

Education Advocacy for Children in the Child Welfare System:

A Symposium and Community Conversation

August 12, 2016

Hosted by



W.W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children's Rights

Generously underwritten by



Symposium Planning Committee Members



W.W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children's Rights



Program Agenda

Friday, August 12, 2016 Morning Plenary Sessions	
8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Underwood Law Library Atrium)
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.	<p>Welcome and Introduction to the Educational Goals of the Symposium Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 Diane M. Sumoski, Esq. Director, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children's Rights</p>
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<p>The Present and Future of Education for Foster Children in DFPS Region 3 Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 George Cannata, Regional Director of Child Protective Services, Region 3</p>
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>Lessons Learned Regarding the Promise of Education Rights for Foster Children Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 David Ray (Moderator), Program Coordinator for Homeless and Foster Care Education, Region 10 Education Service Center Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney, Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families Jenny Hinson, CPS Division Administrator for Permanency, DFPS Julie Wayman, Director, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Initiatives, Texas Education Agency</p>
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Morning Break – Coffee provided (Underwood Law Library Atrium)
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p>Advocating for Traumatized Youth in School Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 Heidi Román, M.D., Ambulatory Medical Director of the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children's Medical Center and Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center Jaclyn Albin, M.D., Assistant Professor UT Southwestern Medical Center</p>
11: 15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Nothing About Us Without Us: The Foster Child's Viewpoint on Education Advocacy Needs Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 Moderator: Elisha Simpson, Regional Youth Specialist, CPS Region 3 Panel featuring former foster children</p>
12:00 p.m.	<p>Networking Lunch Storey Hall, Karcher Auditorium</p>

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

Afternoon Break-Out Sessions

Track One for Educators

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>The Roles and Responsibilities of School System Foster Care Liaison Florence Hall, Room 107 Wendy Brower, Garland I.S.D. Foster Care Liaison Emily Jandrucko, Garland ISD Foster Care Case Manager</p>
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Understanding a Child’s Path Through the Child Protective Services System Florence Hall, Room 107 Beverly Rowden, LMSW, Regional Education Specialist, DFPS Norma Eaves, MSW, Regional Education Specialist, Region 3, DFPS</p>

Track Two for Advocates and Caregivers

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>Navigating the Educational System to Help “Your” Foster Child Succeed Florence Hall, Room 201 Rosemary Manges, Coordinator for Inclusive Services, Region 10 Education Service Center</p>
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>De-Mystifying the Admissions, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Process Florence Hall, Room 201 Karen Slaughter, Special Populations Consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center Matthew Trail, Esq. Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas</p>

Track Three for Social Workers

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>Best Practices to Help Foster Parents Help Their Foster Children Achieve Academic Success Florence Hall, Room 106 Norma Eaves, MSW, Regional Education Specialist, Region 3, DFPS Larry Partin, LPC-S, Director of Mental Health Services, CK Family Services</p>
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>De-Mystifying the Admissions, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Process Florence Hall, Room 201 Karen Slaughter, Special Populations Consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center Matthew Trail, Esq. Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas</p>

Afternoon Plenary Session

3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	<p>Bringing it All Together: De-Brief, Q&A, and Future Collaboration Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103 Moderators: Cheri Leutz, Staff Attorney, Dallas CASA Shelly Wilbanks, Esq. Staff Attorney, Dallas CASA</p>
-----------------------	--

