



## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney



Friday, August 23, 2024			
5:30 PM	8:30 PM	<b>Welcome by Paul and Linda Younes, Reception and Early Registration</b> <i>(Crystal 3 &amp; 4)</i>	
Saturday, August 24, 2024			
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b> <i>(Built in Registration 1)</i>	
8:00 AM	4:30 PM	<b>Visit Our Exhibitor Booths</b> <i>(Main Hallway)</i>	
9:00 AM	10:10 AM	<b>Welcome and Keynote – Jen McNally, When Coffee Isn't Enough</b> <i>(Crystal 3 &amp; 4)</i>	
10:15	10:30	<b>Break</b>	
10:30 AM	11:45 AM	<b>Embracing Trauma-Informed Care: Building Resilience and Empathy –</b> <i>Jamie Mapp &amp; Sean Roberts</i> <i>(Diamond 4)</i>	<b>Life in Limbo: An emotional, interactive training on foster care, from the perspective of the children and their families, Part I –</b> <i>Cindy Reed</i> <i>(Diamond 5)</i>
		<b>Drug Trends and How It Impacts our Families –</b> <i>Chief Brad Butler</i> <i>(Diamond 9)</i>	<b>Breaking the Cycle: Domestic Violence-Informed Child Welfare Practice for Safety, Healing, and Prevention -</b> <i>Jamie Bahm and Kim Lauenroth</i> <i>(Diamond 10)</i>
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	<b>Volunteer Impact Lunch</b> <i>(Crystal 3 &amp; 4)</i>	
1:45 PM	3:00 PM	<b>Exploring Intercultural Competence –</b> <i>Jackie Guzman</i> <i>(Diamond 4)</i>	<b>Life in Limbo: An emotional, interactive training on foster care, from the perspective of the children and their families, Part II</b> <i>Cindy Reed</i> <i>(Diamond 5)</i>
		<b>Indian Children: Culturally Connected, Rights Protected –</b> <i>Jill Holt</i> <i>(Diamond 9)</i>	<b>The Bridge Inc. Love, Dignity, &amp; Respect</b> <i>Jill Gregg</i> <i>(Diamond 10)</i>
3:00	3:15	<b>Break</b>	
3:15 PM	4:30 PM	<b>Judge and Youth Panel – Judge Roland, Jordan &amp; Ivan</b> <i>(Crystal 3 &amp; 4)</i>	
4:30		<b>Conference Conclusion THANK YOU &amp; Please Complete Conference Evaluations</b> <i>(Leave on table or hand to conference committee member at the door)</i>	



## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### Welcome & Opening Reception

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Friday Evening (*Crystal 3 & 4*)



**Emcee:** Christina Millsap |  
Nebraska CASA Association |  
Training Director



**Entertainment:** Elliott Piper |  
The Music Bingo People

The Nebraska CASA Association Conference kicks off with an opening reception for all conference attendees on Friday evening.

Enjoy our festive, casual affair while networking and enjoying some of the best food Kearney has to offer! Music Bingo, cash bar, beverages, and tasty bites in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Paul and Linda Younes welcome you to Kearney and give a special message about their life and the incredible work CASA does every day to give a light of hope to children and youth.

Conference Prizes will be provided during Music Bingo! This energetic, fun, and music filled game includes a mixture of music everyone loves. Be entertained, sing along, and laugh out loud while you have chances to win conference in a friendly competition!

Younes Conference Center, NE CASA Association Conference Committee & Visitors Bureau looks forward to welcoming you with Nebraska hospitality at our opening reception.



Paul and Linda Younes |  
Younes Hospitality



## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

**Conference Welcome** 9:00 to 9:15 a.m. Saturday Morning (*Crystal 3 & 4*)



Join us for the opening session of the 2024 Nebraska CASA Conference with Corrie Kielty, Nebraska CASA Executive Director.

Corrie has 30+ years of experience with nonprofits and public policy work. Her experience in public health, especially in combating substance use disorders, fuels her passion to assist CASA programs to provide a volunteer advocate for every child. Corrie is a lifelong Nebraskan with 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren.

