Welcome to the 2019 Foster and Adoptive Parent and Relative Caregiver Conference: *Parenting Together – Fostering a Child’s Village*

This year we will explore how to create and enhance the relationships between all of the adults caring for our children and youth. Kids thrive when everyone interested in their development works together. But when they enter the system, this is not always easy or even possible. However, it is a goal worth striving toward. Whether a child returns to her biological family, or he remains with a new loving home, connections are vitally important. If foster and relative caregivers and biological parents can find common ground and work together, everyone involved can benefit, not least the children and youth who bring them together.
## Conference Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Doors Open for Registration and Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.-10:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote – Corey B. Best</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noon-1:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20 p.m.-2:50 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Raffles/Networking</td>
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[Register Here]
Keynote

Corey B. Best

The Power of Being Good Enough—One Brave Soul is all it Takes!

Corey will enlighten guests as he explores his view of partnering with parents, youth, young adults and the adaptive value of investing in HOPE. Co-creating safe, strong, and supported communities is achieved through mutual respect, cultural/racial humility, shifts in practices and the fundamental belief that all voices embody the collective experiences that will ensure we live up to the vision we have for child and community welfare. During the conversation with you, Corey will uncover meaningful examples of what it takes to live the value of social equality, self-awareness and reciprocity. He believes that the protective factors are magical ingredients that help foster parents, systems, and families work as partners. Throughout this experience, you will witness the joy of authenticity and the transformative power of what occurs when we focus on what's strong and invest in HOPE!

Bio

Corey B. Best is first, a dedicated father. He is originally from Washington, DC and currently calls Florida home. This is where Corey began his transformation into adaptive leadership training, community organizing, authentic family engagement, race equity, primary prevention, and highlighting “good enough parenting” for those impacted by the child welfare system.

Mr. Best is commonly known as a leader and skilled facilitator who brings his professional experiences to life by activating group thinking and guiding sustainable child welfare system advancements. His innovative style and approach led him to receiving the 2016 Casey Family Programs Excellence for Children Award. Most recently, he has helped to spearhead an authentic family engagement pilot through the lens of race equity. This work has allowed Corey to take leadership to the next level. His perspective is that a leader must have a set a values and behaviors that embrace differences, shared power and social contribution to see lasting changes within our communities.

Corey is Certified in the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Fund’s Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work. In addition to several speaking and technical assistance opportunities, he proudly serves as an active Board member with the Alia organization. His role has also morphed into a Professional Guide for the Alia Innovation Cohort. In short, Corey’s mission is to positively impact the lives of children, families and communities through safe and racially equitable relationships.

Corey B. Best
An exploration into the most transformative ways to build relationships with parenting MALES

Participants will experience an exciting adventure into the heart, mind and spirit of leadership. Learning how to nurture effective partnerships between fathers, child protection staff and foster parents is at the core of this transformative opportunity. It is through support and mutual respect that male parents and father figures achieve greatness for their children, families and community. Our guests will uncover meaningful examples of what it takes to live the value of social equality, self-awareness and reciprocity as they balance innovation with tradition. The protective factors are magical ingredients that will support systems and fathers work as partners. During your time, you will witness the joy of interdependent leadership and the power of what occurs when we focus on what's strong and deactivate male bias!

Workshop Goals
- Elevate the critical role societal and structural bias plays in our work and how we deactivate them
- Examine the practicality of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors
- Re-define father engagement
- Discuss the connection between Families First Prevention Services Act and father engagement

PM-1: It Takes a Village, People!

Join us for a lively presentation and discussion about the many alternate opportunities available to care for our kids. Learn what Primary Caring Adult (PCA), Mentoring, CASA, Educational Surrogates, and other programs are all about.

Foster parenting is not for everyone nor always for every stage of life. Adoptive parents often choose to focus on their new children. However we arrive, if it's time to stop accepting new cases, there are other less-demanding roles available if we want to remain active post-fostering. Hear about the programs, ask questions, and decide which might be right for you and your family!

AM-2 / PM-2: Journey: From Addiction to Recovery

Amy Kelly
This presentation will help participants understand the challenges and pressures of being successful in recovery while involved with DCYF. The process and types of recovery, including information about relapse, will be discussed. Participants will learn helpful hints and tips for partnering with parents to support them on their journey. A biological parent who has made this journey will also share her experiences.

AM-3 / PM-3: Building Relationships: Can birth parents and foster parents really get along?

Mike McCay
Foster parents and birth parents often have competing goals. Birth parents generally want to have their children back. Foster parents want to provide a safe, loving home for children. Often these two sets of parents find themselves at odds with each other over what's best for the children. DCYF also plays a role with how visits and other circumstances are handled. This workshop will take a frank look at these sometimes competing sets of ideas about what's best for children and how everyone might work together better for the sake of the children involved.

Co-parenting/Understanding the Motivations of all Involved
- Difficulties with visits
- Competing motivations
- What's best for the children?
- What is the impact of DCYF involvement?

AM-4 / PM-4: Healing the Wounded Heart

April Campbell and Cindy Tubbs
As a foster parent or relative care provider we know that love is never wasted in healing the hearts of the little ones in our care. In this process of healing them we might have our own hearts broken. Your grief and loss matters! Grief is simply love in its most wild and painful form. Loss is painful. Separation hurts. We look for comfort. Grieving hearts need it to survive. In this workshop through stories, humor, life tips, and creative and mindfulness-based practices, we will offer a unique guide through an experience we all must face—in our personal lives, in the lives of those we love, and in the wider world.
Presenters Bios


Corey Best – See Keynote section for Corey’s bio.

