Together AS ONE

CONNECT  UNITE  BELONG

2023 FaCT Annual Conference
Wednesday, May 17, 2023
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Visit Our Exhibitors in the Lobby

EXHIBITORS WILL CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BE SURE TO REVISIT THE LOBBY AFTER LUNCH

- AccessCal
- Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter
- Be Well OC
- CalOptima Health
- Charitable Ventures
- Child Guidance Center, Inc. Strong Families Strong Children
- CIELO
- CSEC/Project Choice
- First 5 OC
- Fristers Friends Church
- Helen Diaz
- Learn4Life Orange County Workforce Innovation High School
- Moms OC
- OCAPICA
- Project Youth OC
- ShortStop and Stop Short of Addiction
- Thrive Together OC
- Vista Heritage Global Academy
- Waymakers OC
Conference Agenda

8:00AM-8:55AM  **Check-in, Breakfast, Networking, & Visit Exhibitors**  
*Conference Lobby*

9:00 AM-10:15AM  **Opening and Keynote**  
*Redwood Ballroom*  
Welcome: Rita Rangel, Human Services Manager, Senior  
Keynote: Rachel C. Thomas, M. Ed., Director, Sowers Education Group

10:30AM-11:30AM  **Breakout Sessions**  
CONNECTING with Clients in Crisis: *Redwood Ballroom*  
UNITING OC Agencies to Combat Human Trafficking: *Sugar Pine*  
Providing A Sense of BELONGING for Families: *White Pine*  
CEAC Session (En Español): Intergenerational Trauma: *Blue Oak*

11:45AM -1:00PM  **Networking, Lunch, & Entertainment**  
*Redwood Ballroom*  
Las Tapatias- Baile Folklórico  
Ruby Godinez- Singer, Songwriter, Acoustic

1:15PM- 2:15PM  **Breakout Sessions**  
CONNECTING Intergenerational Families by Recognizing Trauma: *Redwood Ballroom*  
UNITING Orange County: Be Well OC Network of Care: *White Pine*  
Creating A Culture Where Fathers BELONG (Traducción disponible): *Blue Oak*  
FaCT Leadership Council (1:30PM-3:15PM): *Sugar Pine*

2:30PM-3:30PM  **Breakout Sessions**  
CONNECTING with Mothers & Babies Before, During, and After Birth: *White Pine*  
UNITING Families Through Constructive Conflict Engagement Communication: *Redwood Ballroom*  
BELONGING to Your Community: Self Care through Poetry (Traducción disponible): *Blue Oak*

3:30PM-4:00PM  **Closing Presentation & Appreciation Ceremony**  
*Redwood Ballroom*

DOWNLOAD THE WHOVA APP FOR NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES & ADDITIONAL SESSION INFORMATION
Get to know our FaCT Family Resource Centers

Below is a map of our 16 Family Resource Centers. Each FaCT Family Resource Center holds community events and offers 7 core services: information & referral help, counseling support, parenting education classes, domestic violence personal empowerment programs, family support services, case management team services, and emergency assistance. Support and visit a Family Resource Center near you!
Dear Community Partner,

We welcome you to the 2023 Families and Communities Together (FaCT) Annual Conference. This year’s theme is “Together As One: Connect, Unite, Belong” and we are so excited to bring you workshops and resources to give you the tools to continue strengthening families in Orange County. After so much uncertainty in these recent years, we have overcome an unprecedented time, which shows that coming together as one has impacted our communities.

Our 16 Family Resource Centers, have impacted so many lives by providing an open door and services to the families in our community. This conference will focus on connecting with our families in new engaging ways, uniting families when times are difficult, and creating a sense of belonging for our families in our communities. We are resilient and will continue to adapt to the needs of our community.

We thank you for your continued dedication to Orange County families!
Keynote Speaker:

Rachel was a junior at Emory University when she unknowingly met a trafficker: a professional and well-spoken ‘modeling agent’. He had business cards and a portfolio of contracts with beautiful models of all ethnicities. He groomed her with high-quality, all-expense paid photo shoots and legitimate modeling work in various music videos and magazines. Then, after he had collected a W9 form from Rachel (including her parents’ address and SSN), the relationship became dangerous. He began forcing her to have sex with buyers, threatening to kill her and her family if she didn't obey. He became physically and psychologically abusive, ushering Rachel into the dark world of sex slavery. Thankfully, the police and FBI were eventually able to help Rachel, and the trafficker’s dozens of other victims, to escape this devastating situation. As Rachel continues to overcome and understand her experience, she is “turning a mess into a message” that will spread prevention and empower victims.