Detailed Program Agenda

Friday, August 12, 2016 Morning Plenary Sessions	
8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<p>The Present and Future of Education for Foster Children in DFPS Region 3 Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103</p> <p>George Cannata, Regional Director, Child Protective Services, Region 3</p> <p>Mr. Cannata will discuss the present status of educational outcomes for children in care, the new direction and vision for CPS in implementing legislation and pursuing its efforts to improve educational outcomes and education advocacy for these children, and how advocates can engage in this vision.</p>
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p>Lessons Learned Regarding the Promise of Education Rights for Foster Children Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103</p> <p>David Ray (Moderator), Program Coordinator for Homeless and Foster Care Education, Region 10 Education Service Center</p> <p>Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney, Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families</p> <p>Jenny Hinson, CPS Division Administrator for Permanency, DFPS</p> <p>Julie Wayman, Director, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Initiatives, Texas Education Agency</p> <p>The panel will provide an overview of the challenges that face foster children in succeeding in school. The session will cover what the data collected through the Public Education Information Management System (and otherwise) tells us about educating foster youth, what the law requires regarding educating foster youth, and how advocates can use these legal lessons to improve education outcomes.</p>
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p>Advocating for Traumatized Youth in School Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103</p> <p>Heidi Román, M.D., Ambulatory Medical Director of the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children’s Medical Center and Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center</p> <p>Jaclyn Albin, M.D., Assistant Professor UT Southwestern Medical Center</p> <p>Pediatricians for children in foster care explain how trauma impacts their health and ability to learn and how partnering with medical professionals can benefit these children in the school setting to ensure their educational needs and legal rights to education are being met.</p>
11: 15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Nothing About Us Without Us: The Foster Child’s Viewpoint on Education Advocacy Needs Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103</p> <p>Moderator: Elisha Simpson, Regional Youth Specialist, CPS Region 3</p> <p>Panel featuring former foster children</p> <p>Panel of former foster care children tell their stories and discuss their experiences with the public school system, education advocacy in the courts, what assistance they had from attorneys, social workers, educators, and others that was, or would have been, helpful, how their education was impacted by being a foster child in the child welfare legal system, and what impact it continues to have on them now.</p>

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>The Roles and Responsibilities of the School System Foster Care Liaison Florence Hall, Room 107 Wendy Brower, Garland I.S.D. Foster Care Liaison Emily Jandrucko, Garland ISD Foster Care Case Manager</p> <p>The role of the foster care liaison, as mandated by federal law, will be fully discussed. How can the liaison help educators facing challenges working with foster youth? When should educators reach out to the liaison? How can foster care liaisons effectively fulfill their roles? How can these liaisons be utilized by legal and other advocates to ensure that the legal rights of children in care are enforced in the education setting?</p>
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>Navigating the Educational System to Help “Your” Foster Child Succeed Florence Hall, Room 201 Rosemary Manges, Coordinator for Inclusive Services, Region 10 Education Service Center</p> <p>What does the law require regarding school transitions, involvement in extracurricular activities, participation in tutoring, admission in gifted and talented programs, and the provision of other services to make the foster child’s educational experience more effective? How is this legal framework applied in practice? How can you tap into these resources for “your” foster child?</p>
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	<p>Best Practices to Help Foster Parents Help Their Foster Children Achieve Academic Success Florence Hall, Room 106 Norma Eaves, MSW, Regional Education Specialist, Region 3, DFPS Larry Partin, LPC-S, Director of Mental Health Services, CK Family Services</p> <p>This program will provide tips for best practices to improve academic outcomes of foster children and youth. Through an overview of minimum standard rules related to the responsibilities that foster parents have for the education of a child in care, the program will explore how those standards provide the foundation for best practices to promote academic success. The program also will include a case study discussion of education improvements achieved through an innovative behavioral health program where, with the support of the foster parents, therapists accompanied foster children into the schools.</p>
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Understanding a Child’s Path Through the Child Protective Services System Florence Hall, Room 107 Beverly Rowden, LMSW, Regional Education Specialist, DFPS Norma Eaves, MSW, Regional Education Specialist, Region 3, DFPS</p> <p>An overview of the child welfare system, including terms, phrases, acronyms, and stages of service in the CPS system. The following questions will be addressed: Who is legally mandated to report child abuse and neglect in Texas? Who are the key people involved with a child or youth in the foster care system? What impact and challenges does being in the system pose to the academic success of children and youth?</p>
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	<p>De-Mystifying the Admissions, Review, and Dismissal (“ARD”) Process Florence Hall, Room 201 Karen Slaughter, Special Populations Consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center</p>