**Emcee:** Corrie Kielty | Nebraska CASA Association | Executive Director

## Keynote – Jen McNally, *When Coffee Isn't Enough*

9:15 to 10:15 a.m. (*Crystal 3 & 4*)



Join us for an enlightening and informative keynote address! Jen's engaging presentation will delve into the crucial topics of trauma-informed care and mental wellness. Walk away equipped with the knowledge and inspiration to continue your vital advocacy for children.

Jen McNally is a director of mental health and wellness, psychotherapist, and national speaker. She has been providing mental health services, psychoeducation, and administration for more than 20 years. Jen has worked with children and families in a variety of settings, including residential treatment facilities, outpatient treatment, and schools.



**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### Morning Breakout Sessions – Four Options



#### **Breakout Session 1 – Embracing Trauma-Informed Care: Building Resilience and Empathy** 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. (*Diamond 4*)

Join us for a session dedicated to refreshing your essential knowledge of trauma and its impacts on youth. This session will equip you with practical strategies and tools to add to your toolkit, fostering healing-centered environments and interactions that promote hope and healing for the children you serve.

Jamie Mapp and Sean Roberts are mental health clinicians who work with children and youth in Nebraska schools.



#### **Breakout Session 2 – Cindy Reed, Life in Limbo (Part 1)**

10:30 to 11:45 a.m. (*Diamond 5*)

At Life in Limbo, you will step into the shoes of a child entering foster care, a parent whose children are removed, or a caregiver trying to provide stability. Chaos moves to compassion and great ideas improving foster care for all children in this deeply immersive experience.

Cindy Reed is a long-term youth advocate and true connector. She has helped programs partner with youth for 15 years successfully and authentically engaging youth at many levels of leadership. Cindy believes that when people work in partnership with each other AND those they serve we crack open the box of business as usual and expose what's possible. "If we continue to do what we've always done, we'll get what we've always gotten - and that's not good enough."



#### **Breakout Session 3 – Drug Trends and How It Impacts our Families, Chief Brad Butler** 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. (*Diamond 9*)

Discover the most demanded drugs and emerging trends such as fentanyl, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamines, synthetic cannabinoids, and other chemicals. Learn about issues related to marijuana legalization, vaping, butane hash oil, and cannabis edibles. Understand the stages of use, addiction, withdrawal symptoms, and health dangers of drug use. Explore common delivery systems and emerging drug forms. Recognize signs and symptoms of drug usage and its impact on families.

Chief Brad Butler has more than 27 years of law enforcement experience as a Deputy, Sergeant, Captain, Police Officer, Special Federal Officer with the FBI, Federal Drug Task Force member, and K-9 Officer. His career has primarily focused on narcotics, starting with street-level team operations and undercover assignments. Chief Butler has investigated drug labs, major narcotic traffickers, and large-scale marijuana cultivation cases.





## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### **Breakout Session 4 – *Jamie Bahm and Kim Lauenroth, Breaking the Cycle: Domestic Violence-Informed Child Welfare Practice for Safety, Healing, and Prevention* 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. (Diamond 10)**

Join us for an insightful session delving into the intricacies of domestic violence and its profound effect on children within the child welfare system. In this session, we will explore the basics of domestic violence, examining its intersection with child abuse and neglect, and the critical role of child welfare professionals in addressing these intertwined issues. Learn practical strategies for working with domestic violence survivors to help foster safety and empowerment, and domestic violence abusers to promote accountability and responsibility. Discover how to advocate effectively for the best interests of children, recognizing them as co-survivors of domestic violence, and prioritizing their well-being.

Jamie Bahm is an Assistant Project Director with the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children at the University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families, and the Law. Prior to her current position, she worked as Technical Expert Lead for JBS International, as Reflective Practice and Court Infusion Project Manager for NRPVYC, and as the Lancaster County Family Treatment Drug Court Supervisor for the NE DHHS. She has specialized in casework with adjudicated youth with high behavioral health needs. Jamie holds her Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in criminology and criminal justice.



