

Racial Equity and Impact CRP

2024 Panel Members

Dr. Marian Harris – Dr. Harris is currently serving as Co-Chair for the Racial Equity and Impact CRP. Dr. Marian S. Harris, PhD, LICSW, ACSW is the Diversity, Equity and Social Justice Program Officer at the Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs. Dr. Harris is Professor Emerita, University of Washington Tacoma, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice. She is nationally and internationally known for her work as a child welfare researcher/scholar; licensed clinical social worker; and advocate for children and social justice, and has received several teaching, research and practice awards throughout her career including the 2021 Social Justice Award from the WA State Society for Clinical Social Work. Dr. Harris is a prolific writer who has written books, journal articles, technical reports, training manuals, amicus briefs, op eds, newsletter articles, etc. One of her more notable books is *Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare* (2014) published by Columbia University Press. Her most recent book is *Children of Incarcerated Parents: Silent Victims* (2023) published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Shrounda Selivanoff – Shrounda Selivanoff is the Social Service Manager at the Washington State Office of Public Defense. She brings a fierce and passionate voice advocating for change to remove systemic barriers that impact children and families in child welfare. She was previously involved with the child welfare system and has since reunited with her daughter. Shrounda's child welfare experience birthed an advocate seeking to destigmatize parents and move towards engagement that sees and values parents as partners. Shrounda's work prioritizes marginalized and disenfranchised families and relentlessly pursues policy change and revolutionary changes toward preserving and strengthening families.

Keoki Kauanoe – Keoki is a native Hawaiian and single-father, the Facilitator of Father Engagement at Family Education and Support Services, Master Trainer for the Nurturing Fathers Program, Family Advocate and Community Organizer. Keoki serves on the Washington State Fatherhood Council, Board of Equity in Education Coalition, Thurston County DEI Council, and is the Chair of the Washington Democrats Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus. Keoki is a strong advocate for second chances, forgiveness, compassion, kindness, and mutual understanding.

Dr. Chereese Phillips – Chereese is presently the Senior Director in Research Services at Casey Family Programs. She has several years of experience designing, advising, and supporting child welfare research and evaluation projects at the local, state, and federal level. Most recently she was the Director of Data Driven Practice at Casey Family Programs. Previously, she served as a specialist at the Children's Bureau with a portfolio consisting of

contracts and grants which sought to build evidence in the child welfare and substance use disorders space. In addition to her research experience, she was the Special Initiatives and Diversity Officer for the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF). Dr. Phillips received her PhD from the University of Pittsburgh and her MSW and BA in sociology, from the University of Washington. Formerly, she was a senate appointee to the Washington State Disproportionality Committee (2007- 2009) and looks forward to further serving the child and families of Washington State as a member of the DCYF Racial Equity & Impact Citizen Review Panel.

Deborah Purce – Deborah spent her professional career as an attorney and as the prior Executive Staff Director for DSHS, Children’s Administration. She has extensive knowledge of the Child Welfare system and is serving on the CRP to improve the lives of children and families in Washington State.

Kendra Maroney – Kendra is a Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians in the Pend Oreille Valley CASA Program. Kendra is serving on the CRP to provide perspective from her work with Tribal families and advocate for the needs of Tribal children.

Kimberly Booker – Kimberly is a Parent Representation Program Social Service Specialist with the Office of Public Defense. Kimberly was also employed as a Social Service Specialist and Supervisor with DCYF.

Buffy Via – Buffy is the Dependency Program Manager at Pierce County Juvenile Court. She has worked in child welfare since 1999, with a passion for equity, advocacy, and system change. She has a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Puget Sound and an Executive Master of Public Administration degree from the Evens School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Washington. She has trained at the local, state, and national level on the Indian Child Welfare Act and the spirit behind the law to improve implementation and understanding. In her personal life she is on the board for Communities in Schools Peninsula and is a part of various groups focused on social justice in her community.

Dr. Janelle Hawes – Janelle is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Tacoma’s School of Social Work and Criminal Justice. Janelle has a passion for research and improving the system through advocacy. She has lived experience with the child welfare system and as a Native American Latina she can bring her unique perspective to the work on the CRP.

Lisa Russell – Lisa is currently the Director of the Kalispel Tribe’s Camas Early Learning Center and is also a CASA and GAL volunteer for tribal families. Lisa is a member of the San

Poill Band of the Colville Confederated Tribes, and she also has Spokane and Cour d'Alene Tribal ties. Lisa loves working with children and families and has a strong connection to the Spokane area. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, drumming, singing, learning languages, and weaving.