Open Webinar

**Topic**
Don’t Minimize the Moment: Truth, Reparatory Justice, and Healing for Black Families

**Date and Time**
Tuesday, July 23, 2020
2:00pm-3:30pm ET
(Recording will be made available for on-demand viewing)

**Description/Agenda**
The United States of America is in a moment. The COVID-19 global pandemic has ravaged Black families, killing Black people at higher rates than any other racial/ethnic group. Deaths related to COVID-19 and the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and the recent execution of Rayshard Brooks at the hands of police and white vigilantes triggered an uproar spotlighting centuries of dehumanization and injustices aimed at descendants of captive and enslaved Africans in the U.S. (DCAUS) that has never been repaired or even acknowledged. The recent murders ignited a simmering boil just below the surface of the U.S. psyche, sparking national and global protests evoking messages of hate for Black life reminiscent of another time, a time this country believed was finished.

Centuries of terror and abuse are held in the bones of DCAUS peoples tied to the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Middle Passage, and the first Black body that arrived on the shores of the U.S. in 1619. The unfathomable abuse continued for centuries codified in laws, policies, and practices that continue to subjugate and dehumanize DCAUS life today. The child welfare system is no exception.

Disparate disruption and the dismantling of DCAUS families and racial trauma have persisted for generations in the child welfare space. A lack of historic understanding and the link to systemic and individual racism, anti-Blackness, and the unique experience that DCAUS families face in the dependency system are under-addressed or not addressed at all. This lack of historic understanding and the connection to present-day oppression and injustice experienced by the DCAUS community permeates the decision-making power structures of the local departments, juvenile courts, and related service providers that decide the fate of DCAUS families. Centuries of neglect, despite screams from DCAUS peoples, can no longer be ignored. We have landed in “this moment,” a moment of truth, reparatory justice, and healing.

In this webinar, participants will learn:
- Who are descendants of captive and enslaved Africans in the U.S. (DCAUS)
- A brief historic overview of the DCAUS experience in the U.S.
- About Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome and generational, racial trauma
- Practical tips on working with DCAUS families

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Stephanie Franklin is the President and CEO of the Franklin Law Group, PC, a Baltimore child advocacy law firm. She has worked with children and youth as an attorney for 21 years. Committed to equity, justice, and recognition, she has dedicated her life’s work to social justice advocacy — primarily focused on Black people who are descendants of captive and enslaved Africans in the U.S. (DCAUS).