Kim Lauenroth is the Domestic Violence Team Supervisor with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NE DHHS), Division of Children and Family Services. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a concentration in forensic psychology. Kim's professional journey includes pivotal internships at Voices of Hope and the Friendship Home, where she developed a robust foundation in domestic violence advocacy.

## **Volunteer Impact Lunch**

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

*(Crystal 3 & 4)*

Join us for a special luncheon as we celebrate the power of volunteerism to ignite the light of hope and transform the lives of children and families throughout Nebraska.

Shay and Steven Reiser will share their journey in the foster care system and how Steven found permanency.

Steven's CASA Volunteers changed the trajectory of his life. He wants to share that impact with other CASA Volunteers and child welfare professionals. Steven hopes his story helps other children in his situation so more kids will have the same opportunity to thrive.





## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney



### *Afternoon Breakout Sessions – Four Options*

#### **Breakout Session 1 – Jackie Guzman, Exploring Intercultural Competence**



1:45 to 3:00 p.m. (*Diamond 4*)

This session will explore how to connect across diverse groups. We will examine how our personal and organizational cultures influence our ability to work across differences. Build skills to increase competencies as we work with others who are different from us.

Jackie Guzman earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a major in Elementary Education. She began her teaching career at Scottsbluff Public Schools Scottsbluff, serving as a classroom teacher and an English Language Learner teacher for 17 years. After earning a master's degree in education, she began her 18-year career with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension first as a Positive Youth Development Educator then an Early Childhood Educator. As an Early Childhood Extension Educator, she serves the southern panhandle offering early childhood professional development programming for providers, educators and families of young children.

Jackie has expertise in programming focused on underserved populations representing culturally, linguistically and racially diverse communities. She is the chair of the Extension Reaching One Reaching All committee. This committee develops diversity, equity and inclusion training for Extension faculty, staff and the communities they serve. Jackie is also on the board of directors of the Nebraska CASA Association.

#### **Breakout Session 2 – Cindy Reed, Life in Limbo (Part II)**

1:45 to 3:00 p.m. (*Diamond 5*)

As Life in Limbo continues from the morning session, each participant becomes a child, foster, kinship parent, birth parent, or observer. In this lively and interactive session, bonds are formed, and disruptions occur. Participants will struggle as in real life, but also find solutions, building resilience and finding their way forward. We end emotionally changed, understanding what it means to live in limbo. Takeaways are further compassion and renewed urgency to care for all children in need.



Cindy Reed is a long-term youth advocate and true connector. She has helped programs partner with youth for 15 years successfully and authentically engaging youth at many levels of leadership. Cindy creates a space for belonging. Cindy believes that when people work in partnership with each other AND those they serve we crack open the box of business as usual and expose what's possible. "If we continue to do what we've always done, we'll get what we've always gotten - and that's not good enough."



## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### Breakout Session 3 – *Jill Holt, Indian Children: Culturally, Connected, Rights Protected*

1:45 to 3:00 p.m. (*Diamond 9*)

#### Participants will gain knowledge of:

1. Why the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was enacted and still relevant today.



2. Active versus Reasonable efforts for families and culturally relevant services.

3. Notice to tribes and different ways tribes may or may not be involved in the case.

4. Advocates' role in supporting the best interest of an Indian child as defined in the Nebraska ICWA.

Jill Holt has a bachelor's degree in social work and master's degrees in social work and public administration. Jill has more than 15 years of experience with ICWA compliance, ICWA Specialist for the Ponca Tribe, ICWA Program Coordinator for NE DHHS, then transitioning to NICWC in June of 2019 and served on the NICWC Board and an active Coalition member since grassroots in 2008.

### Breakout Session 4 – *Kellie Stone, Jillian Scott, Michelle Hill, Deana Kenton, Sara Sims, The Bridge Inc. Love, Dignity, & Respect* 1:45 to 3:00 p.m. (*Diamond 5*)

The Bridge in Hastings specializes in the treatment of alcoholism, drug addiction, and substance abuse. This session will give a comprehensive overview of their program, including treatment services available, program insight, and available clinical services. You will hear first-hand experience from women, including parents and their journeys to sobriety.

