
14TH ANNUAL JOINING FORCES CONFERENCE



Partnering for
HOPE

Helping Oklahomans Partner Everywhere

MARCH 26, 2021

HOSTED BY: OKLAHOMA FAMILY NETWORK



Family & Professional Partnerships

JOINING FORCES MISSION:

TO PROVIDE
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR
SUPPORTING
INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS
OF
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS,
AGENCIES, AND
ORGANIZATIONS
THROUGHOUT
OKLAHOMA.

O V E R V I E W

The 14th Annual Joining Forces: Supporting Family-Professional Partnerships Conference brings together local, state and national leaders to discuss best practices and promising practices in the area of family-professional partnerships. Participants gain knowledge and practical tools to use as they work together in support of a good life for the person with special health care needs, intellectual disabilities and other Oklahomans. The conference also offers opportunities for making connections with professionals, families and others for future partnership activities.

G O A L S O F T H E C O N F E R E N C E

- Increase awareness of importance of family and professional partnerships
- Increase family partnerships in the development, implementation and evaluation of programs
- Increase leadership and partnership skills
- Identify opportunities for family leadership
- Support professional and family members as they partner to improve services for a “good life”

C O N F E R E N C E C O M M I T T E E

The conference planning committee consists of agency, organization and family members.

Special thanks to the 2021 Conference Planning Committee and the organization and/or agency they represent, for contributing many hours in the planning and preparation for this year’s conference.

Joni Bruce

Angela Donley

Amy Baustart

Carla McCarrell- Williams

Wanda Felty

Lori Chesnut

Tiffany Talley

Alicia Lincoln

Monica McFarlin

Megan Smith

Amy Duncan

Tamra Crabtree

Charla Hursh

Devin Williams

Canielle Preston

Lisa Turner

Renee Sansom Briscoe

Renee Powell

Anita Lena

Erin Parks

Theresa Sharp

Chris Hobbs

Erica Herrera

Gina Richardson

Heather Pike

Kodey Toney

Patricia Burk

Jenifer Randle

Dee Banta

Terri Kinder

Sarah Soell

CONFERENCE AGENDA AT A GLANCE:

8:50 - 9:05 AM

**Log on, Housekeeping & Welcome
- You belong here!**

9:05 - 9:25 AM

**Opening: Justin Brown, Director
Oklahoma Department of Human
Services & Cabinet Secretary of
Human Services & Early Childhood
Development**

9:25 - 10:15 AM

**Keynote: Fostering Belonging: Joining
Forces to Support the Ordinary Needs
of Families ~ Jennifer Jones, PhD &
Kami L. Gallus, PhD, LMFT**

10:15 - 10:25 AM

Zoom Break

10:25 - 10:35 AM

I BELONG video

10:35 AM - 11:00 AM

**Stronger Together - Dr. Clarence Hill,
Jr.**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Where do you belong? wrap-up and
closing session**



**Justin Brown,
Director
OKDHS
Secretary
Human
Services & Early
Childhood Initiatives**

In June 2019 Governor J. Kevin Stitt appointed Justin B. Brown as Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the state's largest agency by workforce. In March 2020, Governor Stitt further appointed Brown to the position of Cabinet Secretary of Human Services and Early Childhood Development. As CEO of a regional senior housing company prior to these appointments, Brown built a deep experience in organizational leadership, finance and strategic planning & execution. With this experience, Brown is well suited to build a vision based on a customer first mentality, motivating the team to execute on a vision of serving the State of Oklahoma's most vulnerable citizens. As a strong relationship builder, Brown was uniquely qualified to position the Department of Human Services as a collaborative agency that engages with partners across the state to serve together.

In addition to having built a passion for serving seniors with Alzheimer's Disease through his prior profession and Board of Directors engagement with the Alzheimer's Association, Brown has built a life of service to children through non-profit service including the OU Children's Hospital Foundation, the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, the OKC Zoo, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, among others. He and his wife, Kelly, have been married for 19 years and have two children, Hannah and Ford.



Jennifer Jones, Ph.D.

Dr. Jennifer Jones is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. All of Dr. Jones' endeavors are built on the core belief that disability is a natural part of human diversity and everyone benefits from inclusion. Her work in communities and in academia over the past 20 years have focused on improving the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Like many, Jennifer's passion and beliefs are deeply personal as a mother of a son with intellectual disability. Jennifer is grateful for the places of welcome and belonging she and her family have experienced and strives to create environments where people with and without disabilities can flourish together.

Dr. Kami L. Gallus is a Professor in Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gallus' scholarship focuses on enhancing individual functioning, belonging, and relationship outcomes among vulnerable, often marginalized, and traditionally under-served populations, including female trauma survivors, at-risk youth, and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In contrast to a deficit model, which views vulnerability as a fixed internal trait, Kami's scholarship conceptualizes vulnerability from a social ecological model, thus resulting from the person-environment fit. Ultimately, her systemic approach to applied research and clinical work focuses not on fixing or curing the individual, but rather on changing the understanding of the individual across contexts to provide supports that enhance the quality of life for all.



**K a m i L . G a l l u s ,
P h D , L M F T**

Dr. Clarence Hill Jr. is the founder and lead visionary for the Stronger Together Movement. He is the Senior Pastor of Antioch Community Church in Norman, Oklahoma. He has been married to Alicia for twenty-two years and has four children ages 18 to 7.

Dr. Hill is the creator of the Dream Clock. His work with the Dream Clock was highlighted as a solution to the racial and political division in The Oklahoman for 12 weeks. The Oklahoman identified Clarence as a "Leading Voice For Change". The Dream Clock presentation has impacted several Oklahoma organizations including Devon Energy, Chesapeake, Bank of America, Leadership Oklahoma and many more.

Dr. Hill's work specializes in addressing difficult social issues and areas of conflict (such as family fragmentation and race relations). He facilitates several strategic city collaboratives, forums, conferences, and campaigns. He speaks across the country on the topic of city transformation, racial harmony, leadership, and compassion.



D r . C l a r e n c e H i l l J r .

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

This conference is coordinated by the Oklahoma Family Network, Oklahoma's Family-to-Family Health Information Center and a partner in the Children's Behavioral Health Network, in partnership with: Center for Learning and Leadership (Oklahoma UCEDD), Oklahoma Department of Human Services Developmental Disabilities Services and Children With Special Healthcare Needs, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities), Sooner SUCCESS, and Oklahoma State Department of Education, Pervasive Parenting Center

