



Elevating the wellbeing and future of Montana's children.

ACE Master Trainers

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Lorraine Bond - ACE Master Trainer

Program Director, The Parenting Place
Missoula, Montana

Lorraine is the program director at the Parenting Place. She is both a social worker and parenting class instructor. She has worked for the State of Montana licensing foster parents, as the program director at Big Brothers Big Sisters, and has taught at several small alternative schools in Missoula. Lorraine began teaching school in the late 1970s in alternative school settings which lead to a BA in Social Work. While working for Big Brothers Big Sisters, she presented at the BBBS of America national conference and conducted trainings for volunteers on a monthly basis. Lorraine taught a 15 week Nurturing Program parenting class and developed a shorter 5 week parenting program titled “Alcohol, Anger and Children” at the Parenting Place



Cassie Burns - ACE Master Trainer

Director, Learning Partners
Livingston, Montana

Cassie is the Director of Learning Partners based in Livingston, MT. She is responsible for general oversight of the educational wing of Community Health Partners including: securing funding, monitoring staff, promoting awareness of social determinants of health, ensure program standards and maintains and enhances community collaborations. Kathy has also been the Even Start Coordinator, a Reading Specialist & Classroom Teacher and Adjunct Instructor at Montana State University where she taught an upper level classroom management course in the College of Education, Health and Human Development. Cassie has a Master of Education from Montana State University, Northern and a Bachelor of Science in Family and Child Services from Auburn University, Alabama.



James (Jim) Caringi, Ph.D. - Certified ACE Master Trainer

Associate Professor, School of Social Work, MSW Program Director,
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana

Jim is the MSW Program Director and an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. In addition, he is the Coordinator of Qualitative Research at the National Native Children's Trauma Center (NNCTC) / Institute for Educational Research and Service (IERS) at the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. Jim received his B.A. from The State University of New York at Albany. He earned his M.S.W. from Boston University and his Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the State University of New York at Albany. His interests are in the areas of the primary and secondary traumatic stress (STS), child welfare, work with groups and teams, as well action research, particularly with indigenous populations as partners. Jim is principal investigator of a five-year U.S. Children's Bureau grant to develop social work student traineeships and a participatory action research framework to improve child welfare organizations. He is also co-principal investigator in the Field Initiated Research and Evaluation Project. This four-year U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (OJJDP) funded community-based participatory research (CBPR) grant is a collaborative effort with Native partners to address and better understand childhood traumatic stress and youth violence. Jim is also co-principal investigator of a five-year, 3.2 million dollar U.S. Administration for Children and Families (ACF) grant to create trauma informed child welfare systems in Indian Country. He brings over 19 years of practice experience in both clinical and macro settings and has worked from the inner city housing projects of Boston to the rural villages of Alaska where he lived and raised a family for over 7 years. Jim is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and currently maintains a caseload, seeing clients that have experienced trauma pro bono at the University of Montana Clinical Psychology Center. Jim's wife is a public school teacher and artist and they have 2 daughters.



Dan Carlson-Thompson, LCSW - Certified ACE Master Trainer

Children's Mental Health Bureau
Helena, Montana

Dan has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1993 after receiving his Master's in Social Work in 1991 from the University of Kansas. He has direct experience in working with adults, youth and their families in a variety of treatment settings: in-home, office, school, residential, and acute psychiatric facilities. In addition, for eleven years he supervised clinical staff at a Community Mental Health Center working with Adult and Children's Services. Currently, Dan is employed by the Children's Mental Health Bureau with the Developmental Services Division of DPHHS. He is working on the Children's and Adolescent Needs & Strengths functional assessment tool in getting people trained and certified in its use, and was instrumental in the creation of a database to collect, report and utilize CANS data throughout various child serving systems. Dan collaborates with Medicaid program officers, providers, contractors and other stakeholders to identify and evaluate clinical issues within the Montana Medicaid system such as gaps in services and rule changes. He participates in utilization review activities and monitors providers' services and conducts on-site audits. In addition to working with Children's Mental Health, Dan is also providing field instruction for Master's Level graduate students in Social Work. Dan is also married and has 3 sons.



