

# Agenda

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020 | GRADUATE LINCOLN HOTEL**  
141 N. 9TH STREET, LINCOLN, NE 68508

**8:00 - 9:00 AM** REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**9:00 - 10:15 AM** OPENING SESSION: The Value of CASA Volunteers  
*Amanda | Former CASA Youth*

**10:15 - 10:30 AM** BREAK

**10:30 - 11:45 AM** MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**A.** Below the Poverty Line: Working with People in Poverty (Part 1)  
*Ree Reimers, MSW | Project Harmony, Omaha, NE*

**B.** Implementing Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in Nebraska  
*Emily Kluver, MPA | Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services*

**C.** Understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)  
*Candi Marcantel, MAOM-PA | Sarpy County CASA*

**D.** Interviewing Children  
*Stephanie Ells, MDiv | Child Advocacy Center, Lincoln, NE*

**11:45 AM - 12:00 PM** BREAK

**12:00 - 1:30 PM** VOLUNTEER IMPACT LUNCHEON  
*Aaron Davis, Keynote Speaker*

**1:30 - 1:45 PM** BREAK

**1:45 - 3:00 PM** AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**A.** Below the Poverty Line: Working with People in Poverty (Part 2)

**B.** What Can You Do?: Information & Strategies to Overcome Bullying  
*Jolene Palmer & Cesar Torres | Nebraska Department of Education*

**C.** I Just Don't Get It: Understanding Attachment-Trauma Related Behaviors in Children and Adolescents  
*Stefanie Armstrong, MS, LIMHP | Attachment & Trauma Center of NE*

**D.** FCRO: Providing Individual and Systemic Oversight for Children in Out-of-Home Care  
*Katherine Bass, PhD | Foster Care Review Office*

**3:00 - 3:15 PM** AFTERNOON SNACK BREAK

**3:15 - 4:30 PM** CLOSING PANEL: How CASAs Can Best Collaborate  
*Judge Larry Gendler | Julie Zegers | B. Gail Steen, JD*

# Opening Reception

**Friday, August 28, 2020 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm**  
**Graduate Hotel Lincoln**

Join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and a brief motivational talk by keynote speaker, Aaron Davis.

The cost of the reception is included in your registration.

## Registration

**Register online by Monday, August 24, 2020 at:**  
**[nebraskacasa.org/stateconference](https://nebraskacasa.org/stateconference)**

\$40 registration includes opening reception, conference, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks

**There will be no onsite registration the day of the conference. All registration must be done online.**

## Accommodations

**Graduate Hotel Lincoln**  
**141 N. 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68505**  
\$94 per night for a room with 2 queen beds

Reservation Site: <https://bit.ly/2xF4B5O>  
or visit [nebraskacasa.org/stateconference](https://nebraskacasa.org/stateconference)  
Group Code: 200326NEBR

## Questions?

**Christina Millsap**  
Training Coordinator, Nebraska CASA Association

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CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY™

# Nebraska CASA Conference 2020

**Saturday, August 29, 2020**

Graduate Lincoln Hotel  
Lincoln, Nebraska



# Breakout Sessions

## 10:30 - 11:45 AM MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### A. BELOW THE POVERTY LINE: WORKING WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY (PART 1)

This training supports participants in gaining insight helpful to working with those who live in poverty. This session discusses strategies to increase skills and knowledge related to the culture of poverty, raise our individual and group awareness about biases as it relates to poverty, and enhance the understanding of children and families to assist in strengthening interactions.

**Ree Reimers, MSW** has worked for Project Harmony as a training specialist for five years. In her role at Project Harmony, she provides training on various topics to include Child Abuse Prevention, Early Childhood Abuse, Trauma, Identifying Child Abuse, and Compassion Fatigue & Self-Care. Prior to that, she worked in the Child Welfare field for 10 years with a focus on Child Protection. For five of those years, Ree supervised both ongoing case managers and initial assessment workers for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Ree has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

### B. IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION & RECOVERY ACT (CARA) IN NEBRASKA

Prenatal substance abuse is a complex public health problem often resulting in multiple consequences for a woman and her newborn. Drug use during pregnancy may result in adverse effects on the health and well-being of the newborn in addition to the mother's health. Early intervention services for the newborn and mother are critical in minimizing the acute and long-term effects of prenatal substance exposure. A representative from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will discuss the implementation of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) in Nebraska. The speaker will provide an overview of the Plan of Safe Care and an explanation of its population parameters. Participants will have an opportunity to see examples of working Plans of Safe Care in Nebraska. Additionally, the session will discuss the successes and challenges when notifying DHHS about substance exposed infants.

