

Family Preservation Statewide Team



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Family Preservation Statewide Team

Practice partners

Erica Jauregui and **Aimee Osborne** bring over a decade of knowledge and experience working deeply within Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare programs, respectively.

They are excited to be thought-partnering with managers, family coaches, engagement specialists, consultants, and caseworkers to offer coaching strategies, practical skills and solutions, strategies to repair cross-program relationships, and tools for values-based engagement and collaboration. They both work together with CW and SSP staff to identify opportunities for strengthening and building partnership, processes and procedures and celebrating success. You will see them a lot as they facilitate our Peer Learning spaces.



Aimee Osborne
(she/her)
Child Welfare Lens

Aimee highly values relationships and believes for true transformative systems change it starts with building authentic relationships. Being authentic and bringing value to each person is intertwined in the fabric of who Aimee is from her own lived experiences from childhood to military to present. Aimee has had the opportunity to work in various agency roles since starting with Oregon Child Welfare in 2010 from CPS to Teen Work to Certification to Leadership. She is passionate about the work we do and can do, with her foundation being rooted in anti-racist practices and elevation of family voice.

When she is not at work, Aimee loves to spend time with her family and friends at the bowling ally or on the golf course.



Erica Jauregui
(she/her)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

Erica's core values are based in connection, relationship, and family. Since Erica started her career in the social service field in 2001, She has a passion for coaching and elevating people to share the best versions of themselves. Her experiences in various roles within the community and working in ODHS Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency programs has taught her that the foundation of this work is built on listening to what people need, believing and honoring those needs and building on their strengths. In her current role as Practice Partner, Erica has the opportunity to listen, guide, and share the challenges and positive outcomes with focus on Family Preservation practice, data, and approach. She is a fierce advocate for the efforts being made towards keeping families together stable and safe and is excited to hold space for others within her current role.

In her spare time, Erica loves to go fishing and spend time at the beach with her two children and husband.

Program partners

Lydia Sterba and **Karinda Woodward** support sites in identifying sustainable processes for strengthening and sharing local innovations in support of keeping families together in their homes and communities. They will connect with district staff to co-create communication strategies that allow for a bi-directional feedback loop between local and central office teams.

Lydia and Karinda have been supporting and uplifting people with lived experiences for many years and will collaborate with the team to support sites in strengthening their approach and awareness to honoring lived expertise.



Karinda Woodward
(she/they/them)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

connected to communications, local innovations, and Tribal relationships.

Karinda is a fierce parent to 3 amazing kiddos. Karinda enjoys gardening, roller skating, rock painting, communing with nature, playing with her 2 adorable puppies, and impromptu living room dance parties.

Karinda is passionate about advocating for knowledge gained through lived experience and equitably recognizing every person for the unique and diverse knowledges they possess. Karinda's lived experiences have influenced their interest in respectable parenthood, poverty/socio-economic status, race, class, and a variety of social justice topics. Their personal and professional experiences with Child Welfare & Self-Sufficiency Programs are a driving force for creating safe spaces and eliminating barriers for individuals and families.

Karinda possesses over 20 years of experience working with individuals and families in educational, healthcare, and social service fields. As a program partner with the Family Preservation statewide team, Karinda supports work



Lydia Sterba
(she/her)
Child Welfare Lens

Lydia has built her educational engagements and professional career in understanding, navigating and challenging systemic inequities as well as, advocating, supporting, and sharing space with people who have lived systemic expertise. She has had the privilege or working in various community partner and state child welfare roles since starting her career in social services in 2013 and has many years of lived experience within the Oregon child welfare system as a youth.

Lydia has had the opportunity to speak to challenges of foster care on local, state, and national levels and is excited to be able to hold space as a Program Partner within the Family Preservation Team. In her current role, she supports work connected to defining sustainable statewide structures for the family preservation approach within Tribal engagement, communications, and local changes and innovations.

