain development. 3. Understand Resilience and how to build resilience in yourself and those you serve. **Led by Amanda Lynch.**

1:15-2:15 The Importance of Building Long-Lasting Relationships on the Road to Self-Sustainability

One caring relationship can make an incredible difference in a person's healing journey. This workshop will cover the different types of relationships; the challenges and barriers to building those relationships; and tips and strategies to address those barriers and challenges. This interactive workshop based on Behavioral Health Community Organizer Tamika Daniel's own life experiences, will provide a safe and supportive environment to discuss the benefits of having long-lasting, healthy relationships. **Led by Tamika Daniel.**

2:30-3:30 The Power of Storytelling & Cultural Narrative Reclamation

Mindful and intentional storytelling is at the heart of truth, healing, repair, reconciliation, and advocacy. Great storytellers honor the history that came before them while celebrating their culture and speaking their own truth to power. This workshop explores the origin and history of storytelling through a multicultural lens. Participants will learn about Narrative Change Theory and how storytelling can be used to shift policy and legal narratives to produce social change. Additionally, participants will learn about the importance of storytelling to combat stereotypes, stigmas, and racial biases perpetuated within historically marginalized communities. **Led by Chlo'e Edwards.**





Workshop Presenter Bios

Amanda Lynch (Self-Care: Healing Racist Wounds) is an expert in mindfulness, classroom management and trauma-informed practices. She is the author of numerous children's books on the topic of using mindfulness as a self-regulatory skill for learners and their families. She is passionate about connecting children of color to yoga and mindfulness and in building healthy communities by disrupting historical and racial trauma. As a former RPS parent, teacher, and Behavior Specialist, she recognized early in her career, the healing power of mindfulness. During her decades long tenure in public education, she developed mindful spaces for both staff and students who'd been deeply impacted by toxic stress and community violence. Currently, she serves as the Trauma-Informed Care Specialist for Crater Health District. Through her work, she provides professional development for communities and schools throughout the country, that address issues related to poverty, mental health, cultural competency, and addiction. She is a licensed classroom teacher, Registered Yoga Teacher (200 hours), MindUp trainer, Koru Mindfulness teacher, ACE Interface Master Trainer, and Stewards of Children facilitator. She brings both her lived and professional experience to help others understand the impact of trauma on learning and long-term societal outcomes. She currently resides in Northside Richmond with her four children.

Beth Spivack (Beyond Tokenism: Strategies to Really Bring Families with Lived Trauma Experience Into Shared Leadership; Critical Crossroads: New Resources for Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Children and Youth with Disabilities that Facilitate Collaboration between Families and Systems of Care) has a MSW and has worked in schools, addiction services and therapeutic foster care. At Formed Families Forward Beth supports families and professionals through training and consultations, especially around topics related to childhood trauma, traumatic stress and building resiliency. She is the mother of two teenagers, one of whom was adopted from Ethiopia.

Blanca Castillo (Cultural Humility and Creating Supportive and Sustainable Systems for Unaccompanied Youth from Afghanistan) is a Social Services Coordinator in KIND's Northern Virginia office. Prior to joining KIND in 2021, Blanca served as a migrant shelter coordinator on the U.S.-Mexico border, where she collaborated with Mexican government agencies and NGOs to create programs to improve living conditions for migrant children and families. She earned her Bachelor's in Western Legal Traditions with a minor in Spanish from Liberty University.

Chlo'e Edwards (Healing-Centered Engagement; The Power of Storytelling & Cultural Narrative Reclamation) is the Policy Director at New Virginia Majority (NVM), where she is responsible for the execution of strategies designed to advance the organization's public policy goals, with a significant focus on civil rights, economic justice, health equity, housing and tenant protections, environmental justice, criminal legal reform, and immigrants' rights, all through a racial equity lens. In her work, Chlo'e uniquely centers opportunities for transformation through practices centered in truth telling, reconciliation, healing, and repair. Prior to joining NVM, she served as a social entrepreneur, the president of Black Lives Matter 804, and a policy analyst at Voices for Virginia's Children. In 2020, she founded Virginia's first-ever Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week, which was recognized by Governor Ralph Northam, and in 2021, she helped lead efforts to recognize racism as a public health crisis. Chlo'e holds a Master of Public Policy in Leadership from Liberty University and a Bachelor of Arts from Hollins University. She also served as a Community Partner in Residence at the University of Richmond's Bonner Center for Community Engagement Program in 2021, the Virginia Progressive Leadership Project in 2021, and the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Emerging Leaders program in 2019. In her spare time, Chlo'e is a handler to a therapy dog, Leo, and enjoys dog training. She also serves as the Academy Instructor for Words, Beats, and Life to inspire artists turned social entrepreneurs. Chlo'e continues to inspire changemakers to pursue transformation of self through yoga, mindfulness, and healing-centered practices.