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

	<p>Matthew Trail, Esq. Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas</p> <p>An overview of the special education or “ARD” process mandated by Texas law, notices and timelines involved, and legal requirements. The session will discuss how to appropriately work with educators to design an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that enables foster children with special needs—physical, emotional, or learning differences—to succeed in school.</p>
3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	<p>Bringing it All Together: De-Brief, Q&A, and Future Collaboration</p> <p>Underwood Law Library, Hillcrest Classroom – Room 103</p> <p>Moderators: Cheri Leutz, Staff Attorney, Dallas CASA Shelly Wilbanks, Esq. Staff Attorney, Dallas CASA</p> <p>All Symposium attendees and presenters will convene to review critical issues identified through the day, ask burning questions, and propose ideas for next steps. How can we best work together to help children in the child welfare system achieve educational success?</p>

Presenters

Jaclyn Albin, MD, Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. Albin received her medical degree from the George Washington School of Medicine. She completed her residency and chief residency in pediatrics and internal medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine. She is the Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Combined Residency Program, a Pediatrician at the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence, and a pediatrician and internist at the UTSW Combined MedPeds Clinic.

Jamie Bernstein, Staff Attorney, Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth, and Families

Ms. Bernstein joined the Supreme Court of Texas as a staff attorney for the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families in May 2014. She began her legal career in New York where she represented children in child protective and delinquency proceedings. Her current focus is the improvement of educational outcomes for children in the Texas foster care system.

Wendy Brower, Foster Care Liaison, Garland ISD

Ms. Brower's responsibilities, in addition to Foster Care Liaison, include Section 504 Coordinator for the district, inclusive of General Education Homebound and Dyslexia; Dropout Prevention and Recovery; At-Risk Administrator; Enrollment and Transfers, and school assignments for the district's 58,000 students through the School Choice plan. She is responsible for various aspects of student enrollment and retention in the Garland Public Schools including development and implementation of the District's dropout prevention and recovery plan; identification of and assurance of services for students in foster care; planning, implementing, and processing of District's Choice of School Plan; student enrollment and transfers; department webmaster; providing training and support to campus administration and staff.

George Cannata, Regional Director of Child Protective Services, Region 3

Mr. Cannata is the Regional Director of Child Protective Services (CPS) in Region 3. Mr. Cannata has been with the agency for 19 years. He previously served as CPS Deputy Assistant Commissioner. Mr. Cannata has worked in Investigations and Family Based Safety Services, including working as the CPS Academy Manager for 3 years. The majority of positions held by Mr. Cannata have been on a supervisory level. He served as a Program Administrator for Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) and Investigations and as Program Director for Investigations and FBSS for 5 years. Mr. Cannata has been actively involved in the Planning and Implementation Team for Foster Care Redesign, Operations Manual and IMPACT - Enhancement Trainer and Safety Decision Making Implementation Team. Mr. Cannata holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Social Work. Mr. Cannata is dedicated to ensuring the needs of children and families are met and that the focus remains on the CPS Vision of Children First, Protected and Connected.

Norma Eaves, MSW, Education Specialist, Region 3, DFPS

Ms. Eaves' responsibilities as a Regional Education Specialist include advocating for the education needs of children in the Child Protective Services system. This includes consultation with caseworkers, attending school meetings, conducting trainings related to education advocacy, and collaborating with schools, Texas Education Agency, Education Service Centers, and other community stakeholders. Ms. Eaves has over 25 years of experience working in the human services field in both private and public agencies. This includes work within child welfare/child protective services in Oklahoma and Texas, as well as monitoring and investigation of licensed child care providers and residential child care providers.

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

Ms. Eaves holds a B.S. from Oklahoma State University and an MSW from University of Texas at Arlington.

