

UNITING RESOURCES CONFERENCE 2024

Creating a collaborative path to children's mental health.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

Uniting Resources Networking Event

Tuesday, February 6 | 4 - 6 PM

RSVP Requested

Whiskey House

2510 SW White Birch Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023

Uniting Resources Conference

Wednesday, February 7 | 8 AM - 4 PM

Registration Required

FFA Enrichment Center

1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy, Ankeny, IA 50023

SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Keynote: Building a New Way, Together

Amelia Franck Meyer Ed.D, LISW



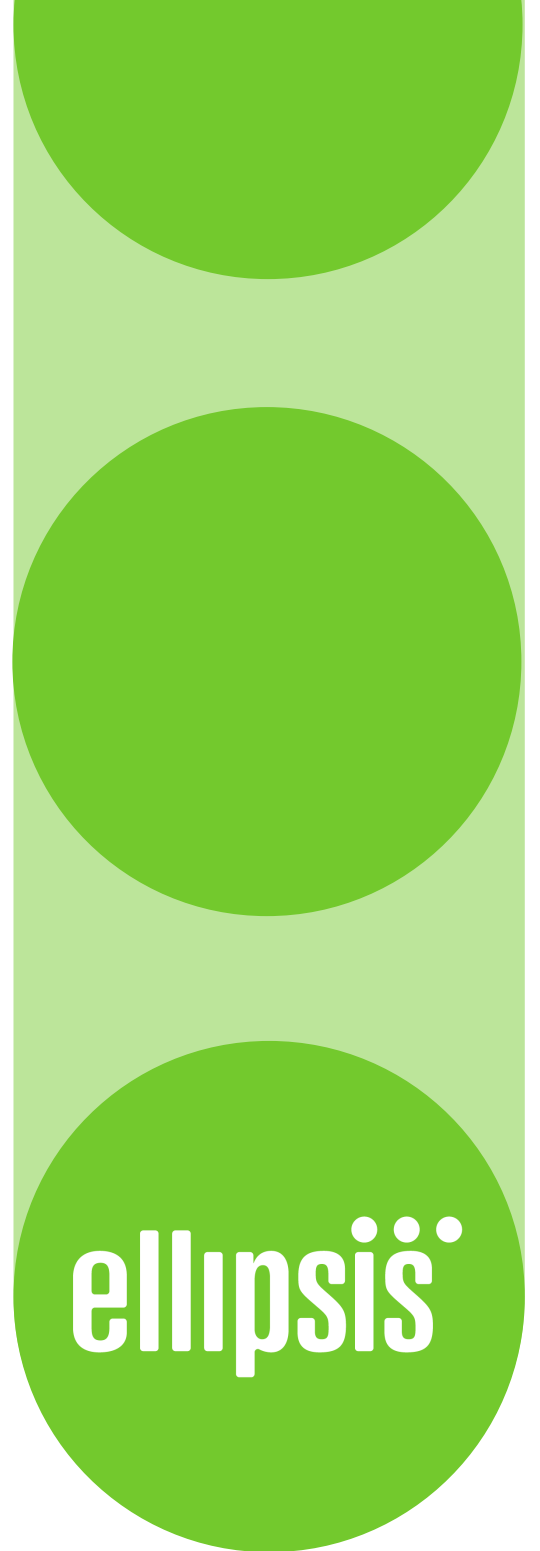
We understand more now than ever what children need for healthy development...an uninterrupted sense of belonging; however, our systems are not based on this knowledge. The child welfare system is not “broken;” rather, it’s doing just what it was set up to do. The system was not set up as a family preservation system or family strengthening system, and now we know that must change. Together with families and communities, we can redesign a new way of work; one that keeps children safely with their family, not from their families. This session will discuss the mounting evidence for change and the inspiring efforts to work together to build a better way.

Breakout Sessions

- **It's Dysregulation—Not Disobedience: Fostering Regulation in a Trauma-Sensitive Environment**
- **Can't Vs Won't: Understanding Developmental Trauma**
Jen Alexander, M.A., NCC, SB-RPT
- **Trauma and Resilience**
- **Empathetic Strain**
Jonathan Davis, Training Specialist with Project Harmony

Closing Session: Putting Families First in Iowa

Janee Harvey, Director, Division Of Family Well-Being and Protection for Iowa Department of Health and Human Services



Ellipsis helps kids and families build healthy relationships so they can write their own story.



