

COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD WELFARE

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2025







Venue Date Location

The Don CeSar Hotel

October 6th - 8th

St. Pete Beach, Florida

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FROM LEADERSHIP







CHAD COLLINS, COO

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

To the following individuals for supporting and organizing the 2025 Community-Based Child Welfare National Symposium.

TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Thea Ramirez, CEO Adoption-Share
- Wayne Carson, CEO
 ACH Child and Family Services
- **Cecilia Haag**, Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer , Thompson
- Jenn Petion, President & CEO Family Support Services
- Teresa Kennison-Knierim, CPO Missouri Alliance for Children & Families, LLC

- Sonia Noorman, CEO
 West Michigan Partnership for Children
- Matthew Petersen, COO New Horizons
- Damon Cates, President and CEO One Hope United
- Octavius Davis, Director of Community Engagement Family Support Services
- Melissa Briggs, CAO TFI: The Family Initiative

TO THE SYMPOSIUM PLANNING PARTNERS

- FFTA | Family Focused Treatment Association
- ERIC GIOVANNI Managing Director
- ALLIE KOSCIELNY
 Director of Signature Events

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

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NETWORKING BREAK SPONSORS

















SESSION/EXHIBIT SPONSORS































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TO OUR MEMBERS

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Family Partnerships of Central Florida

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Citrus Family Care Network

Florida | Esther Jacobo, FCN Director

Cornerstones of Care

Missouri & Kansas | Merideth Rose, CEO

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Kansas | Nickaila Sandate, CEO

Every Child's Hope (ECH)

Missouri | Julia Adami, CEO

Families and Children Together (FACT)

Michigan | Bridgitt McCaughey, CEO

Family Support Services of North Florida

Florida | Jenn Petion, President/CEO

One Accord for Kids

Texas, Brandon Logan, Executive Director

KVC Health Systems

Kansas, Missouri, West Virginia, Kentucky, Nebraska Erin Stucky, COO

Missouri Alliance for Children and Families

Missouri | Paula Flemming, President/CEO

New Horizons

Texas | Michael Redden, CEO

NWF Health Network

Florida | Mike Watkins, CEO

National Youth Advocate Program (NYAP)

Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia | Lila Cavasos, Chief Development Officer

One Hope United

Illinois & Florida | Damon Cates, President/CEO

Pressley Ridge

Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, Texas | Susanne Cole, President/CEO

Saint Francis Ministries

Arkansas, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas | William Clark, CEO

SJRC Texas | Belong

Texas | Tara Rousett, CEO

The Family Initiative, Inc. (TFI)

Kansas MÖ, OK, NE & Texas | Michael Patrick, CEO

Thompson

Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee | Will Jones, CEO

West Michigan Partnership for Children

Michigan | Sonia Noorman, CEO

GENERAL

MEMBERSHIP

Start making an impact today!

Visit our website or contact us directly to learn more about membership opportunities .

Join Our Exclusive Community-Based Care Network!

Joining our network means becoming part of a dedicated community working towards promoting community-based child welfare. Enjoy unparalleled access to resources, professional growth opportunities, and the ability to influence national discussions.

BENEFITS

- Create professional relationships with CBC leaders from across the nation
- Access to members only networking and learning opportunities
- Access to the latest information, trends, data, etc. about community-based care
- Access to savings for the Community-Based Care National Symposium
- Complimentary publications by the National Center
- Participate in National Center initatives
- Invitation to open board/membership meetings
- Access to consultation and training services
- Access to services from vendors serving non-profits/child welfare agencies



EXCLUSIVE NETWORKING

Join a powerful community of child welfare leaders dedicated to collaboration, innovation, and shared growth.



ACTIVE INFLUENCE

Directly contribute your expertise and voice to national discussions shaping policies and improving community care.



EXPERT INSIGHTS

Access cutting-edge research, trends, and data to stay informed and effectively serve your local community.

TO OUR PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

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PLATINUM PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS





"Five Points has been a valued partner for over 20 years with members of the National Center. They are experts in technology solutions for health and human services organizations in child welfare, behavioral health, and mental health. We truly value the Five Points partnership in helping the National Center advance community-based care across the country."