Rachel C. Thomas, M.Ed.
Director, Sowers Education Group

Rachel C. Thomas, M.Ed. is a graduate of UCLA, a presidential appointee to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, and a personal survivor of human trafficking. She has extensive experience teaching, training, curriculum writing, public speaking, and mentoring. As director of Sowers Education Group, she and a team work tirelessly to sow seeds of human trafficking awareness and survivor empowerment. Rachel has educated and inspired a wide range of audiences including teens, social service providers, churches, teachers, college students, and law enforcement. She is the lead author of the nation’s most widely used sex trafficking intervention curriculum Ending The Game (Journal Of Women and Criminal Justice, 2021) as well as The Cool Aunt Series, a sex trafficking prevention course for teens.

Since 2012, Rachel and the Sowers Team have reached over 150,000 live audience members and millions more through numerous media outlets including CNN, HLN, The T.D. Jakes Show, The New York Times Upfront Magazine and ABC’s Newsmakers. Rachel was honored by Congressman Ed Royce of California’s 39th district and Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe for her leadership and trafficking prevention efforts.
The Cool Aunt Series: Sex Trafficking Prevention for Teens is more than an online course, it's an experience. Using engaging and age-appropriate cinema, storytelling, lecture and questions, the series walks teens through the STREAMS of Influence— the 7 risk factors that lead to sex trafficking: Survival, Trafficker, Recruiter, Environment, Abuse, Media, Solicitation. After the series, teens have the opportunity to self-assess their risk factors and get 1-on-1 help if needed. The Cool Aunt Experience has been called "powerful", "amazing", "fun", and "life-saving" by teens, caregivers, and anti-trafficking experts. www.TheCoolAuntSeries.com

TO GAIN EXCLUSIVE ACCESS AS A FACT CONFERENCE ATTENDEE, GO TO

www.thecoolauntseries.com/courses/countyoforange
Crisis management and de-escalation strategies for the agitated client, setting limits and boundaries with clients, and then finally, self-care strategies for the staff.

Dianna Stark  
*Psychotherapist*

With a Masters Degree from New York University School of Social Work and almost 20 years of experience in the field of human behavior, Dianna Stark brings a wide range of skills and expertise to everything she does. She completed postgraduate training in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy at St. Mark’s Place Institute in New York City, where she also acted as assistant director for both the mental health and substance abuse clinics. She has worked as a consultant with Cigna Behavioral Health, providing training, seminars, and consultations for EAP (Employee Assistance Program) clients at major corporations throughout New York City. When consulting with Cigna, she was the lead group coordinator for major EAP clients in New York after the 9/11 attacks. She was responsible for setting up support groups and support networks throughout NY and NJ for over 300 family members affected by the disaster. Those support networks are still in place today.

Ms. Stark’s specialties include anxiety and stress management, anger management, and communication skills. Much of her career has focused on helping people improve communication skills, in private and corporate settings and in health care. Her skills are frequently tapped to help executives, physicians, and other professionals, improve their communication and manage their stress and anger in order to avoid creating a toxic workplace.
The County of Orange utilizes a Multi-Disciplinary team approach that brings together service providers, county agencies, and law enforcement to assist children that have been sexually exploited. Topics will include red flags, mandatory reporting, and how to access local resources.

Lisa Delamater  
*Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Coordinator, Orange County Social Services Agency*

Lisa supervises the county’s CSEC program and is responsible for program execution and development. Lisa facilitates the CSEC Steering Committee and acts as a liaison between the county and the state as well as the county and the community, on CSEC-related matters. Lisa has a bachelor’s degree in Sociology, with a minor in Women’s Studies, and has worked for the County of Orange for 29 years.

Kristi Boogaard  
*Clinical Supervisor, Project Choice*

Kristi Boogaard is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, with over 10 years of experience working with the CSEC population. Kristi works from a harm reduction, survivor-centered approach to lead the development of Project Choice—a drop-in center in Santa Ana for youth ages 11-21 who are identified as being trafficked or at risk of experiencing trafficking. Kristi attended the University of Southern California where she received her Master’s in Social Work.
Breakout Session: Providing A Sense of BELONGING for Families

Coordinators, Managers, Bilingual Staff, Parent Leaders and key decision-makers are invited to learn how to embrace liberatory engagement strategies to help increase participation and support staff and communities through an equitable lens.

