



2010 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

SCOTTSBLUFF – SEPTEMBER 23

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.

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.

Linda Carpenter has over 30 years of experience working in the substance abuse treatment, child welfare and special education fields. She is the Program Director for the In-Depth Technical Assistance Program for the National Center on Substance Abuse & Child Welfare and a Performance Management Liaison for 12 of the 53 Children's Bureau Regional Partnership Grants.

Robert P. Goodwin is an attorney in private practice with the firm of Sonntag, Goodwin & Leef, P.C., in Sidney, Nebraska, where he concentrates on the areas of Estate and Business Planning, Probate, Trusts, and Real Estate. He earned his B.S. in degree 1978 and his J.D. in 1981, both from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Mr. Goodwin has always been a strong advocate for children and youth, from his early years of practice serving as Deputy County Attorney in Keith, County, and as the County Attorney in Cheyenne, County, through the last 10+ years, serving as a court appointed Guardian ad Litem in rural Nebraska. Mr. Goodwin was appointed to the Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children in 1993, on which he served for nearly 15 years. Currently he serves on the Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts, to which he was appointed in 2005, and he was a member of the Commission's Subcommittee on Guardians ad Litem.

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.

Jeannine Lane is a Supervisor with Boys & Girls Home in the Panhandle. She has overseen the implementation and coordination of services to children and families involved in the child welfare system.

Pamela Olsen is an attorney at Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson and Oldfather in Scottsbluff. She graduated from Creighton University College of Law and was a law clerk for Chief Justice Thomas White of the Nebraska Supreme Court and Judge George Fagg of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Pam's current practice focuses on estate planning, elder law, Medicaid/Medicare/SSI/SSDI benefits counseling, juvenile law, appellate practice in both state and federal courts, general civil litigation, insurance defense and arbitration. She also serves as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Judge Derek Weimer graduated magna cum laude from Simpson College with B.A. in History and International Relations (1995), and then cum laude from Creighton University School of Law with J.D. (1999). He then worked in domestic relations and juvenile law (as a GAL and attorney) while partner in the law firm Kovarik, Ellison, Mathis & Weimer. He served from 2007-2009 as Scotts Bluff County Attorney and was appointed as District Court Judge 12th Judicial District in 2009.

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.