- Chad Collins, COO, National Center

GOLD PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

GOLD PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS





DICK ENDEDTS TRUSTED BARTNERS CARING BEODIE

"The Miller Group is an invaluable partner genuinely committed to the success of MACF! I admire their responsiveness, client-centric approach, and solution-oriented mindset. Their understanding of the insurance and risk management challenges specific to nonprofit human services organizations truly sets them apart."

- Paula Fleming, Secretary, National Center





"Sellers Dorsey's deep expertise in Medicaid consulting has helped our member organizations navigate complex healthcare systems, ensuring better access and quality of care for the children and families we serve. Their commitment to equity aligns perfectly with our vision for transformative child welfare practices."

- Carrie Bolm, Chief Executive Officer, National Center

SILVER PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS









BRONZE PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS







MON, OCTOBER 6TH

1:30 - 4:00

BOARD MEETING

Buena vista 5th floor

6:00 - 8:00

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

South Terrace

Veranda 5th floor

The Miller Group

TUE, OCTOBER 7TH

7:30 - 8:30 5th floor

REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Grand

8:30 - 10:30 GENERAL SESSION FROM ST. PETE

Ballroom Lobby Level

Pinellas County Commissioner, Local CBC Leaders and Panel on Child Welfare Landscape: Medicaid, Policy and Federal

Priorities

Sponsored By: Five Points Technology Group

10:30 - 10:45 NETWORKING BREAK

5th floor

Sponsored By: J.K. Elder & Associates, Binti

10:45 - 12:00 LEARNING EXCHANGES

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Sponsored By: Mainstream Nonprofit Solutions, Citrus Family Care Network, Children's Permanency Partnership,

Gallagher

12:00 - 12:30 LUNCHEON

Grand

Sponsored By: Sellers Dorsey

Ballroom Lobby Level 12:30 - 1:45 **GENERAL SESSION**

Ballroom

Panel: Artificial Intelligence

CHEDULE I-A-GLANCE

Lobby Level

1:45 - 2:00 NETWORKING BREAK

Sponsored By: ACH Child & Family Services, Arrow Child & Family

Ministries

2:00 - 3:15 **LEARNING**

See

EXCHANGES

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Sponsored By: Children's Network of Hillsborough, Praesidium, NYAP, Family Support Services

3:15 - 3:30 NETWORKING BREAK

Sponsored By: KVC Health Systems,

3:30 - 5:00 GENERAL SESSION

Grand

"Ted" Talk Sessions

Ballroom Lobby Level

WED, OCTOBER 8TH

7:30 - 8:30 5th floor

NETWORKING AND CONTINENTAL **BREAKFAST**

Sponsored By: Casey Family Programs

8:30 - 10:00 GENERAL SESSION

Ballroom

State of the State Updates

Lobby Level

10:00 - 10:15 NETWORKING BREAK

5th floor

Sponsored By: National Certification Board

for Child Welfare Professionals

10:15 - 11:45 AFFINITY GROUPS

See

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11:45 - 1:30 Grand

LUNCHEON & CLOSING

Ballroom

SESSION

Lobby Level

Cultivating Authentic Connection

by Game On!