**Emily Kluver, MPA** is the Prevention Administrator for the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Services. In her current role, she supports community-based prevention initiatives including Community Response and the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board. In addition, she supervises a team of DHHS Community Support Specialists. Prior to her current position, she worked as a Research Analyst for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services in New York City. She has 15 years of experience in the human service and K-12 education sectors. Emily holds a Master of Public Administration from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

### C. UNDERSTANDING THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT (ICWA)

Native Children in the Child Welfare System are protected differently than non-native children with a law called The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). This session will be an overview of ICWA and the history behind it. It will also address how a CASA can assist with making sure Indian children in the State's care are being fully protected with the specific rights ICWA affords them.

**Candi Marcantel, MAOP-PA** has been working in the child welfare arena for 25+ years in many different capacities and has been with Sarpy County CASA for the last six years. She is passionate about work that supports and involves the Indian Child Welfare Act and loves the work she is able to do through the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition. Being a consultant on ICWA cases as a Qualified Expert Witness (QEW) throughout Nebraska is additional work she does. With CASA she supports a team of advocates, coordinates the Sarpy County Family Drug Treatment Court and recruits and trains new advocates. In addition, she admires what the Nebraska Foster Care Review Board does and is involved in their work. Candi's BA is in Psychology and her master's is in Organizational Management.

### D. INTERVIEWING CHILDREN

This session will provide hands on tools to build rapport with the children you serve. You will also learn how the child advocacy center staff build trust with and interview children to learn the minimal facts when children are interviewed for possible abuse cases.

**Stephanie Ells, MDiv** is a bi-lingual Forensic Interviewer with the Child Advocacy Center in Lincoln. She has a BA in Humanities and a Masters in Divinity. Stephanie has worked with children and families in a variety of professional roles for 15 years. Stephanie spends her days talking with children about suspected abuse and is a pro at building rapport with children of all ages! She has received extensive training through the National Children's Alliance in the structure of forensic interviews and developmental capacity of children. Stephanie focuses on asking open-ended questions that enable children to express themselves and build connection through conversation.

## 1:45 - 3:00 PM AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### A. BELOW THE POVERTY LINE: WORKING WITH PEOPLE IN POVERTY (PART 2)

See description above

### B. WHAT CAN YOU DO?: INFORMATION & STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME BULLYING

This session will review definitions of bullying, explore the reasons why people bully, and coping strategies to overcome bullying. Participants will learn strategies to prevent bullying and receive information about the Nebraska Department of Education's role in school safety.

**Dr. Jolene Palmer** serves as the Director of School safety and Security for the Nebraska Department of Education. She works to create safer schools by providing leadership and training across the state. She works with threat assessment, psychological first aid, bullying prevention, and other preventative measures that ensure students and staff feel safe at school.

**Cesar Torres** is a second-year doctoral student in the School Psychology Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is interested in school environment and prevention efforts to reduce acts of violence. Cesar is also a research intern at the Nebraska Department of Education where he researches evidenced based interventions. He provides these resources in the state's website for schools, parents, and students.

### C. I JUST DON'T GET IT: UNDERSTANDING ATTACHMENT-TRAUMA RELATED BEHAVIORS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

This session will give an overview of the etiology of attachment trauma and assist in an understanding and intervening when the faced with the confusing behaviors that children and adolescents who have been affected by past trauma display.

**Stefanie Armstrong, MS, LIMHP** is a certified EMDR therapist and consultant. She is also the co-author, with Debra Wesselmann and Cathy Schweitzer, of the Integrative Team Treatment for Attachment Trauma Protocol (IATP-C) and the accompanying parent guide, Integrative Parenting. Debra, Cathy and Stefanie are owners of The Attachment and Trauma Institute, which is the training and consulting side of their work. She enjoys traveling abroad and, in the U.S., teaching the IATP-C protocol to clinicians. She also has a deep interest in the Polyvagal Theory and incorporating it into her work. Stefanie is in private practice at the Attachment Trauma Center of Nebraska in Omaha NE.

### D. THE FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE: PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMIC OVERSIGHT FOR CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE

The Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) provides oversight of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems by tracking and reviewing children in out-of-home care, reporting on aggregate outcomes and advocating on individual and system levels to ensure that children's best interests and safety needs are met. The Executive Director and Research Director will discuss how we achieve these goals through our case review and data collection processes. In particular, we will highlight how CASAs can assist in FCRO case reviews, how and when the FCRO advocates for individual children, and what data we have available to advocate for system change and provide to local agencies.

**Katherine Bass, PhD**, is the Research Director for the Nebraska Foster Care Review Office (FCRO). Katherine is responsible for the publication of FCRO Quarterly and Annual reports, collaborative research efforts with state child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders, and improving the data collection and reporting capabilities of the FCRO. Prior to her tenure at the FCRO, she served as the Research & Evaluation Specialist for the Nebraska Court Improvement Project. Katherine received her B.A. in Sociology, International Studies, and Spanish from Hastings College. She earned her M.A. and PhD in Sociology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she specialized in gender and criminology. She spent several years teaching and researching social inequality and criminal justice at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Eastern Illinois University.