Jenny Hinson, CPS Division Administrator for Permanency, DFPS

Ms. Hinson oversees the development and administration of policies and procedures that affect children in the conservatorship of Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services). Ms. Hinson manages subject matter experts in the fields of permanency, conservatorship policy, best practices for mental health and domestic violence, citizenship, immigration, and refugee services, education, and developmental disabilities. Ms. Hinson also serves as a member of the Education Subcommittee for the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families.

Emily Jandrucko, Garland ISD Foster Care Case Manager

Ms. Jandrucko's primary concentration is aiding the District's Foster Care Families and overseeing the GRS Giving Place. Her responsibilities are to ensure foster care students and families in GISD are accurately identified and supported, and to ensure the maintenance, funding, and donation of resources for the GRS Giving Place, which provides uniforms and supplies to families in need.

Cheri Leutz, Esq., Staff Attorney and Supervisor, Dallas CASA

Ms. Leutz is a Staff Attorney and Supervisor at Dallas CASA where she advises CASA staff on legal issues, prepares staff and volunteer advocates for hearings and trial, and develops and facilitates training in legal matters related to child welfare, such as mediation and educational advocacy. During her time at Dallas CASA, Ms. Leutz also helped to develop and facilitate an Advanced Advocacy training program aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the volunteers' child advocacy. Prior to Dallas CASA, Ms. Leutz worked as an associate at Thompson & Knight LLP. Ms. Leutz graduated from University of Kansas School of Law in 2008 and holds a Bachelor of Social Work from University of Kansas.

Rosemary Manges, Coordinator for Inclusive Services, Region 10 Education Service Center

Rosemary Manges has over 40 years' experience which encompasses all levels of education from the K-12 general education and special education classrooms, campus and district administration, instructor at college/university levels and to the halls of TEA. She is currently a coordinator with Region 10 Special Populations providing professional development and technical support to special education administrators.

Larry Partin, LPC-S, Director of Mental Health Services, CK Family Services

Mr. Partin is the Director of Mental Health Services at CK Family Services. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dallas Baptist College in 1981, a Master of Divinity Degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983, and both a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling and a Master of Arts in Religious Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2002.

David Ray, Program Coordinator for Homeless and Foster Care Education, Region 10 Education Service Center

David Ray currently works as a program coordinator for Region 10 Education Service Center in the areas of homeless and foster care education. He works with districts and charter schools across the state of Texas to help develop policies and procedures that align with federal and state laws pertaining to the rights of students in homeless and foster care situations. Prior to coming to the region 10 years ago, David worked as a teacher in self-contained special education classrooms.

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

Heidi Román, MD, Ambulatory Medical Director for the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children's Medical Center and Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Dr. Román obtained her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. She completed her pediatric residency and chief residency at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, California. Prior to joining UT Southwestern, she spent six years as an attending pediatrician at a federally qualified health center in San Jose, California, with a faculty appointment at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Dr. Román is Ambulatory Medical Director of the Rees-Jones Center for Foster Care Excellence at Children's Medical Center.

Beverly Rowden, LMSW, Regional Education Specialist with the Department of Family and Protective Services, Region 3 Child Protective Services.

Ms. Rowden has over 20 years of combined human services experience in both public and private agencies and has dedicated most of her career with Child Protective Services, where she has worked as a Conservatorship and Foster Care/Adoptions Specialist and currently as the Regional Education Specialist. She also serves on the Special Education, School Stability & Transition Subcommittees with the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth & Families. Ms. Rowden holds a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Texas in Arlington.

Elisha Simpson, Regional Youth Specialist, CPS Region 3

Ms. Simpson began her role as youth specialist in May 2016. She is a former foster youth who advocates for youth and helps guide them with their transition out of foster care. She facilitates Youth Leadership Council for Region 3. Ms. Simpson coordinates with staff and work groups to provide youth/alumni perspective into practice, procedures, and policies related to youth currently or formerly in care. Assists with development of core services, policies and procedures related to services provided to foster care youth. She promotes the role of advocacy and public education at the community and regional levels regarding issues facing youth transitioning out of care. Ms. Simpson is currently pursuing a degree in Sociology.