Sue Chivilicek - ACE Master Trainer

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, 6th Judicial District
Livingston, Montana

Sue grew up on her family's farm north of the Hi-Line community of Hingham and has resided in Livingston since 1998. In her over 15 years of experience in human services in Montana, Sue has worked for two branches of State government, served on several advisory boards and volunteered as Board President for Mental Health America of Montana. While she received her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Montana State University, she acknowledges her education came from working in adult community corrections on the Flathead Reservation and later in Livingston. Eventually, Sue discovered her passion lied in serving kids and families. Sue has been the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in the 6th Judicial District since 2007. She has the ability to bring clarity to complex situations through her unique perspective cultivated by years of working with and for people.



Dana Einsenberg, MSW - ACE Master Trainer

School Counselor, Arlee School - Flathead Reservation
Missoula

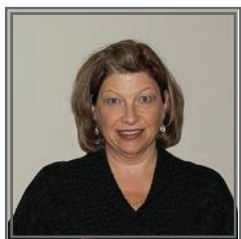
Dana has worked professionally with children and families in diverse settings since 1983. Her experience includes work as pediatric medical assistant, museum educator and science teacher. After receiving her Master's in Social Work in 1999, Dana provided school-based, intensive in-home, group home and outpatient therapy before beginning her current practice as School Counselor. With prior experience in two other schools, Dana is now in her 7th year at the Arlee School on the Flathead Reservation. Dana is passionate in her commitment to providing training and education that will lead to prevention of adverse childhood experiences and their damaging effects. Toward that end, in addition to being an ACE Presenter she is a Master Trainer for the Trauma Resource Institute which is working to bring skills that promote resiliency, hope and healing skills to communities and professionals throughout Montana.



Bethany Fatupaito, MPH - ACE Master Trainer

Project Director, Rocky Mountain Tribal Wellness Initiative
Billings, Montana

Bethany is the project Director for the Rocky Mountain Tribal Wellness Initiative (RMTWI) and the Tribal Prevention Initiative (TiPI), both substance abuse programs, at the Montana Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (MT-WY TLC) in Billings, MT. She has a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD and a Bachelors in Biology from the Slippery Rock University located in Slippery Rock, PA. Bethany is passionate about preventing substance abuse through a holistic wellness approach. In the last seven years, she has been able to partner with the tribal communities of Montana and Wyoming as they use cultural and traditional activities as a substance abuse prevention method to lessen high substance abuse rates. She is excited to now bring the knowledge of the ACE study to her partners and beyond because, “When you know better, you do better”. Bethany is happily married with four children ages 11, 10, 3, and 11 months. As a mother of four children, Bethany personally understands the stress of being a parent. She is hopeful that the knowledge gained in the ACE study presentations will begin to create a system of change for both children and adults.



Julie Fischer - ACE Master Trainer

Juvenile Justice Specialist, MT Board of Crime Control
Helena, MT

Julie is the Juvenile Justice Specialist for the State of Montana; she is responsible for Montana's compliance with the core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which is required in order to receive Federal Title II Formula Grant funding. Additionally, she is the National Juvenile Justice Specialist for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. As the Chair for Montana's Do the Write Thing project, a youth violence prevention writing program that targets middle school students, Julie conducts outreach to Montana's middle schools and coordinates the statewide writing project. Julie received a Bachelor of Science degree from Bemidji State University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She has completed numerous specialized training programs in education and public safety and has presented to state and national audiences. Julie represents the Montana Board of Crime Control on the Interagency Coordinating Council for Prevention (ICC) and the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) planning committee.



Todd Garrison - Certified ACE Master Trainer

Executive Director, ChildWise Institute
Helena, Montana

Since 2003 Todd Garrison has devoted himself to the work of helping and healing young traumatized children. First at Intermountain, a Montana non-profit that has been committed to the plight of vulnerable children for more than one-hundred years. His roles were in fund raising and project development. ChildWise Institute was one of those projects. Since 2009, he's been involved in the planning, launching and growth of ChildWise, a Montana not-for-profit 501c (3) organization. ChildWise is working hard to create safe, supportive families and communities for our nation's vulnerable children. ChildWise is doing this by Advancing Awareness of the scope and depth of child well-being issues; Accelerating Knowledge, understanding, and best practices in the parenting and treatment of vulnerable children; and Advocating for Change around child wellbeing issues. Todd has presented to numerous and diverse audiences across Montana on child wellbeing issues. Todd was instrumental in bringing the ACE Master Trainer program to Montana. He worked closely with Dr. Robert Anda and Laura Porter of ACE Interface on creating and implementing the program. He also collaborated with Director Richard Oppen, Director of MT DPHHS to provide funding for the program. MT DPHHS provided three of their staff members to participate and complete The ACE Master Trainer program.



