

Certificate Program in Grandfamilies Leadership



Presenter Bios

Ana Beltran, JD, Director, Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center



Bio: Ana Beltran is an attorney, and Director of the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network: A National Technical Assistance Center. Ana frequently speaks about the strengths and challenges of these families at conferences around the country, and through radio and television interviews. Among her presentations, she helped design and implement a satellite training on affordable housing issues for staff at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and was featured at several Capitol Hill briefings and as the keynote speaker at the

Smithsonian Institution premiere of the documentary *Big Mama*. While Director and as Advisor, Ana has worked to help enact and implement several federal laws to support the families, including the National Family Caregiver Support Program, LEGACY, and the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. She has also authored many Generations United reports and several articles in various publications and academic journals, including *GrandFamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*, *The Journal of Family Social Work*, *The Gerontologist*, *The Public Policy and Aging Report*, and *The Journal of Gerontological Social Work*. Ana is a graduate of Indiana University/Bloomington and Georgetown University Law Center. As someone who was raised in part by her grandmother, Ana has a personal commitment to the families.

Jennifer Crittenden, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor of Social Work, Associate Director for Research, UMaine Center on Aging



Bio: Dr. Jennifer Crittenden is an assistant professor at the UMaine School of Social Work and serves as the Associate Director for Research at the UMaine Center on Aging. Dr. Crittenden serves as the Project Coordinator for the grandfamilies certificate program. In her role as Associate Director for Research, Jennifer oversees the Center's research, evaluation, and training programs. In addition to publishing in the field of gerontology, she has developed educational workshops, trainings, and conferences for a wide range of audiences including older adults, caregivers, healthcare

professionals, social service professionals, and administrators. Nearly all research projects and grant-funded programs under her management entail the translation of academic research into professional and public education programs, events and dissemination activities. Her experience includes the development and oversight of an educational series of workshops for caregivers on

Alzheimer's and dementia. She has also developed and implemented a series of "lunch and learn" presentations for primary care offices on the topics of elder abuse and senior healthcare transportation. Dr. Crittenden is also currently a faculty member in the UMaine Interprofessional Certificate in Gerontology Program.

Dawn Davenport, JD, Executive Director, Creating a Family



Bio: Dawn Davenport is the Executive Director of Creating a Family, the national adoption, foster, and kinship care training and support nonprofit. She is an attorney, educator, training developer, and trauma-informed adoption/foster/kinship specialist. She is the host of Creating a Family Radio Show/Podcast, which began in 2007 and is now ranked in the top 5% of all podcasts in the US. She is the author of a book on adoption published by Random House and has had articles published in many national and regional publications. She is a mom of four by birth and adoption.

Megan Dolbin-MacNab, Professor of Human Development and Family Science, Virginia Tech



Bio: Dr. Megan Dolbin-MacNab is Professor of Human Development and Family Science and a faculty affiliate of the Center for Gerontology at Virginia Tech. She is also a licensed marriage and family therapist and a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Dolbin-MacNab has been researching and working with grandfamilies for over 25 years. Grounded in family systems and family resilience perspectives, her research has focused on 1) the intersection of relational processes and grandparent and grandchild well-being, 2) family-based practice strategies and interventions designed to improve grandfamily well-being, and 3) the role of larger social structures (e.g., federal and state policies) in shaping grandfamilies' needs and well-being. Dr. Dolbin-MacNab's research has been supported by the Virginia Department of Health, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA)/USDA Hatch Federal Capacity Funds, and the National Institute on Aging (R01AG054571). She has published over 50 journal articles and book chapters, including [a highly cited decade review of research on grandparents raising grandchildren](#) and a [review of the impact of the opioid epidemic on grandfamilies](#). In 2017, Dr. Dolbin-MacNab was a witness at the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing, Grandparents to the [Rescue: Raising Grandchildren in the Opioid Crisis and Beyond](#), which helped inform the [Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act \(S.1091\)](#). Dr. Dolbin-MacNab was recently nominated to join the next [Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren \(SGRG\)](#). She has provided interviews on grandfamilies to major media outlets such as USA Today, AARP Bulletin, [PBS NewsHour](#), Minnesota Public Radio, and West Virginia Public Broadcasting and regularly consults with local and state agencies and support programs about delivering effective services to grandfamilies.