Sponsored By: Children's Network of

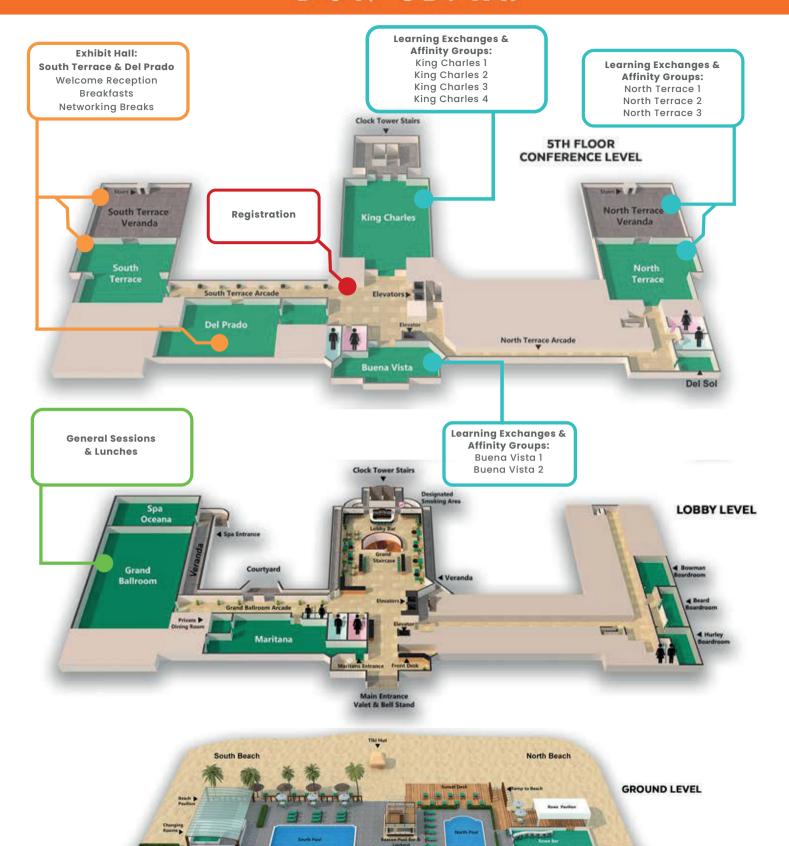
Southwest Florida

1:30 - 1:45

CLOSING

Grand

DON CESAR



2025 Symposium Learning Exchange Sessions

#	Session	Room	Short Title	Brochure Title
	Risk Mgt/Cyber/Liability	King Charles 1	RiskMgmt	Risk Management in Child Welfare: Creative Solutions for the Rising Costs of Doing Business
2	Financial Management	King Charles 2	FinMgmt	Financial Management in CBC: Strategies for Sustainability & Growth
3	Contract Management & Regulation	King Charles 3	ConMgt	Contract Monitoring and Regulation: Balancing Accountability, Transparency, & Practicality
4	Process Improvement	King Charles 4	ProcImpr	Process Improvement: Tools, Accountability, & Driving Better Outcomes
5	Leadership Retention Succession	North Terrace 1	LeadRetSucc	Leadership Retention and Planning: Building the Future from Within
6	High Acuity Youth Strategies	North Terrace 2	HiAcuYouth	High Acuity Youth and Prevention: Community Solutions to Complex Challenges
7	Legislative Strategies	North Terrace 3	LegStrat	Legislative Strategies: Advancing CBC Through Policy, Partnerships, & Advocacy
8	Managing Transitions	Buena Vista 1	MngTran	Managing Transitions: Leading Through Change with Strategy & Stability
9	Community Development Strategies	Buena Vista 2	CommDev	Community Development Strategies: Building Stronger Systems Through Local Partnerships

Learning Exchange Session Details

Risk Management in Child Welfare: Creative Solutions for the Rising Costs of Doing Business

This interactive roundtable will explore innovative and practical strategies for managing the increasingly complex and costly risks facing community-based child welfare agencies including law suits, insurance, contract demands, and security.

Financial Management in CBC: Strategies for Sustainability and Growth

This roundtable offers a collaborative space for leaders to share and explore innovative financial management strategies tailored to the community-based care environment. As agencies face rising service demands and unpredictable funding, participants will examine how to strengthen their financial position through contract negotiation, creative payment models, and handling rate changes.

Contract Monitoring and Regulation: Balancing Accountability, Transparency, and Practicality

This roundtable will dive into the evolving landscape of contract monitoring in community-based care (CBC), exploring how oversight processes can be both rigorous and reasonable. Participants will engage in candid conversations about the real costs, operational demands, and best practices of monitoring—both for states and providers.

Leadership Retention and Succession Planning: Building the Future from Within

Sustaining strong leadership is critical to the long-term success of community-based care agencies. This roundtable will focus on strategic approaches to developing, retaining, and transitioning executive leadership in a way that preserves mission continuity and organizational stability.