PM-1 – It Takes a Village, People!

Program representatives from CASA, DCYF, and others

AM-2/PM-2 – Journey: From Addiction to Recovery

Amy Kelly
Amy Kelly, LICSW, MLADC, LCS has more than 20 years of experience providing co-occurring mental health and addictions treatment to individuals and families. She has worked as a consultant for NH DCYF for the past 11 years providing consultation and guidance to staff and direct services to clients. She is passionate about her work and loves providing education about addiction and recovery. By increasing awareness, she believes that we can reduce the stigma, encourage treatment and help improve the home environments for our children and youth in New Hampshire.

AM-3/PM-3 – Building Relationships: Can birth parents and foster parents really get along?

Michael G. McCay MS, LMFT
Mike received his MS in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of New Hampshire. He has completed the beginning, intermediate and advanced trainings with Dan Hughes in his internationally recognized attachment focused model of working with children in foster care and adopted homes. Mike has run Therapeutic Support Groups for parents of adopted/foster children as well as a support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. He has presented workshops on attachment and foster care for the NH Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the NH Association for Infant Mental Health, ME Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Strafford County Head Start, and for the NH Foster and Adoptive Parent Association. Mike also does ongoing training for service providers on attachment and working with foster families at Seacoast Mental Health Center in Portsmouth, NH. He has been an adjunct faculty member in the Family Studies Department at UNH for the MFT graduate program. Mike currently works in private practice in Portsmouth, NH.

AM-4/PM-4 – Healing the Wounded Heart

April Campbell
April Campbell has a passion for helping children and teaching others how to care for children. Rough beginnings in her own childhood lead her to a passion for helping children. April has worked in a variety of setting with children from owning her own early childhood education center, working with early interventions services providing therapy to children with developmental delays, presenting trainings for Child Care Aware and as a FACE’s instructor, currently working for The Child Welfare Education Partnership at Granite State College, and the most important a mother to her 6 children; biological, adoptive and foster. April holds a master’s degree in education with classes towards her Ph.D. She also has been a foster adoptive parent for the past 12 years.

Cindy Tubbs
Cindy Tubbs is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), and an Instructor/Coach for the Child Welfare Education Partnership (CWEP) at Granite State College. She is a graduate of Southern Illinois University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master’s in Social Work. Cindy owned an out-patient substance abuse treatment facility in Illinois where she conducted clinical assessments, supervised staff and provided individual and group counseling. Her areas of expertise and training include motivational interviewing, compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma, grief and loss, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and mental illness. Cindy is a trained mediator for divorce and custody cases through the SIU School of Law. In her free time, Cindy enjoys exploring New England, hiking with her dog, and perusing local art fairs and farmer’s markets.
Conference attendees must make their own childcare arrangements. We do not have onsite childcare.

- Childcare Reimbursement Forms will be available at the conference (but not before).
- In order to qualify for reimbursement, you must submit the form to Granite State College by November 15, 2019.
- The Childcare Reimbursement Form must be signed by the childcare provider.

Additional reimbursement information will be provided at the conference.

Granite State College

This conference is brought to you by the Child Welfare Education Partnership at Granite State College.

We offer caregiver training programs to foster and adoptive parents, residential staff, relative caregivers, and other eligible community members. GSC also provides pre-service and ongoing training to DCYF child welfare and juvenile justice staff.

Registration

Register early to guarantee your space!

Registration Fees:
$25 - foster/adoptive/relative caregiver parents | $40 - couples | $40 - professionals | $40 vendors (per person) | Additional $10 fee if registering after October 19, 2019

Register online:
Registration is online with credit cards and e-checks only.

Payment is due in advance at time of registration.
The registration fee includes all workshops, breakfast, and buffet lunch.

Registration fees are non-refundable.
If you do not attend, you will not receive a refund. You will not receive confirmation of your registration prior to the conference.

Questions?
Contact GSC at (603) 271-6625 or cwep.conference@granite.edu

Register Here
**Directions**

**DIRECTIONS - from North or South**
- Take I-93 to Exit 25 - NH-175A/Holderness Rd - toward Plymouth.
- Turn right onto Bridge St./NH-175A and continue to the roundabout.
- Enter the roundabout and take the first exit (turn right) onto Main St.
- Turn left onto Merrill St.
- Merrill Place will be on your right. Look for parking signs on your left/Langdon St.

**Parking**
Turn left on Langdon Street. Parking is on your left. There are two separate lots. Use either and walk back to Merrill Place Conference Center (refer to campus map).

**Conference**
Conference registration, breakfast, vendors, and keynote will be in the **Merrill Place Conference Center**. Workshops are in **Harold E. Hyde Hall**. Lunch is in **Prospect Dining Hall**.

![Plymouth State University Campus Map](attachment:image.png)

- **24. Prospect Dining Hall** (lunch)
- **28. Parking**
- **29. Harold E. Hyde Hall** (Workshops)
- **32. Merrill Place Conference Center** (registration, breakfast, vendors and keynote)