**Christine A. Fruhauf, PhD, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies;
Director, HDFS Extension Programs, Colorado State University**



Bio: Dr. Fruhauf is a family gerontology specialist who studies multiple aspects associated with aging families. In particular, her research foci include three main areas: (1) grandparent - grandchild relationships - including grandparents raising grandchildren and GLBT grandparenting, (2) family caregiving - addressing young adult caregivers and the impact of respite care on caregivers' well-being, and (3) gerontological education and instruction. In addition to these three content related areas, Dr. Fruhauf is particularly interested in the Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach to working with the community in conducting her scholarly work and have applied this approach to building community capacity among the Larimer County Alliance for Grandfamilies (LCAG) in Northern Colorado. In particular, she has co-authored several papers related to the LCAG and the model used to form the Alliance. In July of 2013, the paper by Fruhauf, Bundy-Fazioli, and Miller (2012) was honored by Generations United when it received the Brabazon Award for Evaluation Research. Please see the following new release about this work and the award. In 2015, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, she received an USDA/NIFA Children Youth and Families At-Risk Sustainable Community Program grant (2015-06132) to address self-care practices of grandfamilies. Her future research goals related to grandfamilies includes examining resilience among grandparents and grandchildren and positive and negative outcomes among grandchildren raised by grandparents.

Barbara Kates, Principal, Barbara Kates Consulting



Bio: Barbara Kates learned a great deal from the hundreds of families she worked with at Families And Children Together. She was the Director of Maine Kids-Kin, a statewide family service program for grandfamilies. She began in 1999 when kinship services was still new in child welfare and, under her leadership, Maine Kids-Kin broke new ground in understanding how to be helpful to grandfamilies. During this time she co-developed support programming specifically for relative caregivers with children affected by substance abuse and co-authored a paper on serving these families in rural communities. In addition, she played a key role in bringing together community resources to better serve grandfamilies. Currently, Barbara is a presenter and facilitator for her own company, Barbara Kates Consulting, and for Maine-Wabanaki REACH.

Lenard W. Kaye, DSW/PhD, Director, UMaine Center on Aging, Professor, UMaine School of Social Work



Bio: Dr. Lenard W. Kaye is Professor of Social Work at the University of Maine School of Social Work and Director of the UMaine Center on Aging. He is the Project Director for the Grandfamilies Certificate Program. Under his leadership, the Center on Aging has spearheaded efforts to support grandfamily caregiving in Maine and beyond through the Family Connections to Resources Project (Families and Children Together/Children's Bureau), Maine Relatives as Parents Program (Brookdale Foundation) and the Maine Rural Relatives as Parents Outreach Project (Brookdale Foundation).

Dr. Kaye has been the principal investigator and director of research/evaluation for numerous assessments of innovative community services for older adults including projects funded by the AARP Andrus Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service, National Institute on Aging, Maine Health Access Foundation, Pew Foundation, Families USA Foundation, U.S. Administration on Aging, John Hartford Foundation, Philadelphia Corporation on Aging, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office on Aging, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maine Office of Substance Abuse, Weinberg Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies, Maine Community Foundation, Jane's Trust, Brookdale Foundation, and the Maine Department of Public Safety. He currently serves as the principal investigator of the Encore Leadership Corps program, the Balancing Act Falls Prevention Study, two regional Thriving in Place evaluation initiatives, and the Penquis Regional Linking Project evaluation, and previously oversaw evaluation efforts for the Kinship Connections Project, a 4-agency collaboration supporting kinship caregiving in Maine.

Kathy Kinsner, MSW, Senior Manager, Parenting Resources, ZERO TO THREE



Bio: For more than 4 decades, Kathy has worked wherever education and media intersect: as a reading specialist, a producer on PBS series Reading Rainbow, and the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at non-profit Roads to Success. Her work has been recognized with 3 Emmys, an NAACP Image Award, and a Teacher's Choice Award. As Senior Manager of Parenting Resources at ZERO TO THREE, Kathy collaborates on resources for parents and providers, including partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the CDC, Head Start, the Mount Sinai Parenting Center, and NAEYC. Kathy is the author of a workshop series for grandparents and collaborated on ZERO

TO THREE's Parenting for Social Justice resources. She holds masters' degrees in education (Bowling Green State University) and television, radio, and film (Syracuse).

Deborah Langosch, PhD, LCSW



Bio: Deborah Langosch is a doctorate level clinical social worker, trainer, psychotherapist and consultant in Brooklyn, NY. She's worked with kinship care families since 1986 in mental health clinics, social service agencies and in hospitals. Dr. Langosch served as the co-chair of the NYC Kincare Task Force. She developed and directed the Kinship Care Program at NYC's largest social service agency for 17 years and was the Director of the Loss and Bereavement Program for Children and Teens there. She's trained thousands of providers in the areas of trauma, bereavement and ambiguous loss as well as on the mental health issues of kinship care families. Deborah presents locally and nationally on these topics and provides training and consultation on evidence-based treatments. She is a co-managing editor of the GrandFamilies on-line journal and a founding member of the GrandFamilies Outcome Workgroup (GrOW). Dr. Langosch has been recognized and honored by AARP, the National Association of Social Workers, NYS Kinship Coalition and the Brookdale Foundation Relatives as Parents Program for her leadership, exemplary service and notable work in these areas.