High Acuity Youth and Prevention: Community Solutions to Complex Challenges

This solutions-focused roundtable will examine how community-based care (CBC) agencies are responding to the dual challenge of serving youth with high acuity needs and preventing system involvement in the first place. Participants will explore prevention strategies that work, funding mechanisms that sustain them, and systemic partnerships—such as courts and managed care—that shape outcomes for youth.

Community Development Strategies: Building Stronger Systems Through Local
Partnerships

This roundtable explores how community-based care (CBC) agencies can strengthen their impact by actively engaging in community development work. Whether agencies are long-standing anchors or new to a region, success depends on forging meaningful partnerships, understanding local dynamics, and aligning services with community needs.

Managing Transitions: Leading Through Change with Strategy and Stability

Transitions are a constant in the world of community-based care—whether launching a new region, navigating leadership shifts, or absorbing new roles through policy or system redesign. This roundtable session will focus on how agencies can manage major transitions with intentionality, resilience, and long-term planning.

Process Improvement: Tools, Accountability, and Driving Better Outcomes

Continuous improvement is at the heart of effective community-based care. This roundtable will explore how CBC agencies are using process improvement methodologies (value stream mapping), data tools, and federal reporting requirements to streamline operations and improve outcomes for children and families.

Legislative Strategies: Advancing CBC Through Policy, Partnerships, and Advocacy

This roundtable will explore how community-based care (CBC) leaders can strategically engage in legislative advocacy to strengthen support for CBC systems and the providers within them. Participants will discuss how to navigate liability issues, secure funding, and build relationships that drive sustainable policy change.

2025 Affinity Groups

Group	Topics	Room	Facilitator
CEO	Threats to viability, compensation	King Charles 1	Larry Rein
COO/CPO	Operations and Program Executives Youth engagement, Peer supports	King Charles 2	Trisha Sverns
CFO/CAO	Financial and Administrative Executives Navigating funding streams	North Terrace 1	Stacy Peacock
CIO/CQO	Technology, Data and Quality Improvement Executives Emerging Technology, Al	North Terrace 2	Greg Shrader
CDO/BizDev	Communications, Marketing, Public Policy and Strategy Executives PR, Comms, Marketing, Messaging	Buena Vista 1	Holly Ramos
State Gov	State Government Executives CBC promising practices	Buena Vista 2	Grace Windbigler

Affinity Groups Details

Chief Executive Leaders

Join a group of executive leaders in a facilitated discussion about key topics such as executive compensation and threats to CBC viability.

Operations and Program Executives

Join others to share and learn about innovative strategies by CBCs and providers to address the gaps in service delivery for high needs kids.

Financial and Administrative Executives

Discuss the pros and cons of various state CBC funding models, how to navigate funding streams and how contract requirements impact operations.

Technology, Data, and Quality Improvement Executives

Join the discussion to discuss emerging technologies, the use of AI and how to leverage data to improve outcomes in child welfare.

Communications, Marketing, Public Policy, and Strategy Executives

Talk with other executives about tools and strategies available to expertly deal with challenges faced by CBC and provider agencies, and how to create critical messaging.

State Government Executives

Talk with other state executives about CBC implementations and promising practices.

2025 General Sessions

Day 1 Tuesday October 7

8:30 am - 9:00 am Welcome from St. Pete

Hear from Pinellas County Commissioner and Florida Community Based Care Child Welfare Leaders

Presenters: Kathleen Peters, Terri Balliet, Jenn Petion

9:00 am - 10:30 am

Panel: Child Welfare Landscape: Medicaid, Policy and Federal Priorities

Join a panel of leading experts as they provide timely updates on the evolving child welfare landscape. The discussion will highlight recent developments in Medicaid, shifts in federal policy, and key administrative priorities that impact providers, families, and communities.

Panelists: Christine Calpin, Alex Neuhoff, Brittany McAllister

Moderator: Nadereh Salim

12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Panel: Artificial Intelligence in Child Welfare

Hear from a panel of experts who have or are currently implementing AI solutions into their child welfare practice and operations.

