



**Commission on Native Children
October 20, 2023**

11 am – 1 pm AKT/1 – 3 pm MT/2 – 4 pm CT/3 – 5 pm ET

Virtual Hearing: Addressing Child and Youth Sexual Abuse In Native Communities

This panel will examine the state of knowledge about prevention, intervention and response to child and youth sexual abuse in Native communities and institutions. The panel will provide context and historical experience in treatment, examples of successful treatment models and approaches to institutional change. New trauma-informed and wellness-based approaches that consider community engagement and individual opportunity to work through their experience have demonstrated improved outcomes and helped individuals constructively address their experiences. The panelists will share insights into research and practices to improve outcomes for Native youth survivors and their families.

- Introductions and welcome (5 minutes) Co-Chair DeCoteau
- Invocation (3 minutes) Called upon
- Review of Commission Norms (2 minutes) Co-Chair DeCoteau

The Commission will adhere to the following norms in all interactions:

- To incorporate ceremony and/or prayer to begin each meeting
- To recognize and celebrate what is working
- To respect all ideas
- To be mindful of each person's own behavior and reactions so as not to repeat trauma behaviors
- To promote healing
- To ensure there is a community-organized closing event at hearings
- To treat others as they want to be treated
- To not take offense and observe without judgment
- To pause before decision

Dr. Dan Foster and Dr. Becky Crawford-Foster



Dr. Daniel V. Foster

Daniel V. Foster, Psy.D., MSCP, was raised in the Rocky Mountain West, working ranches, farms and fields. He left for college, interrupted by the Army, in the 60's. Discharged as a Sergeant in 1971, he returned to college, graduating from Willamette University, Salem OR in 1975. There he majored in Psychology, Social Science and Education, being selected to Psi Chi his Junior year and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society as a Senior. He went on to receive a Psy.D. from Baylor University, Waco TX, in 1980. His

Internship was served at the FCI Terminal Island, CA, in order to train for the 1980 Olympic Team Handball Team in Los Angeles, though President Carter cancelled the US participation in those events.

He was the first Director of the Yukon Koyukuk Mental Health Program, out of Galena AK, serving seven Koyukan- Athabaskan villages along the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers in the Alaska Interior. From there he worked for the Bureau of Prisons in various capacities, including serving as the Drug Abuse Program Director at the USP Lompoc CA, as a Forensic Psychologist at the USMCFP in Springfield MO, as the Chief of Psychology at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester MN and as the first Director of Drug Abuse Treatment Programs at Bureau of Prisons Central Office in DC. In the latter position, he got to protest the concept of the "War on Drugs", drawing from the prior experiences with Prohibition, and the problematic outcomes, which proved to replicate themselves in our times. His vision of a wholistic, multi-factorial response to drug and alcohol use disorder, to include decriminalizing addiction and drug use, expanding treatment and prevention opportunities, rebuilding decaying urban housing areas, expanding education access, employment, housing, increasing safety through neighborhood law enforcement, enacting judicial and sentencing reform to assure justice, and reducing health disparities, is still gaining traction.

He and his wife, Rebecca Crawford-Foster (Blackfeet/Dakota/Lakota), Ph.D., then went to the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks ND, to help establish the Indians in Psychology Doctoral Education Program (INPSYDE), until its first and only Director, J. Douglas McDonald, Ph.D., could take the reins. From there, he spent twenty three years with Indian Health Service, eleven at his wife's home Reservation in Browning MT, as Director of Behavioral Health, and twelve at his brother's Reservation at Rosebud SD. While at Rosebud, Dr. Foster also served, on

an interim basis, as CEO, Deputy CEO, Clinical Director, and Deputy Clinical Director, in addition to serving as Behavioral Health Director.

He and his wife adopted seven children, all Relatives, some with FASD and other Special Needs. Due to the lack of Psychiatrists in the IHS, Dr. Foster and his colleagues also received their Post-Doctoral Masters of Science in Psychopharmacology Degrees, from Alliant University, to better serve the seriously mentally ill on the Reservation. The Dr.'s Foster were active in expanding understanding of, and resources for, persons living with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder in the State of SD, which resulted in expanded services and dispensed information to providers, agencies and families living with FASD throughout the state of SD.

Dr. Foster made a career of addressing obstacles and problems in innovative ways, facilitating, leading, learning, collaborating, teaching, inspiring and serving others, for the duration of his career, in challenging settings and circumstances. No "accomplishments" have exceeded the challenge nor the joy of raising children within the boundaries of the Amsakapi Pikuni (Blackfeet Nation) and Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Nation) on the Northern Plains of the United States. He is thankful for the many inspirational and informative colleagues, collaborators and "helpers" encountered through his career.

