

Washington Chapter AFCC Newsletter

Issue 16

September 21, 2024

Letter from your AFCC Chapter Board President



Kathleen Royer, JD

I think I can speak for all the Washington Chapter AFCC Board of Directors when I say “WOW, what a great conference and PC workshop we had on April 19-20, 2024.”

We were thrilled to have so many members attend, and to learn and have some fun together again. We were so inspired that we have gotten to work on the 2025 conference!

The unofficial close of summer is here and I’m happy I could enjoy a bit of my summer.

For me, the unofficial start to my summer was the Annual AFCC National conference. This year, the conference was in Boston. The theme was “Coping with Transition: Individual, Family and Beyond.”

The keynote speaker, Tina Madison White, opened the conference with a compelling discussion of her transition personally, spiritually and socially.

Cont. on Page 2



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<https://wa-afcc.org>



SAVE THE DATE for the AFCC Washington Chapter 10th Annual Conference & Advanced Seminar, April 25-26, 2025!

The full-day conference is April 25, and the Advanced Seminar is April 26. Both events will be at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle.

We heard your feedback from last year, and there will be more time for networking during lunch!

Read the updates from the Conference Committee Co-Chairs on pages 2-3 to learn more.

The Fundamentals of Parenting Coordination

December 2-5, 2024, via Zoom
CE: 16 hours

Offered by AFCC National, this is a great opportunity to attend a Parenting Coordination (PC) Training.

This comprehensive PC training is based on the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination and the Recommendations for Comprehensive Training of Parenting Coordinators.

The Training Team includes Debra Carter, PhD; Robin Deutsch, PhD; Shely Polak, PhD; and Matt Sullivan PhD.

The best part – it’s virtual! [Register on AFCC’s website.](#)

AFCC Resources for Best Practices: Getting to know what’s there!

Please get to know the great resources on the [AFCC National website.](#)

- [Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#)
- [Center for Excellence](#)

Update from the Conference Committee Co-Chairs, Part 1

Caroline Plummer, MS, LMHC



Caroline Plummer, MS, LMCH

As a new Board member of the AFCC Washington Chapter, I attended my first AFCC Washington Chapter conference this year. I was blown away! What a line up! We had two renowned keynote speakers, Chris Mulchay, PhD, and Jonathon Gould, PhD, along with our own David Stark, JD, from McKinley Irvin, a Platinum Sponsor of our event.

We had enthusiasm and energy from the 98 attendees, after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic.

We had the best of the best attendees from 39 counties across Washington State, including rural counties, tribes and the Greater Seattle area. Parent evaluators, Guardians Ad Litem, attorneys, mental health professionals and specialists were engaged in enthusiastic networking throughout the day and into the evening.

We convened in the beautiful Washington Athletic Club with a delicious NW cuisine lunch and a social hour at the end of the day with a charcuterie spread that could rival Martha Stewart herself, curated especially for us by the executive chef of the WAC.

To top it off, we ended the conference with a lively social hour, live music, that delicious charcuterie and a live auction! Hank Finesilver made a very special auction donation of top-notch seats to a Mariners game, which was followed by the whole gang chiming into the song, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game!* People lingered until late in the evening, and eventually some even closed down the WAC!

Just wait until our 2025 conference, taking place on April 25 and 26! The buzz is building as the conference committee is planning a real winner, featuring three expert, accomplished, and published national speakers.

Our 2025 focus is in response to many Chapter members sharing with us that they need and want more training and solutions on parent child contact problems and support in handling increasingly common and complex resist-refuse issues. We are refining the 2025 conference theme, but good ideas are brewing as we work to be responsive to members' requests!

Also, based on the evaluations from last year, we will be integrating and coordinating multiple speakers to keep the day very lively. The material and speakers will be fresh, with tons of new information and energy flowing throughout the day.

Speaker contracts are currently in the works! Our next newsletter will reveal who these great folks are!

Letter from AFCC Washington Chapter President (Cont. from Page 1)

There were numerous presenters during the ensuing two-and-a-half days. I attended presentations on the use and misuse of apologies, children's experience of family transition, new ways for families in conflict to improve communication and reduce conflict, and parent-child contact problems, to name a few.

The 2025 AFCC national conference will be in New Orleans and the 2026 AFCC national conference will be in Seattle, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, keep up the great work and keep making a difference for families.

Yours truly,
Kathleen Royer, JD
Washington Chapter AFCC President

Fun from the 2024 Conference!



Update from the Conference Committee Co-Chairs

Part 2

Dana Dean Doering, ARNP



As the 2024 Conference Committee Co-Chair, I wish to thank all of you for returning and networking with one another at this year's Annual Conference.

I'm thrilled to be planning the 2025 conference again with Caroline Plummer and with our newest volunteer, Beth Fellows.

One big request for 2025 that we heard from this year's conference participants is to "give us more networking time at lunch!" I promise we plan to do so in 2025!

Second request is "bring back the WAC Clam Chowder!" What a crowd fav!

Let's prepare now for 2025 by saving the date: April 25 for the full-day conference and April 26 for the Advanced Seminar. We have 100 seats available for the full-day conference. So get ready to register, as it is sure to be a sell-out conference once again.

Let's make it this the best conference ever for our 10th Anniversary!

Thanks to a committed group of sponsors who showed up BIG, we were able to offer our registrants a first class event with delicious NW Fare in a beautiful venue. People felt special!

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