

# From Crisis to Compassion: Nurturing Brighter Tomorrows

## Children in the Courts Conference

May 1-3, 2024 -- Little Rock Embassy Suites

Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Total Hours: 3.5

| TIME         | DN TRACK ONLY (all sessions approved for DN credit; CME denoted below)  |
|--------------|---|
| 12:00 – 1:00 | <b>Registration (Judges, DN AAL, Parent Counsel, OCC)</b>   |
| 1:00 – 2:15  | <b>Keynote: Child Welfare Trends Across the Country (CME)</b><br>Jerry Bruce, Director, Georgia Office of the Child Advocate<br>Chris Hempfling, Georgia DCFS Deputy Director & General Counsel |
| 2:15 – 2:30  | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 2:30 – 2:40  | <b>Facilitations in DN Cases: Quick Overview of Toolkit (CME)</b><br>Brooke Steen, Director of Juvenile Division (AOC)  |
| 2:40 – 4:15  | <b>Dependency Neglect Appellate Update (CME)</b><br>Janet Lawrence, Leah Lanford, Dana McLain, Jennifer Olson,<br>Demarcus Tave, Kaylee Wedgeworth  |
| 4:15 – 4:30  | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 4:30 – 5:00  | <b>Narcans Education: A Lifesaving Approach</b><br>Casey Copeland, Director of Peer Services (OSAMH- DHS)   |
| 5:00         | <b>RECEPTION (Please join your colleagues in the atrium)</b>  |

Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Total Hours: 6.25 (1.5 ethics hours)

| TIME          | PLENARY (all sessions are DN and DR approved; note ethics and CMS hours)  |
|---------------|---|
| 8:00 – 9:00   | <b>Registration (for all other attendees)</b>   |
| 9:00 – 9:50   | <b>Finish Empty</b><br>Jason Curry, Founder of Finish Empty   |
| 9:50 – 10:00  | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 10:00 – 10:50 | <b>Options for Immigrant Clients</b><br>Arkansas Immigrant Defense Speaker TBD  |
| 10:50 – 11:00 | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 11:00 – 11:50 | <b>Building Bridges: Effective Engagement with Substance Use and Mental Health</b><br>Mental Health and Medical Provider Panel Moderated by Lauren Geier  |
| 11:50 – 1:00  | <b>LUNCH (provided)</b>   |
| 1:00 – 2:30   | <b>Poverty-Related Child Neglect:<br/>Understanding the Context of Discovery in Advocacy Efforts (ethics)</b><br>Dr. Darcey Merritt, The University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work  |
| 2:30 – 2:45   | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 2:45 – 4:00   | <b>Developmental Disabilities and Behavioral Health Services:<br/>Navigating the System with your Client</b><br>Melissa Weatherton, Director of Specialty Medicaid Services, DHS<br>Paula Stone, Director of the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, DHS |
| 4:00 – 4:15   | <b>BREAK</b>  |
| 4:15 – 5:15   | <b>Guardianships: The Current State of Affairs (CME)</b><br>Judge Lynn Williams, Laura Calhoun, Hadley Hindmarsh, Kurt Meredith,<br>Brooke Steen  |

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Total Hours: 4**

| <b>TIME</b>          | <b>DN TRACK (DN AAL credit)</b>  | <b>DR TRACK (DR AAL credit)</b>  | <b>JUDGE TRACK</b>                            |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>8:00 – 9:15</b>   | <b>Domestic Relations and Probate Appellate Update</b> (also CME approved)<br>Angela Mann                          |  |   |
| <b>9:15 – 9:30</b>   | <b>BREAK</b>   |  |   |
| <b>9:30 – 10:45</b>  | <b>Family Centered Treatment Panel: Keeping Families Together</b><br>Panel Moderated by Bridget Atkins (SAMH- DHS) | <b>Appeals of Domestic Relations and Probate Cases</b><br>Andy Taylor                              | <b>Evidence for Judges</b><br>Michael Johnson |
| <b>10:45 – 11:00</b> | <b>BREAK</b>   |  |   |
| <b>11:00 – 12:30</b> | <b>DCFS: Current Work and Goals</b><br>Tiffany Wright, Director DCFS (DHS)   | <b>Path for High Conflict Families Needing Intervention</b><br>Panel Moderated by Hadley Hindmarsh |   |
| <b>12:30</b>         | <i>Advisory Council and Commission Luncheon</i>  |  |   |