Lydia is an artist, photographer, reader, board and video game enthusiast, DIY crafter, and a nomad who likes exploring new places, experiences, and foods with her significant other and her 4-year-old best friend/bonus kiddo.

Project partners

Our Project Partners lead work on specific projects supporting local, statewide and national initiatives, innovations, and tools that support moving the Family Preservation approach forward across demonstration sites. They will provide direct support around contracting, reviewing and analyzing data and stories, communicating what we are learning to various partners, communities, and staff, and using the information gathered to support our program partners in the development of a statewide fidelity model.



Adelle Newton
(she/her)
Child Welfare Lens

Adelle started her career with ODHS in the year 2000, back when the newest game system was the PlayStation 2, Beyoncé was the lead singer of Destiny's Child, and the Nokia phone was the latest in cell phone technology. Adelle has her Master's in Social Work from Portland State University, and is an alumni of the Child Welfare Education Partnership. Prior to joining the Family Preservation Statewide Team, Adelle worked in Child Welfare for over 23 years at the East Multnomah Branch in District 2. Adelle is a bilingual Spanish speaker who has worked primarily with Spanish speaking immigrant families and unaccompanied minors throughout her career as a caseworker. Adelle has many years of experience coaching and mentoring interns and caseworkers. Adelle brings to the Family Preservation Team a passion for: keeping children safely at home with their families, honoring family culture, self-determination and voice, and building an inclusive, diverse, supported and well-trained workforce.



Karissa Hendricks
(she/they)
Child Welfare Lens

Karissa is invested in putting the human in human services – acknowledging that every person deserves autonomy, dignity, and respect in their journey towards empowerment and well-being. Karissa is excited to work amongst the Family Preservation team in strengthening inter-agency and community relationships, dismantling oppressive systems, and preserving familial bonds to foster environments where families can thrive. Karissa previously worked for ODHS Child Welfare as a Certification Social Service Specialist and Social Service Assistant. She was previously a Lead Crisis Counselor at a Qualified Residential Treatment Program in California.



Krystal Tilghman
(she/her)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

Krystal holds many years of experience working within ODHS as a Family Coach with the Self Sufficiency Program. She is highly committed to strengthening Family Preservation values statewide. Krystal believes in building foundations that keep families safely together, maintains cultures of origin, and builds thriving communities for all. Krystal is a strong Equity Champion that stands firm in the fact that anti-racism and anti-oppression are action words. Therefore, it is her individual mission to always do her part in dismantling systems of oppression and racism. Krystal prioritizes analytical thinking and encourages us to continuously reflect: Ask yourself, what are you choosing to do with your part?

Krystal is the proud mom of 3 beautiful and amazing sons who definitely keep her on her toes!! She enjoys spending time with her partner and loved ones - just being total dorks!! Laughter really does feed the soul!!



Lexi Welch
(she/her)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

Lexi started her career within ODHS as a contracted partner supporting families and Family Coaches within the Self-Sufficiency Program. Lexi has worn many hats since then including Family Coach, Trainer, Community Partnership Coordinator, and most recently Engagement Specialist. Prior to ODHS, Lexi focused her college education on data regarding disparities within Child Welfare and related economic factors. She enjoys utilizing a strength-based approach to supporting families and co-workers. Lexi is excited to bring her multi-faceted knowledge and experience to the Family Preservation team.

Lexi enjoys plants, crafts, playing cribbage, and DIY. Some fun facts about her are that she is an identical twin, and she is looking forward to getting married this year (2024).



Mayde Duran Bencomo
(she/her)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

Mayde possesses a wealth of knowledge and understanding from different roles she has held within ODHS including Support Staff, Family Coach, and Community Partnership Coordinator. In her new role as a Project Partner with Family Preservation, Mayde is passionate about focusing on and validating the needs of the Hispanic community. Mayde hopes to work toward closing the gaps between agencies' perceptions and ODHS mission and values.

