



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Proposal Abstract

Presenter(s): Deborah Burrus, Lauren Arnold

Presentation Title: Sustaining promising practices during Leadership changes, challenging budgets and shifts in priorities

Topic Area: Promising practices that adoption exchanges, child welfare agencies, and other in the field are using to develop and support foster, adoptive, and kinship families;

Description:

This workshop will focus on strategies for achieving adoption outcomes through, leadership changes, challenging budgets and changes in priorities. Frequently, Child Welfare leadership changes means a shift in priorities and budget cuts. These changes significantly impact a State's ability to achieve best adoption outcomes for children in foster care. Unfortunately, those most impacted are older teens, large sibling groups and youth dealing with significant trauma, most of whom require strategic and diligent child specific recruitment.

Format: Lecture and open discussion

Presenter(s) Biography:

Deborah Burrus is the Permanency Director for the State of Georgia. Ms. Burrus has worked passionately in the field of child welfare since 1992. She began her career with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services in 1998. Ms. Burrus joined the Georgia's Department at the time of the creation of Georgia's Former Office of Adoption and served as a Regional Adoption Coordinator, where as an adoption consultant she shared in the numerous accomplishments of the agency. Ms. Burrus's passion for placement of children in forever families led her to her next job as Georgia's Statewide Recruitment Manager. This position provided Ms. Burrus with unforgettable opportunities, including being a core member of the development team for Georgia's IMPACT curriculum used for the training and development of Foster and Adoptive Parents.

Currently, as the Permanency Directory, Ms. Burrus is responsible for leading her team in efforts to achieve timely permanency outcomes for children in foster care. In this position she oversees the Adoptions Program, Guardianship Program and the Recruitment of Adoptive homes. Throughout her career with the Department Ms. Burrus has worked dilligently to accomplish best oucomes for children while assuring the quality and safety of foster, adoptive and relative homes. Ms. Burrus has served on the National Foster Care Managers Board and is a proud graduate of Auburn University.

Lauren Arnold is the Executive Director of The Adoption Exchange. She has been a senior executive and active board member in Colorado's non-profit community for over 16 years. Through this work, she has led a \$16 million capital campaign, raises \$2 million philanthropically ever year, and was Chief Operating Officer of one of the largest private foundations in Colorado.



2017 National Adoption Conference Workshop Proposal Abstract

Presenter(s): Lauren Arnold,

Presentation Title: Reading and Using Financial Statements: For Non-Accountants

Topic Area: Significant, pertinent leadership topics including succession planning, successful revenue diversification, staff development, fund-raising strategies and more.

Description:

As an emerging or existing non-profit leader, you often have to work with financial statements, that darned accounting department or (aaack!) budgets. This short workshop will give you some of the basics of what the financial statements, budgets and accountants do and why it is all important to your work.

Format: Lecture

Presenter(s) Biography:

Lauren Arnold is the Executive Director of the Adoption Exchange. She has been a non-profit executive and leader in Colorado for over 10 years. Prior to her work in Non-Profit, she was an investment banker, turn-around CFO and Professor of Accounting and Finance to MBA students.