Kellie Stone, MA, LIMHP; Clinical Coordinator, received her undergraduate degree at Hastings College and her master's in Mental Health Counseling at Northwestern University. Kellie did an internship during her undergraduate at The Bridge Inc. She always knew that she wanted to be a part of such an amazing program. After graduation, she started immediately working at the Bridge as a counselor in The Mom and Me program. She enjoys seeing the family unit redevelop their bonds and grow as a family.



Jillian Scott; Office Manager, is a Nebraska native, born and raised in Grand Island. She moved to Hastings six years ago to pursue a career with The Bridge. Once a resident at The Bridge she started her road to recovery in 2012 and has continued her sobriety. She enjoys being outside, working out, spending time with her dogs and family.

Michelle Hill, PLADC; Case manager/outpatient counselor, became a resident in The Bridge more than 11 years ago. She graduated then moved to California to fight for custody of two children she lost due to addiction. After moving back to

Hastings, Michelle earned an associate's degree in drug and alcohol counseling. She returned to The Bridge as a staff member 3 years ago and is a full-time case manager and part-time counselor.



Deana Kenton; Bridge Alumni, struggled with addiction for half of her life. She found her inner strength and external support at The Bridge Rehab Center specializing in care for women, children, and families facing addiction. Programs were tailored to fit her individual needs and staff showed her compassion and understanding. During her time at The Bridge, she learned the importance of mindfulness practices and self-care. These tools helped her find inner peace and heal from past wounds. The center's unwavering support also enabled her to prioritize her well-being, something that had often been overlooked during her addiction. In addition to her personal journey, The Bridge also helped her balance motherhood with recovery. Through family therapy and parenting

workshops, she was empowered to create a loving and stable home environment for her children while maintaining her sobriety.





**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### Judge and Youth Panel - Judge Roland, Jordan & Ivan

3:15 to 4:30 p.m. (*Crystal 3 & 4*)

Join this session to hear first-hand experience from a judge and youth who have been involved in juvenile court. Judge Roland will share from his years as a judge working with CASA volunteers, legal professionals, case workers, and others while presiding over cases. Youth advocates will share their personal experiences within the child welfare system, offering powerful perspectives on what truly serves the best interests of young people and emphasizing the significance of empowering youth as active participants in their futures.



The Honorable Randin R. Roland has been a County Court Judge in Nebraska's 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District since 2006. Judge Roland has served as the Cheyenne County Attorney and in the United States Air Force. He is involved in numerous civic organizations as well as statewide committees and task forces that improve the lives of children. In addition, Judge Roland is a leading member of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts.

Ivan experienced being a custody of the state with his four siblings while remaining in his father's home for 2 years. Lynn Mussman was their CASA volunteer. Six months after their case closed, Ivan was removed from his home along with his siblings and 3 other children who belonged to Ivan dad's girlfriend. Again, Lynn was appointed his CASA volunteer with the other 7 children. Ivan's aunt & uncle became guardians. Since graduated from highschool and enrolled in college classes, "For me, the CASA program was very helpful in exploring and knowing my options about going forward in life. The main take away I had was that we had someone to rely on and someone who had our best interest at heart. It gave me great peace of mind knowing that there was someone who went to the legal proceedings and the court cases keeping track and interpreting it in a way I could better understand. It is also nice to know that even after everything that has happened, that there was somebody reaching out even after all the events were over. Thank you, Lynn for all that you do!"



Jordan Bocoek was in foster care for almost three years. She says that "Coming from Chappell, foster care was challenging but transformative, providing essential life skills. Key individuals like my CASA volunteer, Beth, offered unwavering support, especially during the loss of my son. My CASA volunteer, Peggy, and PALS worker, Zach, guided me through important processes like FAFSA, shaping my academic path. These individuals helped shape my resilience and success, and I am deeply grateful for their support."