Christina Bowman-Peterson (Healing-Centered Engagement) is a Lead School Social Worker in Richmond Public Schools, serving our students and families for over 22 years. A graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work where she received both her BSW and MSW and specializing in School Social Work. Christina is very involved in community engagement work as an active member in the Virginia Association of School Social Workers, Richmond Association of Black Social Workers and Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. Working with students, families and communities, Christina's focus is on education, empowerment and advocacy. Christina believes that social workers are true change agents and can work to empowering others. By empowering others, we will systematically impact social change.

Emily Watkins (EveryDay Strong: A Framework to Foster Youth Resiliency) is a Community Impact Director at United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Tufts University and a Masters of Arts from The George Washington University. After her degrees, she received a Fulbright grant to live in Rach Gia, Vietnam. She previously worked at the Council on Foundations and United Way Worldwide, supporting community-based philanthropic organizations. Emily joined United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg in 2015. Committed to youth mental health and development, Emily currently leads United Way's Kindergarten Countdown Camp, EveryDay Strong and Ready4K initiatives.

Genevieve Lohr (EveryDay Strong: A Framework to Foster Youth Resiliency) is the social worker within Petersburg Police Department, having developed that program within the department in 2021. She previously served as an Early Intervention Professional at District 19 Community Service Board and Children's Service Worker for the State of Missouri Children's Division.

Jenna White (Beyond Tokenism: Strategies to Really Bring Families with Lived Trauma Experience Into Shared Leadership) has served on the Fairfax Trauma Informed Community Network for the past five years representing the Fairfax County Council PTA. She created this position to bring her lived experience and family engagement to the TICN. She is also a NAMI member, ACE Interface presenter and founder of PACT- Promise to Address Childhood Trauma. Jenna is the parent of two boys and co-owns a boutique marketing communications agency, j.a. creative.

Jordan L. Costen-Sumpter (Creating a Culture of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion and Equity) currently serves as the Executive Director of Safe Space NOVA. He received a bachelor's degree in Television Production from Howard University, a master's degree in Public Communications from American University, and a master's in Clinical Social Work from The Catholic University of America. Jordan initially started working with local youth while attending college in Washington, DC. His first foray in this area was as a tutor at Maya Angelou Charter Schools. From there he went on to tutor youth with Horton Kid's before becoming a mentor with the Space of His Own (SOHO) program in Alexandria, VA. Jordan's other past volunteer efforts include being a Youth Facilitator with Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), a member of the Commission for Human Rights in Alexandria and the Gay Men's Health Collaborative among others.

Kayla Diggs Brody (LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention: A Healthy Relationships Course for Kids and Adults with Disabilities) is a Project Manager and Health Content Co-Leader at the Partnership for People with Disabilities. She manages state level health related projects involving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). She assisted with the adaptation of the adult based Project LEAP curricula for a teen audience and for an online setting. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Education with a focus on the inclusion of IDD curricula in undergraduate medical education.



Kelly Henderson (Beyond Tokenism: Strategies to Really Bring Families with Lived Trauma Experience Into Shared Leadership; Critical Crossroads: New Resources for Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Children and Youth with Disabilities that Facilitate Collaboration between Families and Systems of Care) is career special educator with a focus on emotional and behavioral disabilities. In addition to serving as executive Director of Formed Families Forward, Kelly also holds an adjunct position with the College of Education and Human Development at GMU. Kelly is mom to three young men who have many strengths and disabilities. Her family is formed in part through foster care and adoption.

Kristin Lennox (Healing-Centered Engagement) is the Advocacy and Engagement Manager at Voices for Virginia's Children, whose mission is to champion public policies that improve the lives of Virginia's children. Kristin is responsible for identifying advocacy opportunities; developing traditional, digital, and grassroots engagement and advocacy strategies; and mobilizing advocates to support policy priorities. Kristin has 5+ years' experience providing community-based mental health services, predominantly responding to crises or traumatic events with young people (2 – 17 years old). She has delivered global and local community workshops and trainings on themes of trauma-informed care, healing-centered engagement, and de-escalation. Kristin is passionate about increasing equity in community resources and mental health access for young people and families in Virginia. Kristin earned her Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a practicing Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SoulCollage© Facilitator, Certified Trauma and Resilience Practitioner, and Healing-Centered Engagement Practitioner.

Lauren E. Brown (Creating a Culture of LGBTQIA+ Inclusion and Equity) is a licensed professional counselor and the owner of Lauren E. Brown, LLC; LGBTQIA+ Affirmative Counseling. Lauren has over 13 years of experience in client advocacy, psychotherapy and LGBTQIA+ training and education. She has a BA in English, minor in psychology, from Gardner-Webb University, an MA in Women's Studies Gender Studies from Loyola University Chicago and an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She was most recently published in Lee, Courtland (Ed.). (2018) *Counseling for Social Justice*.