Panelists: Angela Nowell, Jenn Petion, Adrienne Greenberg, Elizabeth VanAcker, Rob Rudloff

Moderator. Brian Cliburn

Day 2 Wednesday October 8

8:30 am - 10:00 am State of the States Updates

Leaders in the field examine the status of CBCs across the nation. The panel will explore state-specific issues impacting your work including legal, legislative, and contracting nuances. The panel will discuss relationships and networks.

Presenters: Scott Lundy, Mike Watkins, Matt Stephens, Sonia Noorman, Damon Cates, Mark Drennan, and Shelia Rancatore

11:45 am - 1:30 pm Game On! Cultivating Authentic Connection

In today's fast-paced and high-pressure environments, authentic connection can be one of the most overlooked, yet powerful tools for building trust, enhancing communication, and strengthening team performance. Cultivating Authentic Connection is an interactive, experiential session that gives participants the chance to connect more deeply to themselves (Self), to each other (Others), and to their purpose (Purpose). Through a series of practical, engaging activities, participants will explore principles of effective connection, presence, intentionality, and empathy. The session reinforces the Rules of the Game (Laugh With, Not At, Have Each Other's Back, and Celebrate Small Wins), while grounding communication in self-awareness, active listening, and shared values.

Presenter: Steve Shenbaum

"Ted Talk" Descriptions

General Sessions-Panels Day 1 Tuesday October 7

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Unbreakable Caregivers

Helping kids affected by trauma can feel daunting – burnout, turnover, limited resources, and hope carried by a relatively few passionate people. But what if the reality could be different? What if foster parents felt strong and supported enough to keep going, providing stable families as long as children needed them? What if caregivers had real-time support – preparing, in the moment, and reflecting afterward? With today's technology, this is already happening – affordable, scalable, and available now. Combining the best of human care with breakthrough AI, caregivers and staff can build resilience and unshakable strength, dramatically improving outcomes for children.

Presenter: Rob Hall, President Global Trauma Alliance

Stop Managing Pain, Start Solving Problems: How Local Communities Can Redesign Systems for Good

What if child welfare leaders could design systems that make themselves obsolete? Drawing from DC Design's work with Santa Clara County, this talk explores how to uncover root triggers, map systemic breakdowns, and connect ecosystems to deliver lasting change. Learn how reentry reform offers parallel lessons for child welfare — not just how to better serve families in crisis, but how to build systems that prevent crisis altogether.

Presenter: Durrell Coleman, Founder/CEO DC Design

Measuring What Matters – SROI as a Tool for Preventing Young Adult Homelessness

When youth age out of foster care, too many are at risk of homelessness and disconnection. Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis offers a powerful way to change this narrative. We share our experience leading an SROI analysis for Housing Families, Inc. homeless services programs in Massachusetts (clinical & legal services, afterschool programs, homelessness prevention & legal services). SROI can identify and place dollar values on social impact and outcomes identified by program data, and by youth, staff, leaders, and partners. We'll show how this approach yields returns for all stakeholders and helps increase funds and support for programs that further support youth so they thrive after foster care.

Presenter: John McGah, Director/TA Consultant Resilience Consultants

Unlocking Housing – How Creative Financing Can Prevent Foster Care

Every year, 27,000 children enter foster care because their families don't have stable housing. Not because of abuse. Not because of violence. But because of poverty. We know that providing economic supports—like housing—is one of the most powerful ways to keep families together. And here's the truth: we don't need new dollars to do it. We just need to unlock and redirect the dollars we already have. In Wisconsin, one program—Family Keys—invested just \$128,000 to help 16 families. The result? 38 children stayed safely with their parents, 3 were reunified, and the county saved nearly \$250,000. That's proof. Through the Creative Cluster, Imagination Factory is building a national roadmap to help jurisdictions do the same—unlocking existing funds, scaling housing supports, and preventing foster care entries before they happen.