Jordan aims to excel in her educational career and advocate for foster children. She is majoring in English with minors in Business Administration and Marketing at Doane University. She plans to travel abroad, particularly to South America, broadening her horizons. Post-college, she aspires to a career in marketing, contributing to business growth and community awareness. In ten years, Jordan sees herself in a fulfilling career, achieving personal milestones like owning a home and traveling, while maintaining a balanced and enriching life.



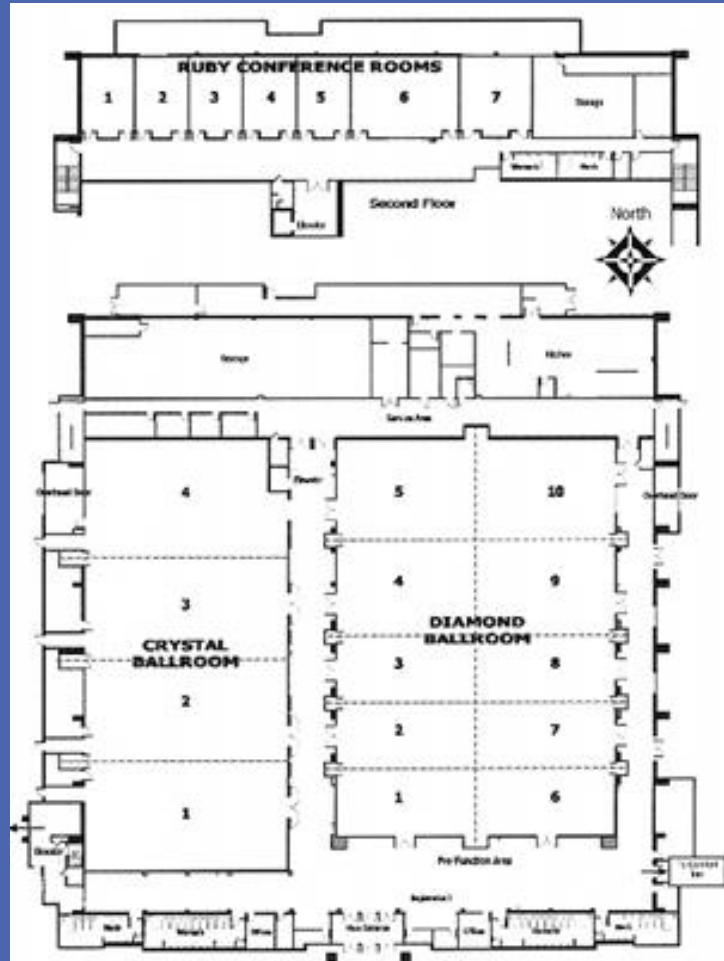


**CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN  
NEBRASKA CASA ASSOCIATION

## Nebraska CASA Conference Program

Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

### VENUE FLOOR PLAN:



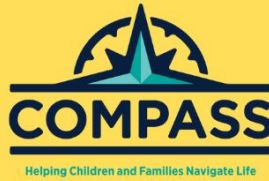
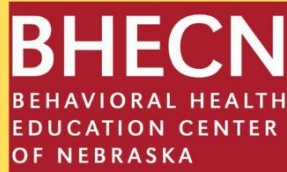
### Meet Our 2024 Nebraska CASA Conference Planning Team

- *Cathy McDowell, Office Administrator @ Prairie Plains CASA*
- *Christina Millsap, Training Director @ Nebraska CASA Association*
- *Corrie Kielty, Executive Director @ Nebraska CASA Association*
- *Debbie Green, Director @ SENCA CASA*
- *Happy Aldana, Executive Director @ CASA of the Midlands*
- *Kathryn Carlson, Executive Director @ CASA of Northeast Nebraska*
- *Krista Bruns, Executive Director @ PlainsWest CASA*
- *Linda Shaw, Executive Director @ Dawson/Gosper County CASA*
- *Lisa Rosendahl, Outreach Coordinator @ CASA Connection*
- *Margot Icenogle-Larsen, Executive Director @ Kearney/Buffalo County CASA*



Nebraska CASA Conference Program  
Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY:



Our Exhibitors. Visit Pre-function Hall

