The Incredible Journey of Child Welfare Transformation
April 6, 2023 | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM EDT

Content Summary

This webinar will focus on "Transformation" and how it can impact one of the most important missions in health and human services: ensuring the safety and well-being of children while also fostering parental capacity to support strong and healthy families. Transformation is no small task, rather it is a culmination of thoughtfully considered activities that lead to monumental, long-term, sustainable change. Community partners can tap into external support teams and existing relationships to help address, design, and transform their individual contributions to the system so that staff can continue to focus on serving on the frontlines helping children and families.

Presenters

Andrea Danes, EY Americas Government and Public Sector, HHS Strategy Executive Director, Ernst & Young, LLP

Andrea Danes leads EY's effort to create unity of voice and vision in the transformation of Human Services programs globally.

Leveraging her career in government and the private sector, Andrea works with government executives to create a strategy for improving the use of data, technology and integrated program administration to more effectively serve individuals and families. Solutions include strategy development, automation of manual and redundant processes, using data for purpose, and more actively supporting the link between community-based organizations and government social programs.

For almost three decades, Andrea has led federal, state and local activities to improve delivery models. She also has direct experience with social services as a child, and in her adult life as a foster mom. This broad perspective allows her to understand the constraints of public programs, while advocating for better delivery and outcomes across individuals and families engaged in support models.

Dr. Deborah Shropshire, Executive Director, Oklahoma Human Services

Deborah Shropshire, M.D., M.H.A. serves as the Director of Oklahoma Human Services. She previously served as the Director of Child Welfare Services, and the Deputy Director of Child Welfare Community Partnerships. She is a pediatrician who initially worked alongside Child Welfare through assisting with the medical needs of children in a foster shelter, and developed the Fostering Hope clinic for long-term follow up of children in foster care and adoption.

Dr. Shropshire obtained her medical degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, and a Bachelor's in Science degree from Southern Nazarene University. She is board-certified in pediatrics, and serves on the executive committee for the American Academy of Pediatrics' Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care. She has won several local and national awards related to advocacy, including the Ray Helfer Award for Child Abuse Prevention presented by the National Alliance of Children's Trust and

Prevention Funds and the Commissioner's Award for Outstanding Service in the Field of Child Abuse and Neglect from the U.S. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families.

Shropshire is perhaps best known for her passion, communication skills, and leadership in child welfare system improvement and transformation, both from roles outside and inside Oklahoma Human Services. She believes that child maltreatment could be eliminated under the right conditions, and that strengthening families prior to child welfare involvement is a significant step toward that solution.

Danielle Barnes, EY Americas Government and Public Sector Leader, Ernst & Young, LLP

Danielle Barnes leads EY's U.S. Health & Human Services practice for governments, bringing practical experience in transforming government operations, leading complex organizations and building strong families. Her work focuses on the key intersections of policy, process, and people across various human services programs. Danielle continues to drive for strong results for individuals, families and communities through meaningful work outcomes and community.

Prior to joining EY, Danielle served as a member of the Governor's Cabinet as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services, leading the operations and strategic direction of the state's second largest agency. The Department provides services to approximately two million Tennesseans each year through programs such as Families First, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Child Support, Child Care Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Disability Determination Services, Adult Protective Services, Child and Adult Food Program and Social Services Block Grant.

Meg Dygert, Senior Policy Associate, Child and Family Well-Being, American Public Human Services Association

Meg Dygert is the Senior Policy Associate for Child and Family Well-Being at the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). In this role, she manages and acts as the liaison for APHSA's affinity group, the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA). Meg also supports the work of the National Association of State Child Care Administrators (NASCCA) – an APHSA affinity group she has directly supervised for several years.

Meg's lived experience with New York State's child welfare system informs every aspect of her professional career. It drives her policy work and her efforts to narrow the door to child welfare by getting every family the support they need to achieve stability, health, and their full human potential. She's dedicated to prevention and is a subject matter expert in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), as well as in leveraging federal funding streams to expand state-led prevention programs.

Working directly with affinity groups to expand APHSA's child welfare/prevention portfolio, Meg develops and advocates for pragmatic policy, regulatory, and administrative solutions for improving child welfare and child care programs – always with the goal of supporting the success of families across the country.

Before joining APHSA, Meg worked for Manatt Health Strategies, specializing in state and federal health legislation, regulation, and sub-regulatory guidance. Prior to that, she worked as a paralegal with a focus on Social Security Law and connecting children and their families to Supplemental Security Income when

behavioral and mental health challenges arise. She also interned at the United States Supreme Court for the Clerk of the Court, Scott S. Harris.

Meg holds a B.A. in Communications specializing in Rhetoric and a B.S. in Political Science and Legal Studies from the State University of New York at Brockport. She is currently pursuing a Master in Public Policy.