Presenter. Cheri Williams, Co-Founder/Chief Program Officer Imagination Factory

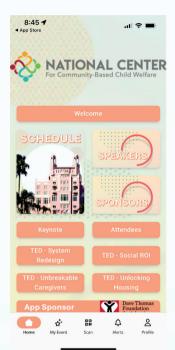
ENTEGY - APP

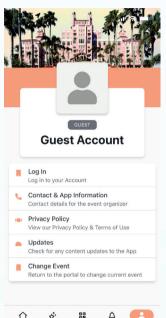
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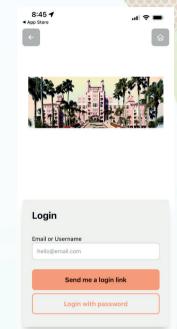


- Download "Entegy" app from the app store
- * Use code "2025Symposium"
- * In the app, click "Profile" and login
- * Ask to send the email and then click to authorize in the email
- * Then log in













The small stuff is big stuff.

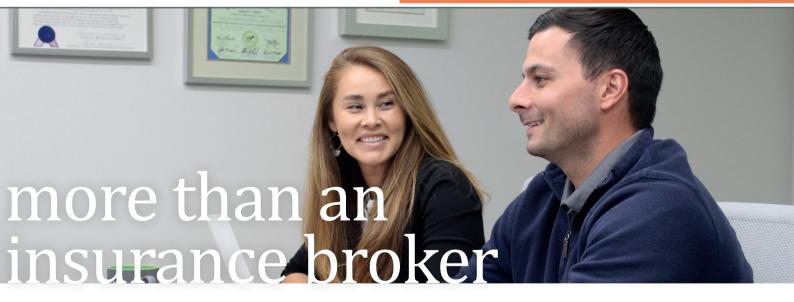
Everything matters to the people who depend on your organization. We help you be there for them. Visit wipfli.com/nonprofits.

Perspective changes everything.

WIPFLI



KVC Health Systems We all need connection. Serving Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska Kentucky, and West Virginia www.kvc.org



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Innovative Solutions for Human Services

Transforming Child Welfare through

Community-Based Care

J.K. Elder & Associates (JKEA) is a nationally recognized, womanowned consulting firm specializing in child welfare systems change. Since 2006, we have partnered with state agencies, lead Community-Based Care (CBC) organizations, and nonprofits nationwide to design and implement innovative solutions that improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Key Services:

- CBC Transformation 8 Systems Change
- Grant Writing & Proposal Development
- COA Accreditation & Compliance
- Strategic Program Design & Evaluation



WHY CHOOSE JKEA?

We bring deep expertise in CBC transformation, including readiness assessments, proposal development, program design, evaluation, and performance-based contracting. Our tailored, evidence-based approach ensures culturally relevant, sustainable solutions that strengthen communities.

Partner with JKEA to transform child welfare and strengthen communities!

Contact us! info@jkelder.com



6,539 Families Served in 2025 Alone

As the largest provider of foster care, adoption, and behavioral health services in Texas and also serving families across Maryland.

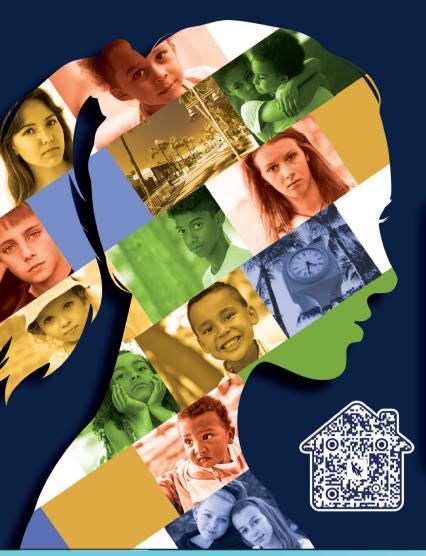
Arrow is dedicated to equipping children for successful outcomes in life.



Strengthening Systems, Supporting Families

At Sellers Dorsey, we understand that child and family well-being is not just a service system, but a lifeline for children and families. Through our comprehensive consulting services, we are ready to help build strong, responsive systems that promote health, safety, and stability





A Model of Child Welfare **EXCELLENCE**.

We are proud to showcase the success of the CBC model. Last year alone, 265 fewer children in Southwest Florida were removed from their homes — a true testament to keeping families safe, strong, and together.