Anita Rogers, PhD, Development Consultant



Bio: Dr. Anita Rogers is a Senior Fellow at Generations United and an advisor to the Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network. Amongst her current projects with Generations United, she provides technical assistance to eight kinship programs in Philadelphia with the support of the William Penn Foundation. Throughout her career, Dr. Rogers has been involved with delivering education, civil rights, human services, reentry programming, violence prevention, victim assistance, and mental health in various capacities: administrator, fundraiser, program developer, evaluator, strategic planner, teacher, and trainer. Dr. Rogers coordinated a national mentoring project, Linking Lifetimes in 11 American cities for high-risk youth, and a kinship support program, Grandma's Kids, under the Temple University Center for Intergenerational Learning, which has served as a national model. As the first Executive Director of the Philadelphia Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolence, she worked closely with Coretta Scott King and other civil rights icons. Dr. Rogers initiated the first latter-day freedom rides taking youth from Philadelphia to southern civil rights historic cities/locations and arranging for them to meet with notable and unsung movement heroes. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Temple University, a master's degree in special education from Antioch University, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Temple University.

Andrea Smith, PhD, Professor, College of Education and Human Development, Western Michigan University



Bio: Dr. Andrea B. Smith, Professor, holds joint appointments in the Departments of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies and Family and Consumer Sciences at Western Michigan University. Dr. Smith has over 25 years of experience working with kinship care families, both within the United States and internationally. Dr. Smith's experience in writing and evaluating resources for kinship care families has led to numerous publications and presentations, including two terms as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in the Great Britain and Norway. In addition, she has worked directly with adults and children in kinship families as a licensed clinical social worker. Dr. Smith is Co-Executive Editor of *Grandfamilies: The Contemporary Journal of Research, Practice and Policy*. Dr. Smith recently co-authored two books written for caregivers which can be used individually or in group settings (*Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Expanding Your View* and *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Coping with Addiction*). A third book for grandparent caregivers will be published during Fall, 2022. Dr. Smith and her husband are the parents of four grown children, ages 26-36. In her spare time, Dr. Smith enjoys running, swimming, gardening and spending time with her one-year old granddaughter.

Susan G. Weinberger, PhD, Founder and President, Mentor Consulting Group



Bio: Dr. Susan G. Weinberger Susan was a pioneer in designing the Norwalk Mentor Program, the first school-based mentoring initiative in the early 1980's and served as its director for 12 years. Dr. Weinberger is a former public school teacher of Spanish and Central Office school administrator in Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Susan received her B.S. degree in Modern Languages from Carnegie-Mellon University, PA; Master's degree in Elementary and Bilingual Education from Manhattanville College, NY and her doctorate from the College of Business and Public Management at the University of Bridgeport, CT. Susan is published widely. Her writings include:

Weinberger, S.G. (2013). Program Funding. In D. L. DuBois & M.J. Karcher (Eds.), *Handbook of Youth Mentoring* (2nd Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Weinberger, Susan G., *Preparing my Mentor for Me* Publisher: Governor's Prevention Partnership, 2007

Weinberger, Susan G., *Mentoring a Movement: My Personal Journey*. Norwalk, CT: 2005

Weinberger, Susan G. (2005). Developing a Mentoring Program. In D.L. DuBois & M. J. Karcher. (Eds.), *Handbook of youth mentoring* (pp. 220-234). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Dr. Weinberger is a consultant to U.S. Departments of Labor; Education; Health & Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Programs; Center for Substance Abuse Prevention; YouthBuild USA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Canada and Governor's Prevention Partnership (CT). She designed the mentoring component for the National Native American Mentoring Program at 16 Boys & Girls Clubs in seven states. In April 2013 and May 2014, she traveled to Honduras at the invitation of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy to lecture to business leaders, educators, Fulbright Scholars and government officials on beginning a mentoring program.

Susan currently serves on the Board of Directors of United Way of Coastal Fairfield County, CT, Norwalk Community College Foundation. CT, Honor Roll Trustees of Scholarship America, Minnesota and Community Advisory Board of the Junior League of Stamford and Norwalk,

In 1993, Susan received President Clinton's coveted Volunteer Action Award at the White House for her work in mentoring. On October 19, 2011, she received the William A. O'Neill Legacy Award from CT Governor Dannel P. Malloy for a lifetime of tireless efforts and advocacy for expanding mentoring to youth.

Zachery White, PhD, Professor of Communication in the James L. Knight School of Communication



Bio: Zachary White earned his Ph.D. in Communication from Purdue University and is a Professor of Communication in the James L. Knight School of Communication at Queens University of Charlotte. Dr. White's research and teaching focus on helping people manage meaning and communicate challenging life experiences amidst high levels of uncertainty and stress, including caregiver communication and end-of-life communication. He is the co-author (with Donna Thomson) of the book, "The Unexpected Journey of Caring: The Transformation from Loved One to Caregiver" (Rowman & Littlefield). He creates digital health

literacy programming for non-profit organizations, grant funded state projects, and health care systems. Dr. White is currently serving as a member of North Carolina Institute of Medicine's Task Force on Healthy Aging.