



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance



National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse

NRFC Webinar – July 19, 2017

Working with Child Welfare Agencies to Improve Outcomes for Families

Presenter Bios

LaRon M Burris, Fathers Engagement Project, Washington State Children’s Administration, King County, WA

LaRon has been working with fathers of children involved in the child welfare system since 2007. He personally experienced years of addiction and incarceration and saw his own children removed from the home by Child Protective Services. He and his wife were eventually able to work together to reunite their family and he now shares that personal experience with other fathers. From 2007-2011, he was a fatherhood group facilitator and technical advisor for one of four national sites in the *National Quality Improvement Center (QIC) on Non-Resident Fathers and the Child Welfare System* demonstration project, which was funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services and administered by American Humane Association. He also served on an advisory board that guided the development of the *Bringing Back the Dads* curriculum for use in the QIC project and was featured in a training video for professional social workers that explored the importance of father inclusion in child welfare practices. Since 2011, he has continued to work on the Fathers Engagement Project with the Washington State Children’s Administration in King and Pierce counties and is dedicated to delivering services to support fathers in the Criminal Justice and Child Welfare systems.

Alan-Michael S. Graves, Director of Project Fatherhood in the Leadership Center at Children’s Institute, Inc. (CII), Los Angeles, CA.

The Leadership Center at CII is the nucleus for a broad range of multidisciplinary activities, from research and program development to training and advocacy for policy change. Alan-Michael has worked in the human services field, with extensive experience as a manager and administrator, for both public and private agencies, for over 10 years. He has brought these diverse perspectives to his work helping agencies develop, implement and evaluate interagency systems of care, family partnerships and wraparound programs. Engaging fathers to utilize effective strategies to significantly and positively impact the lives of their children is a passion of Alan-Michael.

Penny Putnam-Collins, MPA, Child Welfare Program Manager, Child Welfare Information Gateway, Fairfax, VA

Ms. Putnam-Collins has 28+ years of experience in public and private child welfare practice, administration, training, program evaluation, and research. The focus of her work has been on best practices to ensure child safety and improve well-being for children and families. She was a frontline caseworker in Georgia, providing direct services to families and investigating child maltreatment referrals. She supervised child welfare and adult services caseworkers; provided supervision and oversight to staff and residents in three adolescent group homes; conducted quality assurance reviews in county child welfare offices; served as the lead State child welfare trainer; was a member of the statewide implementation team of the State SACWIS; and, as a county Social Services Program Director, planned and directed implementation of county social service programs. In 2008, with ICF, she was assigned to the Child Welfare Monitoring Project for the Federal Child and Family Services Reviews and is currently a Program Manager with Child Welfare Information Gateway (CWIG), where she oversees the Family Engagement Inventory microsite; develops content for the Inventory; is a member of CWIG’s Discretionary Grant site visit team; serves as subject matter expert for various sections and tasks; and was the researcher and primary author of four Reports to Congress required by CAPTA.

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