ChildrensNetworkFlorida.org • 855.933.KIDS

Children's Network of Southwest Florida, LLC is a community-based care lead agency contracted with the Department of Children and Families.



NEVER TOO OLD for FAMILY

Thank you for sharing our belief that a permanent family is possible for **every child** waiting in foster care.



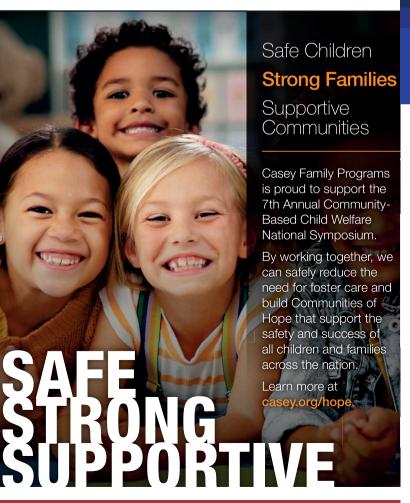




Serving North Texas Since 2014



7700 AWG Way | Fort Worth, TX 76140 oc-ok.org



binti ELEVATING OUTCOMES



Stop by our booth to learn how Binti helps agencies increase kin connections, streamline licensing, and improve outcomes with practical, secure AI tools.

NATIONAL CENTER
FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD WELFARE
2025 SYMPOSIUM

St. Petersburg, Florida

October 6-8



NATIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD for CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS

We offer a multi-tiered certification based on national standards for child welfare professionals, organizations, and systems of care. Earning a credential from the Board confirms competence, commitment to quality care, and adherence to high standards, thereby building public trust.

We aim to enhance and advance the child welfare workforce by setting and regulating professional standards and providing technical assistance to organizations and state systems.



Now certifying over 18,000 child welfare professionals nationwide.

Currently providing child welfare certification for:

- CWCM Child Welfare Case Manager
- CWPI Child Welfare Protective Investigator
- CCWS Child Welfare Supervisor



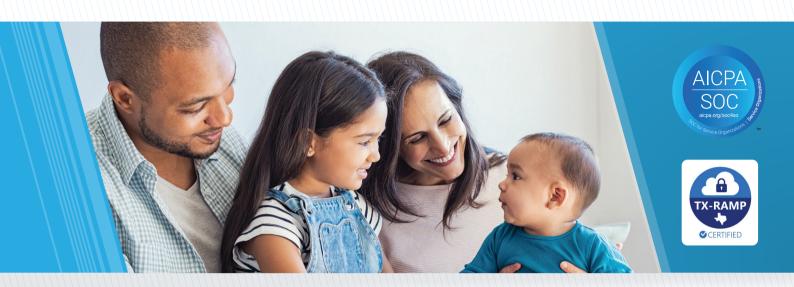
SCAN THE CODE





Empowering Your Community-Based

Child Welfare Agency with Software that Works



OUR SOFTWARE IS
DESIGNED TO SUPPORT
STATE DEPARTMENTS,
LEAD AGENCIES AND/OR
LOCAL PROVIDERS



ROLES BASED SECURITY TO HANDLE COMPLEX HIERARCHIES



DASHBOARD DESIGNS FOR MANAGEMENT, SUPERVISORS AND FRONT LINE STAFF



PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, AND REPORTING



MOBILE RESPONSIVE AND APPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Chris Pantaleon, Chief Revenue Officer chris.pantaleon@fiveptg.com 407.468.6918 Five Points Technology Group has been working with community-based child welfare and behavioral health organizations for over 20 years focusing on developing software to streamline workflow, securely exchange data between disparate systems, and to report and monitor performance outcomes.

Functionality includes:

- > Child and Case Management
- > Contract Management
- > Foster Home licensing & credentialing
- > Intake / Admission / Assessments
- Matching / Placement
- > Service Referrals & Tracking
- > Incident Reporting
- > Foster & Adoptive Parent Portal Family Ties
- > Behavioral Health
- > Eligibility / Claims Processing
- > Payment Processing & Revenue Recognition
- > Custom Forms / eSignature
- > Data Exchange / API ready