Deb Huestis - ACE Master Trainer

Special Projects PDS 111 for Family Connections Montana
Great Falls, Montana

Deb holds Bachelor Degrees in Child Development and Family Relations and Cognitive Psychology from the University of Idaho. She has been involved in the Early Childhood Care and Education field for 21 years. She started her career in direct care and has worked her way through Education Coordinator of a Children's Museum, Early Childhood Core Instructor for UM Western, coordinator for Montana's Early Learning Guidelines Birth – 36 months, and is currently a Special Projects PDS III for Family Connections MT. Deb facilitates on-line courses for ChildCareTraining.org, and is an academic coach with University of Montana Western. She works within the community of Great Falls building partnerships with child care providers, Great Falls Public Schools, and other agencies that work with young children and their families. She has recently become a Master ACE trainer for the state of Montana and is available to present on the ACEs Study.



Denny Irwin - ACE Master Trainer

Teacher

Lewistown, Montana

After graduation from High School in West Middlesex, PA (1971), Denny attended Welding Trade School in Dallas, TX and spent the next 20+ years as a journeyman welder and structural ironworker. His love of equine and trail riding, led him to the Institute for Equestrian Education (1993-94) where he studied the “Horse-man-(relation)-ship” and his life was redirected toward those who were wounded and/or less fortunate. In 1999, Denny became certified as an Equine Specialist with the newly forming Equine Assisted Growth And Learning Association (EAGALA). After several years of freelance equine-assisted psychotherapy work with emotionally and intellectually challenged youth at Sacred Ground Equine Experiences, Denny was afforded the opportunity to attend MSU-Billings (2002-05) where he attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Services. Denny attained his Licensed Addiction Counselor licensure (2006) and has worked with children, adolescents, and adults in both inpatient and outpatient facilities. He also has experience working in the “Family Drug Treatment Court System” and sub-contract work with Juvenile Probation. Denny is also a certified Codependence Counselor with the Association of Christian Alcohol & Drug Counselors Institute (2011). Currently, Denny is a K-12 guest teacher in Lewistown, MT and specializes in one-on-one in/out of school suspension work. Denny is a living example of many adverse childhood experiences in a middleclass American home, and he is also a living example that our ACEs do not have to be our destiny.



Leslie Lee - ACE Master Trainer

Program Coordinator for Maternal & Early Childhood

Home Visiting, DPHHS of Montana

Helena, Montana

Leslie is the Program Coordinator for Maternal & Early Childhood Home Visiting for DPHHS of MT. Leslie has worked in early childhood for the last 15 years in numerous positions all of which have been focused on children who are, or may be at risk of falling behind socially, emotionally, cognitively, or physically for a myriad of reasons and circumstances. Earlier in her career, Leslie was a lead Head Start Teacher heavily involved in the identification of services and referrals for children in her care. She has also provided home visiting services for families in need throughout her career. Leslie has a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from Central Michigan University.



Teresa Nygaard - ACE Master Trainer

Executive Director The Parenting Place

Missoula, Montana

Teresa has been the executive director of The Parenting Place in Missoula for 13 years, and has been working in the field of child abuse prevention for well over 20 years. Two decades of prevention focused efforts have only reinforced her belief that this is the area that needs the most attention and receives the least. Teresa earned her BSW through the University of Montana nearly 25 years ago and has since done everything from case management and parent education to leading an organization. She is also a “trainer” for Nurturing Parenting Programs, Darkness 2 Light. A highlight for Teresa is a joint partnership between The Parenting Place and The Family Tree Center in co-directing the Prevent Child Abuse MT Chapter. Teresa’s passion for prevention and building strong families is fueled by her daughter, her step children and her 12 precious grandchildren. Her belief is that by reaching families early, we are saving children from needless trauma and creating an opportunity for them to have a happy and healthy childhood.



