Empowering Collaborative Change Through Unity
May 6 - 7, 2024 | Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

AGENDA

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024: HILL CENTER 921 PENNSYLVANIA AVE SE, WASHINGTON, DC 20003

9:00 am  Registration
         Enjoy coffee and breakfast pastries to start the day

9:15 am  Welcome
         Treva Johnson, Director of Public Policy & State Partnerships, FFTA
         State of the Union
         Ryan Dowis, Executive Director, FFTA

9:30 am  Bridging Partisan Divides for Our Children: A National Child Welfare Initiative
         Rob Geen, Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center

10:00 am Mental and Behavioral Health Initiatives
         Stephanie Katz, Esq., MPH Assistant Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, National
         Council for Mental Wellbeing
         MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS FOR ALL FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

10:30 am Kinship Connections: Bridging Policy and Practice in Relative Care
         Facilitated Panel Discussion
         Jaia Peterson Lent, Deputy Executive Director, Generations United
         Erica Burgess, Kinship TFC Project Manager, FFTA
         Sebastian Johnson, Vice President, Think of Us, Center for Lived Experience
         SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Thank you to our FFTA 20th Anniversary Public Policy Institute Sponsors:
AGENDA

11:05 am  Break

11:20 am  Navigating Youth Housing Initiatives from Policy to Practice  
           Ruth White, Executive Director, National Center for Housing and Child Welfare  
           Sue Evans, Chief Operations Officer, Walden, Walden Family Services  
           SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

11:50 am  Presentation of The Dr. Laura Boyd Advocate of the Year Award  
           Kirsten Walker, Vice President, Organizational Development & Learning RISE, Inc. and  
           FFTA Public Policy Chair  
           Matt Priest, Director of Foster Family Services, Boys Town and FFTA's 2023 Dr. Laura  
           Boyd Advocate of the Year

12:10 pm  Lunch  
           Provided On-site

1:00 pm  Excursions  
           Shuttles from The Hill Center Provided

4:00 pm  Reception  
           Shuttles returning to The Hill Center Provided

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TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024: CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER - SVC 209-08

9:00 am   Check-in
Enjoy coffee and breakfast pastries to start the day

9:15 am   Opening Remarks
Treva Johnson, Director of Public Policy & State Partnerships, FFTA

9:30 am   Hill Staff Panel
Kristen Torres, Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Judy Chu
Caitlin Peruccio, Legislative Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro
Amy Brown, Senior Health Policy Advisor, Senator Tammy Baldwin
Max Kanner, Health Policy Advisor, Senator Dick Durbin

10:00 am  A Legacy of Love & Equity
Aysha E. Schomburg, JD, Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau (CB), Administration on Children, Youth and Families

10:30 am  Collect Advocacy Points & Materials, and Adjourn for Hill Visits

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FFTA commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Public Policy Institute by sharing a compilation of reflections from key contributors who have played an integral role in our journey. Their expertise and dedication have been instrumental in shaping the discourse and fostering positive changes in policies related to the well-being of children and families. We celebrate how their insight enriches our strides toward the institute's achievements. It is truly an honor to have them as valued contributors, participants and leaders in our community.

“Over the last 20 years I have seen FFTA become a leader in the expanded focus of child welfare to include kinship and prevention in the development of an array of services to include families. This is clearly reflected in the change of FFTA’s name from Foster Family Based-Treatment Association to Family Focused Treatment Association. FFTA has continued to lead in the development of collaborative policy supporting the provision of treatment services to kinship families.”

Paul Brylske

“FFTA offerings, webinars, trainings have expanded well beyond therapeutic foster care to address families at all the various levels we might meet them. The PPI enabled providers to have the language and the specific data needed to talk to federal decision makers and staff which educated and informed their support.”

Laura Boyd

“The Institute began as an effort to evolve the primary purpose of the FFTA Policy Committee. FROM: a means of keeping members informed about relevant legislation TO: a means to INFLUENCE child welfare policy. In other words, we sought to change our purpose from education to advocacy, to be proactive instead of reactive.”

Ken Olson

“During the past 20 years, I was able to see FFTA become a known voice in the Hill and the Directors and staff of agencies and state legislatures. Involvement with FFTA allowed me to be involved with the policy makers, at least at the state level, and to have an impact on the quality of the services being provided for children and youth. The FFTA conference was a voice of unity and commitment to the mission to improve outcomes for children and families.”

Sally Buchanan

“A critical advocacy challenge experienced over these 20 years has been to maintain strong advocacy pressure, while pivoting with changing treatment paradigms, best practices, legislative changes, and economic pressures. FFTA has done a marvelous job of accomplishing this, a sign of excellent leadership.”

Jim Roberts

“The PPI Committee’s largest single project was to get Treatment Foster Care written into Medicaid rules as a covered service. More than any other individual, Dr. Laura Boyd deserves credit for persistence over the better part of a decade lobbying for this change, as does Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), who carried our legislation year after year until it was enacted.”

Jay Berlin

“Over the last 20 years, the landscape of child welfare has shifted over the past few decades is to a greater extent than at any other point in the child welfare history of the United States. The FFTA provided a voice for children and youth in Washington, D.C., focusing on their needs, and taking a broad view of what constitutes ‘best.’ FFTA has helped children’s advocates gain a voice in the process and have a seat at the table.”

Stephen Howe

ABOUT FFTA’S 20TH ANNUAL PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE:

The 20th Anniversary Public Policy Institute not only reflects on the incredible achievements by so many in our communities but also looks forward to creating new chapters in the narrative of change. This event is more than a gathering. It’s an opportunity to contribute to the ongoing story of positive change. We are shaping the future for our children and our communities, telling our story, and together, authoring new, impactful chapters for the generations to come.