UNITING RESOURCES CONFERENCE 2024

Creating a collaborative path to children's mental health.

SPEAKER BIOS



Amelia Franck Meyer Ed.D, LISW
Chief Executive Officer, Alia Innovations

Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer is the Founder and CEO of the national non-profit, Alia. Amelia and Team Alia are leading a nationally co-designed movement to keep children safe with, not from, their families. Amelia was named as one of People Magazine's "25 Women Changing the World" in 2018, and in 2020, was named by AARP MN and Pollen Midwest as a 50over50 Honoree—System Reformer in the Disruptor Category. Amelia has a widely viewed TEDx Talk on the Human Need for Belonging and has also received the prestigious honors of being named a Bush Fellow and an Ashoka Fellow.

Amelia and Team Alia believe that "Families are the solution" (not the problem). Alia calls this new way of work an "UnSystem". Team Alia believes that a key part of transformation is supporting families to safely raise their children. Working with innovative leaders, Amelia and Team Alia use best practices, evidence, and human centered design principles to operationalize concepts that produce rapid results and positive outcomes for youth and families.



Janee Harvey, LISW
Director, Division of Family Well-Being and Protection for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services

Janee C. Harvey serves as the Director, Division of Family Well-Being and Protection for the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. She worked as a social worker in New York, NY, for more than a decade before transplanting to Des Moines, IA, in 2015 with her wife and two kids. She is a graduate of Hunter College with a Master of Social Work (MSW) and is credentialed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW). She has worked with runaway and homeless teens, LGBTQ youth, and families, children and youth involved with the child welfare system for the past 20 years. Most recently, she has served for the last four years as the Child Welfare and Community Services Bureau Chief for DHS and has been the Division Administrator over Adult, Children and Family Services (ACFS) since 2015. "Janee's energy and deep love of policy is remarkable and is exactly what we need as we move to implement Family First federal legislation," said Director Kelly Garcia. "She's the right person at this important time as we focus on strengthening families through evidence-based practices and services designed to keep families together. She will also work to highlight the importance of child protective services."



Jen Alexander, M.A., NCC, SB-RPT
Educator, Speaker, Consultant

As a licensed special education teacher, professional school counselor, trauma expert, author, and leader in the movement to build trauma-sensitive schools, Ms. Jen has more than 20 years of experience providing support to young people and the educators who serve them.

In her current role as consultant and facilitator of professional development, Ms. Jen shows educators what works and why when it comes to building trauma-sensitive learning environments. Within minutes of interacting with her, educators know they are learning from someone who understands the real struggles of everyday teaching and learning—and believe that change benefiting educators, students, and entire school communities is possible.



Jonathon Davis
Training Specialist, Project Harmony Child Protection Center

Jonathan Davis is a Training Specialist at Project Harmony and has been in the child welfare field for the past 8 years. In his role as a Training Specialist, Jonathan trains teachers, nurses, child welfare workers, and other professionals about child abuse laws, reporting procedures, and prevention. Prior to working as a trainer, Jonathan has worked as a case manager, visitation specialist and family support worker. He is able to weave his experiences in the field into his training, making it accessible and relevant to trainees. Jonathan has a Bachelors in Liberal Arts from Iowa State University.



2024 Uniting Resources Conference Agenda

DMACC FFA Enrichment Center

Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

Time	Presentation
8:00a-8:45am	Check-in & Vendor Fair
8:45am-9:00am	Opening Remarks
9:00am-11:00am	Keynote: Building a New Way Together
11:00am-11:15am	Break
11:15am-12:15pm	Breakout Session 1A: Can't Vs won't: Understanding Developmental Trauma Breakout Session 1B: Empathetic Strain
12:15pm-1:00pm	Lunch (Provided for all attendees)
1:00pm-2:00pm	Breakout Session 2A: Its Dysregulation—Not Disobedience: Fostering Regulation in a Trauma-Sensitive Environment Breakout Session 2B: Trauma and Resilience
2:00pm-2:15pm	Break
2:15pm-3:15pm	Full Group Topic: Putting Families First
3:15pm-3:30pm	Closing Remarks