Learning Outcomes:
- Use an asset-based approach to recognize programs and family involvement practices currently being conducted.
- Review recommendations from the field.
- Consider new approaches for building relationships between community and families

Janis Price, MS.Ed, CHES
Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education

Once a Health Teacher in a middle school classroom, Janis now uses her teaching experiences and passion for families to lead Orange County schools in student and family engagement efforts. She is committed to help every family in Orange County be empowered to know their rights and opportunities available to partner with their school to help in their child's academic success. Her knowledge of the diverse, yet detailed, school system combined with her heart for the family, offers a safe place for questions, answers and a renewed love for schools, students, families and their communities.
Cycle Breaker: Self-Healing from Intergenerational Trauma. Intergenerational trauma occurs when trauma is passed down by survivors to their descendants. Survivors of traumatic experiences often find themselves in a survival mode where their responses stem from fear, trauma, and/or scarcity. Those affected by trauma experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can pass those traits along to the next generation, including but not limited to hypervigilance, anxiety, and/or mood dysregulation. While they may not have experienced the trauma directly themselves, the reactions and responses to situations may manifest through inherited trauma responses. This workshop focuses on understanding what is intergenerational trauma and how we can help ourselves to break the cycle of trauma within families and cultures.

Jazmine Garcia
Program Assistant, OCAPICA Well(ness)essity Program

Jazmine currently works at OCAPICA in one of their three mental health programs called Well(ness)essity. Jazmine is a first-generation Mexican-American graduate student from California State University of Fullerton with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Human Services specializing in mental health. Throughout the years Jazmine has worked in mental health services and interning in different fields of work, she has seen first-hand how families of minority communities lack the support and resources to break the stigma of mental health. Jazmine is motivated to educate our diverse communities with proper development factors, and mental health awareness, and support our families.
This session will be discussing collective impact, and equity-centered strategies to address mental health, suicide, substance use, and adverse childhood experiences to create more resilient, trauma-informed, and prevention-focused healing communities.

**Andrea Mander**  
*Sr. Project Manager, ACES, Network of Care*

Andrea is a behavioral health innovation consultant with a passion for cultivating community and clinical partnerships to enable systems change that improves lives through equitable access to behavioral health services. With a background in communications, data, and neuroscience she has experience developing and implementing outcomes-oriented population-level behavioral health and wellness programs for payors and employers of all sizes. She is currently a Master's candidate in Population Health Management. She has a Bachelor’s of Science in Health Management specializing in mental health, trauma, workplace wellness, intimate partner violence, and resilience skills training.

**Iliana Soto-Welty**  
*Health Equity and Community Partnerships Consultant, Mind OC*

Iliana is a systems change catalyst that has worked on policy, programs, and planning to create community change for over 25 years. Her passion is building the capacity of communities to create meaningful changes in systems that impact their lives. She advocates improving the access, quality, and equity of behavioral health, public health, and social services working at the county and state levels including being the Co-Chair for the County of Orange Behavioral Health Equity Committee, the CalOptima Member Advisory Committee as the behavioral health representative, and as an Equity and Policy Advisor with Public Health Advocates. Iliana leads the Equity and Healing Committee for the Be Well OC Network of Care. She has expertise in developing large-scale health equity, stigma reduction, substance use, suicide prevention, and mental health collective impact initiatives.
Breakout Session: Creating A Culture Where Fathers BELONG

Learn how to engage with fathers and make your organization father-friendly. Hear from Casey Family Programs "Excellence of Children Award" -- 2023 Birth Father Award, Roger De Leon, and his experience through government programs and his community work.

Roger De Leon
Recipient of 2023 Casey's Excellence for Children Award Birth Father of the Year

Roger De Leon is a husband to his beautiful wife of 21 years, father of a beautiful daughter, and three beautiful grandchildren. Roger is currently a Parent Partner with the Parent Partner Program for Riverside County’s Children Services Division and has been in this position for seven years. He was the first Parent Partner hired for Riverside County, California and is one of the original staff and the in-charge who had a part in developing and maintaining this program. He has worked with many parents to help them navigate the child welfare system to reunify with their families. He is currently the only male, Spanish-speaking Parent Partner for Riverside County Children’s Services. Roger has had previous experience with the child welfare system due to child abuse allegations and was successful in navigating the child welfare and court systems and he was able to reunify with his family.

Roger was awarded the “Support Staff of the Year “ in 2017 from the Riverside County Department of Social Services. He is also involved as a parent advocate for the parents voice in diverse committees and coalitions, like “Quality Parenting Initiative”, “Racial Disproportional Disparity” and others helping to educate through his lived experience and work with birth parents on how to engage, help develop policies, and even facilitate presentations and participate in panels to bring the genuine real life stories to CSD and other government, community agencies and faith-based organizations in Riverside County.