Molly Dellinger-Wray (LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention: A Healthy Relationships Course for Kids and Adults with Disabilities) is part of the Partnership for People with Disabilities, a university center for excellence in developmental disabilities. As a former special educator and mom to a child who used special education services, she has participated on both sides of the IEP table. For the past 15 years she has coordinated and directed three projects that assist children and adults with disabilities with issues surrounding violence, abuse, sexual assault, and neglect. Together with a team of families and professionals, she helped to develop and research LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention, an evidence-based intervention for adults with disabilities. In addition to published academic journals, Molly is a regular contributor to *Parenting Special Needs Magazine*. Molly is an endorsed Positive Behavior Support Facilitator and a certified trainer for Person-Centered Thinking and Stewards of Children. Her goal is to help everyone enjoy healthy relationships.

Ram Bhagat (Healing-Centered Engagement) is a longtime educator, arts innovator, peacemaker, and community healer. He was an award-winning science teacher for Richmond Public Schools and specialized in arts integration during his tenure for DC Public Schools. Recently, Dr. Bhagat retired from RPS, as the Manager of School Culture and Climate Strategy. For the past four years, his work for the school division was centered around restorative practices in education, urban trauma, culturally responsive mindfulness practices, healing centered engagement, and Reimagining In-School Suspension. Currently, he serves as a school culture and climate coach for Martin Luther King, Jr middle school in Richmond, VA. Dr Ram offers Mindfulness Based Restorative Practices and Trauma Responsive Engagement through yoga and communal rhythm to those seeking healing in an arts-integrated environment, guided by a visionary leader with a grounded voice, helping them feel rejuvenated and impelled to act.



Reta Arbusto (Cultural Humility and Creating Supportive and Sustainable Systems for Unaccompanied Youth from Afghanistan) is a Staff Attorney in KIND's Northern Virginia office. Prior to joining KIND in 2021, Reta spent nearly eight years at Legal Services of Central New York where she launched an Immigrant Rights Project focused on adult immigrants with disabilities and migrant children. Reta earned her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 2013 and her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington.

Roxana Hernandez (The Implementation of Trauma-Informed Practices at AHC, Inc.) joined AHC in 2021. With over six years of experience in developing and coordinating programs in the mental health, community impact, and housing stability fields, she coordinates community engagement across AHC, ensuring resident and community perspectives inform strategic decision-making throughout the entire organization from communications to real estate development and property management. In this newly created role, Hernandez serves as a liaison to residents, resident advocates, and other community members. She works alongside third-party property managers, asset management, and resident services to develop and implement strategies to help ensure AHC's facilities and on-site staff are meeting residents' needs. Roxana holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, and is also a graduate of the Ignite Young Professionals Program with the Leadership Center for Excellence. Additionally, Hernandez has received special training in community engagement, financial capabilities, domestic violence, trauma, mental health aid, and COVID-safety.

Stefanie Bass (The Implementation of Trauma-Informed Practices at AHC, Inc.) has a background in clinical social work and has worked in Northern Virginia in the homeless services and affordable housing fields for the last 20 years. She is passionate about the intersection of health and housing, and about taking care of our teams on the front lines so that they can better support and empower our communities through direct services and community building efforts.

Surprize Parker (Respite Days: Addressing Staff Wellness on the Path to a Trauma-Informed School System) is Surprize Parker, MA is a native of Newport News, Virginia and holds a Master's degree in Professional Counseling from Liberty University. Surprize serves as the Trauma-Informed Education Coordinator for GRSCAN, where she oversees the Trauma-Informed work in local schools. She has over 14 years of experience providing engagement strategies, training and coaching in the areas of behavior management, parental engagement and education, and trauma informed practices. Surprize has held positions as family advocate, parent liaison and behavior specialist within Henrico County Schools and Richmond Public Schools, respectively. She has an immense passion for serving others and supporting the community. Her fondest times are spent with her husband, Jermaine and her two children Cayden (13) and Cailee (5).

Tamika Daniel (The Importance of Building Relationships on the Road to Self-Sustainability) is an east end community resident and mother to 4 children. She began advocating for the needs of her son who has autism, which led to her advocating on a larger scale in the 10 years of not being employed. She began as SCAN's Behavioral Health Community Organizer in August 2019 through a partnership with Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. Utilizing her expertise and experience, she brings SCAN's work in Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma, and resilience to the community through trainings and forums. She also assists in building resilience and facilitating healing through empowerment and connection through a trauma-informed and equity lens. Additionally, she brings her voice and advocacy to meetings and tables throughout the community. Tamika is a member of the Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed Community Network.

Taylor Thomas-Harris (LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention: A Healthy Relationships Course for Kids and Adults with Disabilities) coordinates Respite at SOAR 365 and lives with cerebral palsy. Taylor teaches LEAP: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention to teens and also trains about developing person centered health profiles for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Taylor is passionate about advocating for children and adults with disabilities.