Karen Slaughter, Special Populations Consultant, Region 10 Education Service Center

Karen Slaughter is a Special Populations Consultant at Region 10 ESC. She has over 25 years of experience that include working as a Special Education Director/Coordinator in a charter school, a special education teacher in the Dallas ISD, and an adjunct professor at a community college. Karen has been involved in developing curriculum and professional development events. Karen has Texas teaching certifications in Special Education, English as a Second Language, and Psychology. She received a BS degree in special education from the University of Texas at Dallas and a MS degree in computer science from East Texas State University.

Diane Sumoski, Esq., Director, W.W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children's Rights at SMU Dedman School of Law

Ms. Sumoski is the Director of the W. W. Caruth, Jr. Institute for Children's Rights at the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University. The Institute's current focus is on improving education outcomes for children in the foster care system. She is also the Director of the Law School's W.W. Caruth, Jr. Child Advocacy Clinic, where she supervises law students in their representation of children in the child welfare system as the children's guardian and attorney ad litem. Ms. Sumoski has represented women and children in family law matters on a pro bono basis for virtually the entirety of her 29 year legal career. Ms. Sumoski has been listed in *Best Lawyers in America* since 2010 and has held numerous leadership positions in the Litigation Section of the ABA, including Director of its Public Service Division.

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation

Matthew Trail, Esq., Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Texas

Mr. Trail received his undergraduate degree in 1999 in communications-journalism from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He worked for two years as a journalist in Texas and North Carolina before returning to Tennessee for law school. After graduating law school from the University Of Tennessee College Of Law in 2004, he joined the U.S. Peace Corps and was stationed in Albania. While in the Peace Corps, Mr. Trail worked on a variety of community projects with local NGOs assisting poor children and trafficking victims. Upon returning to the United States, he began work as a judicial clerk and worked for the Florida Equal Justice Center in Fort Myers, before coming to Disability Rights Texas.