Mayde likes to travel with her husband of 17 years and is a super proud mom of 4 beautiful girls ages 14-6. She also loves plants/gardening, DIY, and learning new things. Mayde is a shoe fanatic, a great dancer, is passionate about supporting others. Mayde is already a strong role model for many and is proud to be able to show her daughters that dreams do come true.



Susana Ochoa
(she/her)
Self-Sufficiency Lens

Susana is a proud first generation Mexican-American. She has had the honor of providing services to individuals and families within ODHS for many years as a bilingual Family Coach within the self-sufficiency program. She is a strong facilitator, advocate, and follows through on her personal and professional commitments. Susana values authenticity and building collaborative, trusting relationships with families and partners. She is fully dedicated to implementing Family Preservation values throughout the state. Susana is passionate about seeking ways to bridge the inequities of historically underserved community members and cultivating community/family engagement.

Susana enjoys spending time with her partner and bonus kids. She enjoys cooking, dancing, singing, hanging at the beach and road trips.

Planning partner

The Planning Partner supports administrative and other integral organizing work that keeps the Family Preservation Statewide Team and all the various projects, workstreams, and strategies moving forward. They will also be supporting the team with structuring tools, research, and crucial connections to stay coordinated and meet the needs of current demonstration sites.



Marie Mischale Rhoden
(she/her)

Marie Mischale Rhoden, the eldest of six children, migrated to the U.S. from Haiti and has dedicated over two decades to supporting families affected by substance abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence. She has collaborated with religious leaders to address health disparities, cultural challenges, and language barriers within churches across Massachusetts, Virginia, Georgia, and Central Haiti, focusing on Haitian and West Indian communities.

Now in Salem, Oregon, Marie supports the Family Preservation Unit as their Planning Partner. She excels in bridging the gap between systemic trends that separate children from their families and working directly with families in their homes and communities to maintain their support systems intact.

Marie is also attending a higher learning institute to enhance her skills and deepen her understanding of helping children and families, focusing on the root causes of domestic violence and substance abuse. Please reach out to her for any administrative support for the Family Preservation Unit.

Family preservation managers



Akhila Nekkanti

(she/her)

Family Preservation
Assistant Manager

Family preservation assistant manager, Akhila Nekkanti provides strategic planning support for managers and staff around equitable community organizing and repair with external partners. She will be working with staff to build capacity for engaging with diverse communities and identifying tools to foster stronger reparative relationships and honor lived expertise. Akhila will be working closely with our program partners (Lydia and Karinda) to ensure that lived expertise is an integral part of all local innovations.

She also supports state-level community partnerships across programs and is focused on developing structures that honor lived experts in decision making processes through appropriate compensation and recognition.

Akhila has experience in strengthening parent-child relationships amidst stressful contexts, addressing root-cause barriers to intergenerational family healing, and transforming systems through the unique, collective strength we each carry in our communities. She strives to strengthen sustainable community-driven systems of care and ultimately dismantle oppressive, punitive structures of family policing.

For fun, Akhila loves cooking comfort food and sharing with all her neighbors, walking her cat on a leash, starting DIY projects around the house, and long solo road trips.



Jennifer Holman

(she/her)

Family Preservation
Manager

Family preservation manager, Jennifer Holman supports the long-term strategic planning and development of the overall Family Preservation approach across Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare, provides consultation for best practices and collaboration, and offers thought-partnership around repair and relationship building. She creates connections and collaborates across all ODHS programs and external statewide systems partners as well as engaging with external funders, grants, executive leadership, and national and federal partners.

Jennifer manages both the Family Preservation Team and the Child Welfare Reunification Program Manager who supports the Permanency Consultant team.

Jennifer has over 16 years of experience in various roles within Oregon Child Welfare. She is passionate about keeping children and families together and out of foster care, dismantling systems of oppression and racism, and moving aside barriers to people doing their best work on behalf of children, parents, families, and communities. It's Possible!

Jennifer is the super proud mom to two a@@@ kicking daughters and one soulful son. She loves post-it notes, learning new things about real people, uncontrollable laughing, and fake tap dancing anytime, anywhere.