Brie Oliver, RN - ACE Master Trainer

Program Manager for Healthy Families Home Visiting,

Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department

Helena, Montana

Brie is a registered nurse with a Bachelors of Nursing from Montana State University and has focused her nursing career in the area of Maternal and Child Health. She is the Program Manager for Healthy Families Home Visiting at the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department and very much enjoys home visiting with pregnant women and families with young children. She is also an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) and is the Vice President on the Board of Directors for Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, MT. As a mother of three and a Public Health Home Visitor for the past 8 years, she has come to understand how important it is to support parents as they raise their children. Believing in the statement, “It takes a village,” keeps her passionate about her work.



Kathy Rich - ACE Master Trainer

Head Start State Collaboration Director, DPHHS of MT
Helena, Montana

Kathy is the Head Start State Collaboration Director for Montana. She works with state and community partners to collaborate and build understanding of Head Start and Early Head Start across the state. She provides a voice at the state level to discuss and facilitate linkages with other state agencies and head start programs across the state. She develops strategic plans based on Head Start needs and regional & national Office of Head Start priorities. Kathy has also worked as a Social Worker for St. Peter's Hospital and as the Program Manager for Thrive where she supervised and managed two programs with a total of 8 staff. She provided budget oversight, personnel management and support, program planning, evaluation for both the Parent Liaison and Parent Place programs in a community based family focused non-profit. Kathy has her MSW from Ohio State University and BA from Miami University.



Christine Schultz - ACE Master Trainer

Psychiatric Nurse, Shodair Children's Hospital
Helena, Montana

Christine has extensive experience in psychiatric nursing. She has spent the majority of her career at Shodair Children's Hospital working with a broad range of children ages 4-18. She currently is the Nurse Manager of the Glacier Adolescent Unit. She also has extensive experience working with adult and geriatric patients in psychiatric acute, long term, and forensic settings. Additionally, Christine serves as an adjunct instructor for Helena College teaching Core Concepts of Mental Health Nursing. Christine received her Bachelor of Arts in Nursing from Carroll College in 2002. She determined early in her career that the care of children, especially those suffering from emotional problems, would be her passion. She was recognized for her outstanding contribution to psychiatric nursing in 2009 when she was a Helena Independent Record 20 Under 40 Honoree. Christine recently became certified as one of the first four Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors in Montana. She has also completed training as part of the first ChildWise Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Master Trainer Program.



Anna Semple - ACE Master Trainer

Coordinator, Missoula Forum for Children & Youth
Missoula, Montana

Anna has years of experience working with youth education programs which has led Anna to her current position as Coordinator for two workgroups of the Missoula Forum for Children and Youth (The Forum). At the Forum, she works to prevent underage substance abuse by coordinating community-wide projects related to positive youth development. These efforts focus on education, youth leadership and the prevention of childhood trauma. Anna has a strong foundation in community program development due to her master's degree in Intercultural Youth and Family Development from the University of Montana, as well as her experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay and El Salvador.



Peg Shea, LCSW, LAC - ACE Master Trainer

Behavioral Health Trainer, State of MT
Missoula, Montana

As a licensed clinical social worker and addiction counselor, Ms. Shea has over 35 years of experience in the behavioral health field and has worked with Montana's substance abuse prevention and treatment providers in a myriad of roles for the past 25 years. Currently, Ms. Shea is a behavioral health trainer, consultant to healthcare providers throughout Montana, manages a large substance abuse prevention grant and runs a private practice in Missoula. Ms. Shea strongly believes in the importance of staying informed of the most current and cutting edge technologies to best serve people who are afflicted with addictions and other behavioral health struggles. She has a Master's degree of Science in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

*Our ACE Master Trainers are not employees of ChildWise Institute. Rather, they are each individuals that are employed by other organizations or self-employed. They enrolled (or were enrolled by their employer) in our ACE Study Master Trainer Program to become independent presenters of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study and ACE Interface® materials under the Elevate Montana banner, an initiative of ChildWise Institute to elevate the well-being and futures of Montana's children and families. Training for the ACE Study Master Trainer Program was provided by Dr. Robert Anda (designer and Co-Principal Investigator of the ACE Study) and Laura Porter (Senior Director of The Learning Institute at the Foundation for Healthy Generations).