On a national level, Roger is a member of the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN). As a member of the BPNN, he was selected to participate in a Parent Think Tank coordinated by the Office of Early Childhood Development, Administration of Children and Families. He actively brings the parent perspective to discussions relating to engaging families in early childhood initiatives. He is the recipient of 2023 Casey's Excellence for Children Award Birth Father of the Year!
Trauma-Informed Approaches to Perinatal Mental Health. Participants will learn to identify the stressors that impact new parents’ well-being, know how to talk about and recognize the signs of a parent struggling with mental health, and gain the tools to offer trauma informed support and connections to healing resources.

**Sandy Avzaradel, M.S. Ed.**

*Executive Director, Start Well OC*

Sandy is the Executive Director of Start Well, Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, an evidence-informed practice to support the capacity of those working with families of young children to provide culturally responsive, trauma-informed care. Start Well has been providing services in Orange County since March 2018. Prior to Start Well, Sandy spent 25 years in the K-12 education system as a teacher, coordinator, and administrator.

**Valerie Brauks, MA**

*Project Director, Children and Families Coalition of Orange County*

Valerie Brauks has been involved with early childhood and home visiting programs in Orange County for the past 20+ years beginning with the Bridges Pilot program in 2001. She is an experienced and successful nonprofit director with more than 35 years of experience driving superior operations and overall organizational performance that includes positions with Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center for 10 years as the Director of Clinical Operations and 8 years as Community Director with Children's Bureau in Orange County. Prior to her work in Orange County, she was the Director of Early Intervention and School-Based Programs with a community mental health center in four counties in Missouri for 17+ years.
This session provides individuals with the tools to turn conflict into positive experiences while de-escalating high-conflict situations. It will explore the nature of conflict and provide opportunities to learn and practice positive conflict resolution skills. Participants engage in activities to practice good listening and expressing skills; explore the difference between discussion, debate, and dialogue; and learn why true dialogue is the key to working through conflicts in a constructive way.

**Marco Antonio Ortega**  
*Director, Dispute Resolution Program, OC Human Relations*

Marco is a Southern California born and raised Chicano rooted in nearly a decade of experience in the peacebuilding field, primarily as a practitioner of restorative justice and facilitative mediation. His work in conflict prevention and intervention has seen him deliver community-building processes, trainings, mediations, circles, and consultations for schools, businesses, courts, and community members in both Spanish and English.

He is currently serving as the Director of the Dispute Resolution Program at the Orange County Human Relations Council where he oversees budgeting, staffing, strategic planning, and praxis of the program.

Marco is also a first-generation college student, middle child, Gemini, and his family is from Sinaloa on his mom's side and Jalisco on his dad's side. He earned his Master of Arts in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding from California State University, Dominguez Hills and is currently completing a Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of California, Irvine. Marco’s interest in the fields of conflict resolution and criminology are around stopping and reversing the spillover of punitive mindsets and policing practices in workplaces, schools, and homes. Grounded in the firm belief that a radically different world is possible, Marco seeks to help build alternative structures of dispute resolution that don't involve attorneys, judges, or the police.
Poetry is alive and well! Although poetry has never been lost, it has made a strong comeback! In this powerful and heartfelt presentation, Helen, author of Journey of Reflection, shares her story of lived experience as a survivor of child abuse, and her path to healing from the effects of childhood trauma through the self-care process of writing of poetry. Attendees will learn the healing components of writing or reading poetry. This presentation will engage attendees with poetry and illustration interpretations directly from her book, a brief poetry writing activity, and optional open-mic poetry reading. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own poem, spoken word, or a favorite unauthored poem to read at the open mic! Bring on the “snapping fingers!”

**Helen Marie Diaz Acevez, MPH**  
*Author, Speaker, Trainer, IBH Consulting - Inspiration by Helen*

At nearly 50 years old, Helen began clinical therapy for the first time and was diagnosed with Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD) and depression. As a survivor of physical and emotional child abuse by her father, Helen started writing poetry to help her process the trauma while in clinical therapy. Reading her poems in therapy helped her through this journey of understanding, overcoming, and healing. That is when Helen decided to publish her poems in her new book called Journey of Reflection, A Collection of Poems. Helen is a proud Chicana, born in East Los Angeles, California.
FaCT Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC)
Intergenerational Trauma Awareness

About the FaCT CEAC - Each of the 16 FaCT Family Resource Centers has a CEAC that is made up of community members who are resident leaders and ambassadors of FRC services in their communities. The CEACs are very important pieces of our FRCs as they give community members the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, and advocate for their communities’ well-being by providing a community voice to the services provided by the FRC and beyond.