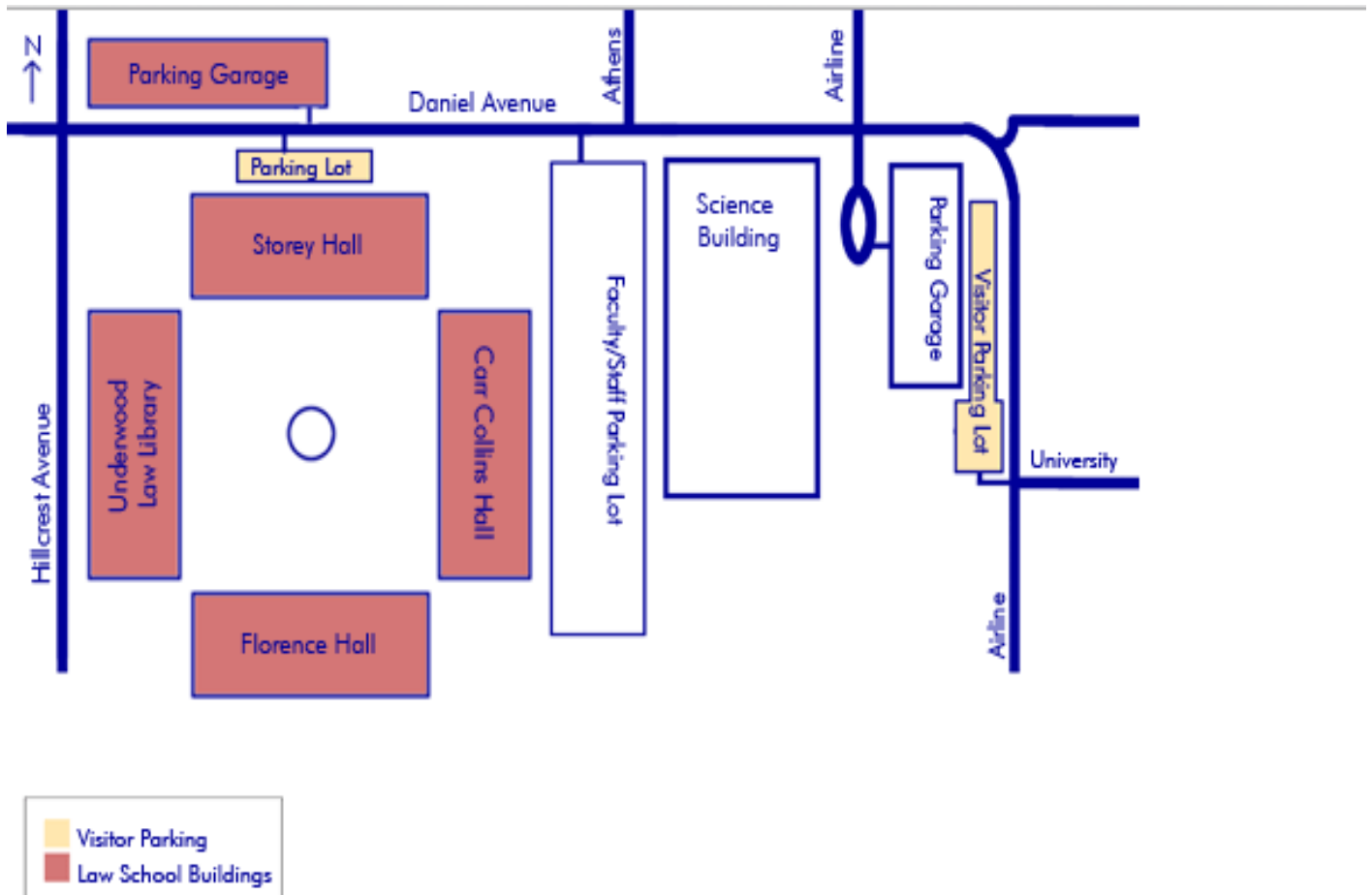
Julie Wayman, Director, Dropout Prevention and Recovery Initiatives, Texas Education Agency

Ms. Wayman oversees foster care education initiatives and other student success policies at TEA. She serves on the Children's Commission Education Committee and chairs the Data Workgroup. She joined TEA in 2008 after spending 6 years as executive director for an Ohio CASA/GAL program, serving on the state board and initiating a model family resource center in an urban juvenile court. Since 1981 she has worked in rural and urban Texas school districts, state agencies and with community organizations on initiatives to support at-risk children, youth and families. Ms. Wayman holds a BSW from Bowling Green State University and an MSW from the University of Texas at Austin.

Shelly Wilbanks, Esq., Staff Attorney, Dallas CASA

Ms. Wilbanks is a Staff Attorney and Supervisor at Dallas CASA where she advises CASA staff on legal issues, prepares staff and volunteer advocates for hearings and trial, and develops and facilitates training in legal matters related to child welfare, such as mediation and educational advocacy. Ms. Wilbanks spent ten years in the informational technology industry before obtaining her law degree to become an advocate for abused women and children. Prior to Dallas CASA, Ms. Wilbanks worked as a prosecutor with a caseload including child welfare, mental health, family violence, and juvenile criminal cases, then as a private family law attorney handling highly contested divorce and child custody cases. She has been published in the *Texas Prosecutor* and law enforcement journals as well as a bar association journal. Ms. Wilbanks graduated from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in 2009 and holds a B.A. in Journalism from Texas Tech University.

Education Advocacy for Children in the Welfare System:
A Symposium and Community Conversation



Note:

- ❖ Parking for Symposium located in Daniel Ave. Parking Garage
- ❖ Hillcrest Classroom located in Underwood Law Library
- ❖ Afternoon sessions located in Florence Hall
- ❖ Breakfast and Lunch located in Storey Hall