Dr. Rebecca R. Crawford-Foster

Dr. Rebecca Crawford Foster (Blackfeet/Dakota) holds a M.S Post-Doctoral Masters of Science in Clinical Psychopharmacology, a Ph.D. in Psychology from Utah State, an M.Ed. in Educational Counseling from Montana State University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Montana. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, (LCPC), and a Licensed Professional Counselor, (LPC). Dr. Crawford Foster is currently serving her people as Clinical Counselor at Blackfeet Tribal Behavioral Health, provided therapeutic services to children and adolescents. Her previous experience over her long career includes Fort Belknap Tribal Health, Rosebud Sioux Tribe Methamphetamine Treatment Program, Indian Health Service, Rosebud Mental Health Department, School Psychologist at St. Francis Indian School, Special Education Department, Chair of the Masters in Human Services Program at Sinte Gleska University, Program Director, Blackfeet Nurturing Center (emergency shelter for children), Mental Health Specialist and Clinical Psychologist at the I.H.S. Blackfeet Community Hospital, Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology for the Family Practice Residency Program in the Department of Family Medicine, School of Medicine, University of North Dakota and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of North Dakota and many internships and contracts.

Honors:

Served as Chairman of the Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education Program (INPSYCH) at the University of Montana, Department of Psychology, Missoula, MT, as a board member of the Indians in Psychology Doctoral Education Program (INPSYD) at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND and the President of the Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP), Utah State University, Logan Utah, 2003-2005.

Her greatest honor, however, is as a mother and grandmother to the nine children and several grandchildren.

Dr. Rebecca Crawford Foster was concerned about what she would lose if she left her reservation to pursue higher education. In fact, her elders encouraged her to go and seek that different wisdom and bring it back to the reservation. She now stands in both worlds and is a bridge for healing.

Esther Deblinger



Esther Deblinger, PhD is Co-Founder of the Child Abuse Research Education and Service (CARES) Institute and a Professor of Psychiatry at Rowan University in Stratford, New Jersey, USA. Dr. Deblinger has been engaged in clinical work and research focusing on the impact and treatment of the effects of child sexual abuse and other trauma(s) for almost 35 years. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health as well as other organizations. She co-authored and published the first evidence-based manual on the treatment of youth with a history of child sexual abuse. Treatment outcome research, conducted by Dr. Deblinger and her colleagues Judith Cohen, M.D., and Anthony

Mannarino, Ph.D. led to the development of Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), an evidence-based treatment with documented efficacy in helping children and adolescents overcome PTSD as well as related emotional and behavioral difficulties. Dr. Deblinger also collaborated with colleagues from the Medical University of South Carolina on the development of an introductory web-based TF-CBT training (www.tfcbt2.musc.edu). The efficacy of TF-CBT has been documented in 25 randomized trials and there has been widespread dissemination of training and consultation in this model across the world. Dr. Deblinger's work has been recognized with honors from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Elisabeth Pollio



Elisabeth Pollio, Ph.D. is the Director of Mental Health Administration at the Child Abuse Research Education and Service (CARES) Institute and an Associate Professor at the Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Pollio oversees the administrative aspects of the Institute's mental health services, the Institute's foster care program, which provides mental health screenings and medical evaluations to children entering foster care, and the Institute's postdoctoral fellowship program, which provides specialized trauma training. She is the Project Director for CARES' SAMHSA grant and contributes to research at the Institute as well. Dr. Pollio also has provided and supervised Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and assists with the coordination and implementation of

TF-CBT learning collaboratives, particularly through her work with agency leaders.

Joshua D. Sparrow



Joshua D. Sparrow, M.D., DFAACAP

Executive Director, Brazelton Touchpoints Center
Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard
Medical School, part-time

Child, adolescent, and general psychiatrist, Joshua Sparrow, M.D., DFAACAP, is executive director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center (BTC) in the Division of Development of Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, where he also holds an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry, and is associate professor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, part time. BTC provides professional and leadership development, community and systems capacity

building, organizational learning and change, program evaluation, research (including community based participatory research and community-based inquiry) for family-facing professionals in perinatal, pediatric and mental health, early childhood care and education, home visiting, and child welfare. Since 2001, BTC has collaborated with American Indian/Alaskan Native Early Head Start, Head Start and Child Care programs, early childhood education departments in Tribal Colleges and Universities in partnership with the American Indian College Fund, and has offered a leadership development program for Native American leaders in early childhood education. BTC's Research and Evaluation Unit has served as evaluator for numerous U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration Tribal Project LAUNCH grantees, and as subcontractor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF)-funded Tribal MIECHV, as well as the ACF-funded Tribal Research Center, based at the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health of the Colorado School of Public Health, at the University of Colorado, Denver. Most recently, with funding from the Kellogg Foundation, BTC has launched the Indigenous Early Learning Collaborative, bringing Native communities together to self-determine their most pressing questions and the methods they choose to answer them.

Dr. Sparrow's care in the 1990s for children hospitalized for severe psychiatric disturbances, often associated with physical and sexual abuse, and aggravated by societal abuse and neglect, prompted his interest in the social, economic, and racism-related determinants of health and mental health, and in community self-strengthening, community-based prevention and health promotion. He has led numerous governmental and philanthropic research, training and technical assistance grants, lectured nationally and internationally, written numerous scholarly papers, as well as books and articles for the general public, and advised government agencies, nonprofits, academic centers, and philanthropies.