

# National Foster Care Month 2015

GET TO KNOW THE MANY FACES OF FOSTER CARE

## **WEBINAR: “SUPPORTING PERMANENCY FOR LGBTQ YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE”**

### **PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Taffy Compain**

Taffy Compain is the National Foster Care Specialist for the Children’s Bureau at the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services. As the National Foster Care Specialist, Ms. Compain provides leadership on national foster care initiatives, including National Foster Care Month. Ms. Compain serves as the federal liaison to the National Association of State Foster Care Managers and Federal Project Officer for over a dozen discretionary grants aiming to improve permanency for children and youth in foster care through the development of child welfare diligent recruitment programs for foster and adoptive families. She has over 20 years of experience in child welfare practice and administration, beginning her career in foster care services at the Florida Department of Children and Families. Ms. Compain relocated to Washington, D.C., managing the Training and Technical Assistance Center at the Child Welfare Reviews Project of JBS International before joining the Children’s Bureau. A bilingual native of Puerto Rico, she has supported numerous efforts to engage and service the Latino community throughout her career.

#### **Emily Brunelle**

Emily Brunelle is an alumna of the Wyoming foster care system, Emily is an advocate for child welfare, mental health, and the LGBTQ population. She has served as a consultant and intern at the National Resource Center for Youth Development. Since 2011, she has contributed to the work of the National Youth in Transition Database and the Young Adult Training and Technical Assistance Network. In 2013, Emily established an organization on her college campus to provide community, information, and resources for LGBTQ students. A Daniels Fund Scholar, Emily graduated in 2014 with two Associate of Science degrees from Casper College in Casper, WY. She currently attends Portland State University in Portland, OR, where she is working to complete her bachelor’s degree in Women’s Studies with a minor in Sexuality, Gender, and Queer Studies. While completing her studies, she works at the Regional Research Institute at Portland State University as an assessor on the Mylife Project. She is also a consultant with ICF International’s Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative, funded by the Children’s Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **Lisa Parrish**

Lisa Parrish, B.A., is the Director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center’s RISE Project, funded through a 5-year Federal Permanency Innovations Initiative grant from the Children’s Bureau. From 2005 to 2011, she served as a deputy director at the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, ultimately for the Bureau of Strategic Management. From 1998 to 2004, she was the deputy commissioner for foster care and preventive services at New York City’s Administration for Children’s Services. Previously, she served as chief of staff for the city’s deputy mayor for operations, and as deputy director for social services and health in the city’s Office of Management and Budget.

## Juliana Harms

Juliana Harms, LCSW, ACSW, C-ACYFSW, received her B.S. degree in Human Development/Family Ecology and her M.S.W. degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ms. Harms worked with victims of violent crimes as the victim-witness coordinator in the Livingston County State's Attorney's Office from 1986 to 1988. She has been with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) since 1988. At DCFS, she has served as a child welfare specialist, investigative specialist, local area network (LAN) liaison, investigative/paired team supervisor, intact family services manager, and clinical services coordinator. She is currently the statewide administrator of social work practice and oversees regional and specialty clinical programs at DCFS. She continues to be an active advocate for LGBTQI youth in care and initiated a training and technical assistance project in 2013 with Dr. Gary Mallon to advance current DCFS policy and practice in this area. Ms. Harms has been a trainer for a number of specialty projects within DCFS and is a co-chair of the Central Region Anti-Racism Transformation Team.

Since 2000, Ms. Harms has been an adjunct instructor at the Illinois State University School of Social Work. She has also served as a guest lecturer at Illinois Wesleyan University and Heartland Community College (Illinois) and has provided training on child welfare issues (including LGBTQI-specific work) to law enforcement, attorneys, juvenile justice staff, and other social service agencies throughout the State.



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Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau

