



## 2010 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### NORFOLK – SEPTEMBER 30

**Pamela Allen** is a foster/adoptive parent and Executive Director of the Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. Pamela and her husband have fostered for 13 years and have had 70 plus children through their doors. The Allen's enjoy working with birth family and believe that all families deserve a chance to heal and come back together. Pamela has presented at the National Foster Parent Conference, North American Council on Adoptable Children, Montana State Foster Parent Conference as well as the Missouri State Foster Parent Conference.

**Pamela Baston** is a Consultant Liaison (CL) for the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), and has been assigned to Nebraska for 18-months of in-depth technical assistance. Ms. Baston brings with her 31 years of experience in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse disorders, many years of which also involved experience with co-occurring mental health disorders. Ms. Baston's career has included years of direct service experience as well as serving as the Single State Authority (SSA) Director of Florida's publicly funded substance abuse prevention and treatment system. She is a Certified Addictions Professional (CAP), and a Certified Prevention Professional (CPP).

**Sarah Beal** is a doctoral candidate in the Developmental Psychology Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Wright State University and a Master's Degree in Psychology from UNL. She is primarily interested in the role children and adolescents play in facilitating their own development, as well as their interactions with their environments. For the past two years, Sarah has participated in research on children in the court process and the effects of case progression at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center on Children, Families, and the Law.

**Judge Robert Ensz** has been a district court judge with the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District since 1991. Prior to the bench, Judge Ensz was Wayne County Attorney, in private practice with Olds, Swarts & Ensz, and legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. He graduated from UNL College of Law.

**Kelly Henry-Turner** is an attorney who practices in the Omaha, as well as in Dodge and Washington County. She earned a bachelor's degree from University of Nebraska - Lincoln, a master's degree from Purdue University, and received her law degree from Loyola University of Chicago Law School. Her interest in juvenile law stems from a desire to serve the most vulnerable and valuable members of her community. Additionally, she is a member of the Dodge County Through the Eyes of the Child team.

**Candy Kennedy** is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Federation for Families for children's mental health. Employees and volunteers of the organization are family members who understand the challenges and mentor other families experiencing some of these same struggles they themselves have faced. Candy has been in her role with the Federation for 4 years and passionately believes that together we can help create the best system of care for our youth and families in Nebraska. Some conferences Candy has presented at are the National Federation of Families annual conference, the Georgetown training institute summer conference and the South Florida University Research Conference.

**Lori McKeon** is the Family Group Conference Program Director with the Concord Center and oversees the delivery of facilitation services that recognize families as having the most information about themselves to make decisions that protect their family members. As Program Director, Lori maintains external community and system relationships with entities such as Health and Human Services and the courts. Lori holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and public administration. In the past, Lori worked directly with Douglas County's Juvenile Court. She directed a residential facility for girls, and she developed a parenting program. Lori also oversaw in-home programs. Lori brings 27 years of human service experience to Concord Center.

**Dick Stafford** is an attorney with Brogan & Stafford which has offices in Norfolk and Tilden. He graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1968 and started his civilian practice in 1971 after serving on active duty in the Army (where his last year in the Army serving in Vietnam was good training for GAL work). He was first appointed as a GAL in 1971 and has served in that capacity since. He has served as a member of the Advisory Board to three different D.S.S. Directors, was the lawyer representative on a Joint Youth Planning Commission appointed by Gov. Nelson, and is a member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts.

**Rose Marie Wentz** has worked in the field of child welfare for 34 years. She has been a social worker, licenser, social work supervisor, trainer, supervisor of Washington State Training Academy, a residential treatment worker and a CASA for King County Juvenile Court. She is on the board of the National Staff Development and Training Association and is a consultant for the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections. She provides training and consulting on case planning, collaboration, concurrent planning, engaging clients, visit planning, permanency planning, diversity and supervision. In this capacity she has worked with agency and staff in over 65 counties and states and in 2 countries. Rose has an undergraduate degree in Social Work and a graduate degree in Public Administration.