



**BEST PRACTICES  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

## Supporting the Unique Needs of Students Who Have Run Away or Are Homeless

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*Wednesday, November 30, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET*  
*SPEAKER BIOS*

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### **Bryan Williams**

Director, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education,  
U.S. Department of Education



Mr. Bryan Williams is the Director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS). In this role, Mr. Williams oversees a broad portfolio of programs designed to support school and community efforts to foster safety and promote positive learning environments, including activities related to school climate and safety, the mental health and well-being of students and staff, and readiness and emergency management.

Mr. Williams has been with the Department since 1995. Prior to being named as Director in 2021, Mr. Williams served as the Group Leader for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Title IV, Part A) team and as a Program Analyst within OSSS.

## Ana Cody

Senior Advisor, Human Trafficking and Strategic Initiatives, Office of the Associate Commissioner, Family and Youth Services Bureau, HHS



Ms. Ana Cody serves as the Senior Advisor, Human Trafficking and Strategic Initiatives within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration on Children and Families (ACF), Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB). In this role, she is responsible for directing and overseeing anti-trafficking activities, including awareness, prevention, and intervention across FYSB programs. She also leads the work of the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) to ensure youth are connected to services and supportive resources before running away and when experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Ms. Cody has worked in multiple social and public health initiatives and programs in US and Latin America.

## Megan Johnson

Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education



Ms. Megan Johnson (she/her) is a Program Specialist with the National Center for Homeless Education. She is based out of Washington State. Ms. Johnson works primarily with grantees of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant by ensuring the inclusion of education into cross system community plans to address youth and young adult homelessness. Ms. Johnson also works with the NCHE team in developing publications related to the education of homeless children and youth, including the development of the Education Goals and Supports: A Guided Discussion Tool. Her areas of passion include increasing access to postsecondary education and connecting young people to living wage jobs.

## Suzanne Brown Koroshetz

Board Member, Kids in Crisis, past principal Brien McMahon High School and Stamford High School, CT



Ms. Suzanne Brown's educational and professional training, as an engineer where problem solving is a necessary skill, and in marketing where positioning an idea correctly to the audience is critical, prepared her for her final twenty-seven years of rewarding work. From a math teacher to principal in two large, suburban, and very diverse high schools (Stamford High School, Stamford, CT and Brien McMahon High School, Norwalk CT) and a principal coach, Ms. Brown was honored to work for and with students, faculty, families, and community partners to benefit her students.

One of Ms. Brown's best decisions was to partner with Kids in Crisis (KIC). Her students were supported with a KIC Teen Talk counselor. This masters level, specially trained, compassionate counselor helped many students navigate difficult personal, family, and school-related issues. Their Teen Talk counselor augmented the school staff by providing confidential individual, group, and family counseling. Ms. Brown now supports Kids in Crisis as a member of KIC's Board of Directors. It is hard to be a kid today and many families are struggling. It is Ms. Brown's privilege to support the KIC vision and mission; to welcome all people with respect and kindness, by responding quickly and thoughtfully, while bringing strength and compassion for the benefit of children.

## Sparky Harlan

Chief Executive Officer, Bill Wilson Center, CA



Ms. Sparky Harlan has been CEO of Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara, California since 1983. Under her leadership, Bill Wilson Center builds connections for youth and families to housing, education, employment, and emotional well-being. Ms. Harlan's expertise includes working with runaway and homeless youth, foster youth, and youth involved with the justice system. Ms. Harlan has established strong ties with local school districts, community colleges and universities and established Santa Clara County's first homelessness prevention program offered on high school campuses that assists homeless youth and families as well as those on the brink of becoming homeless. Her direction has also led Bill Wilson Center to form an alliance to provide housing options and rental assistance to homeless college students. By providing students with a safe and stable home, school attendance increases and young people are more likely to achieve academic success. Ms. Harlan holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management.

## Chandra Martin

Auxiliary Programs Manager-Federal Programs, Little Rock School District, AR



Mrs. Chandra Martin is currently the manager for programs for students who are in transition or crisis for the district and the administrator for the McKinney-Vento Grant. She works with neglected and delinquent students, as well as unaccompanied youth and their families. Her office ensures that students get the support and supplies they need to be educationally successful. This support includes providing guidance to students who are transitioning out of various programs and providing technical assistance for students to get their GED, go to college, enter into the military, or own their own business. Her office also provides support for the students' families as well. Her office works with forty-two schools in the district, six neglected/delinquent facilities, and several homeless shelters in

Central Arkansas. Mrs. Martin provides professional development to district staff in regard to working with students in poverty and those who are unsheltered.

Mrs. Martin's career includes work in the Foster Care and Adoptions unit of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Pulaski County Special School District, Arkansas Workforce Education, and over 20 years at the Arkansas Department of Education.

## Michael Ferguson

Director of Quality Assurance, Evaluation and Training, Kids in Crisis, CT



Mr. Michael Ferguson graduated from Villanova University in 1976 and has been with Kids in Crisis, a Crisis Intervention and Emergency shelter Program, for more than 32 years. He has served in multiple capacities; first as a Counselor in the Emergency Shelter Program, and eventually being promoted to a Program Supervisor overseeing the Crisis Intervention Program as well as Community Services. For about a decade Mr. Ferguson transitioned to the business side of Kids in Crisis working in both the Development Department, as well as serving as Marketing Director for a brief period. In 2010, Mr. Ferguson was asked to design, develop and direct Kids in Crisis' first Quality Assurance Department. For the past 12 years he has been working with Program staff on the documentation needs and methods as well as employing RBA assessment tools and outlining measurable Program Outcomes.