Marilyn Mejia-Peña, LCSW
Owner, CEO, Resilience Social Work Inc.

Marilyn Mejia-Peña is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a graduate from CSULB with over 24 years of experience in the social work field who specializes in providing trauma-informed services. She founded and fully operates Resilience Social Work Inc., which provides Trauma-Informed training, consultation, and mental health services. Throughout her career, she has worked in direct practice with families impacted by trauma in the child welfare system, has provided therapy services to individuals, families, and groups as well as supervised ASWs and AMFTs working with victims of crime, domestic violence survivors, and families involved with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). She has also facilitated evidence-based parenting classes in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Marilyn Mejía-Peña es Trabajadora Social Clínica con Licencia (LCSW), graduada de CSULB con más de 24 años de experiencia en el campo del trabajo social y se especializa en brindar servicios informados sobre el trauma. Fundó y opera plenamente Resilience Social Work Inc., que proporciona capacitación, consulta y servicios de salud mental informados sobre el trauma. A lo largo de su carrera, ha trabajado directamente con familias afectadas por el trauma en el sistema de bienestar infantil, ha brindado servicios de terapia a individuos, familias y grupos, así como supervisado ASW y AMFT que trabajan con víctimas de crimen, sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica y familias involucradas con el Departamento de Servicios para Niños y Familias (DCFS). También ha facilitado clases para padres basadas en evidencia en los condados de Los Ángeles y Orange.
FaCT Leadership Council Session
Becoming Fluent in DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion)

About the FaCT Leadership Council - The FaCT Leadership Council is comprised of partner organizations that operate within the 16 FRCs throughout Orange County. The Leadership Council is an opportunity for leadership representatives of FaCT service providers to meet and work as a collaborative to share innovative ideas, be solution focused, and strengthen the FaCT Platform through unified leadership.

Speaker
TaeIer Hammond
Owner, Nouveau Paige Consulting

TaeIer Hammond is an Industrial Organizational Psychologist from Chicago, IL. She received her Bachelors degree from Roosevelt University and her Masters degree from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. TaeIer holds certifications in Mental Health First Aid, Diversity & Inclusion, and Change Management.

TaeIer is currently a Learning and Change Communications Consultant and the National Co-Chair of the Black Inclusion Network employee resource group for HUB International, where she has been working in the IT & Operations space for three years. She is also actively involved in her local LGBT Chamber of Commerce, HR Hotseat, National African American Insurance Association (NAAIA), and an active board member of Answer the Moment, LLC, a DEI consulting firm.

TaeIer enjoys blending her passion for diversity, equity and inclusion with her knowledge of change management to help companies create the best and most inclusive culture imaginable. She has been in the independent consulting space since 2020 and has worked with numerous clients from small businesses to large corporations. In her spare time, TaeIer enjoys traveling, shopping, spending time with friends and family, trying new restaurants, and as a newbie to Los Angeles, being a tourist in her own [new] city.
The FaCT platform is a public-private partnership working to support this county-wide network. The platform provides training programs and technical assistance, partnership and resource development, data collection and analysis, evaluation, marketing, and community leadership development.

**County of Orange Social Services Agency**
Rita Rangel, Senior Human Services Manager  
Claudia Juarez, Human Services Manager  
Diana Nguyen-Vo, Senior Social Services Supervisor  
Catherine Tang, Senior Social Services Supervisor  
Alix Kaainoa-Thomas, Senior Social Services Supervisor  
Jennifer Kuo, Staff Specialist  
Lisa Nuño, Program Secretary

**Charitable Ventures**
Anne Olin, President and CEO  
Joe Ball, Chief Operating Officer  
Cheryll Dahlin, FaCT Program Manager  
Rossy Gaitán, FaCT Data & Evaluation Manager  
Jennifer Lopez, FaCT Marketing & Administrative Specialist  
Meme Trinh, Data and Evaluation Coordinator  
Ashley Ocampo, FaCT Evaluation Coordinator  
Hallie Stohler-Plaza, Senior Consultant  
Marilyn Orman, Evaluation Consultant

Thank you to our Family Ally Sponsor

CalOptima Health, A Public Agency

WITH GRATITUDE

for their continual support of Families and Communities Together and for their investment in prevention services and Family Resource Centers throughout Orange County.
STAY CONNECTED
Families and Communities Together (FaCT)
15405 Lansdowne Road, Tustin, CA 92782
Phone: (714) 566-2878
info@FaCTOC.org
FaCTOC.org