

Spring Forum on Trauma Informed Care in Children

Dr. Doris M. Houston, Panelist

Dr. Doris Houston is the Interim Director of the School of Social Work at Illinois State University. She also serves as the Director of the Center for Child Welfare and Adoption Studies within the School of Social Work. Her areas of expertise include: foster care/adoption services; equity and inclusion in human services; and higher education access for underserved populations. She is the Principle Investigator and founding Project Manager of the “Central Region Illinois Permanency Enhancement Project” (PEP). PEP began in 2007 as a partnership with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to monitor child well-being outcomes for foster children. The project also examines racial disparities in child outcomes and this information is used by local stakeholders to support child welfare reform efforts. In her role as Director of the Center for Child Welfare and Adoption Studies, Dr. Houston founded “Together Creating Community” (TCC), a peer leadership network for ISU students who were previously in foster care. From 2015-2017 she also served as Project Co-Manager for *First Star Academy at Illinois State*, a college preparatory program for high school students in foster care. Prior to joining the faculty at ISU, Dr. Houston served as an Outcome Evaluation Specialist at the University of Illinois’ Institute of Government and Public Affairs. She began her professional career as a Child Welfare Specialist and Adoption Specialist with DCFS, where she later was Field Office Supervisor at the Urbana field office.

Brenda Temke, Panelist

An attorney since 1986, Brenda Temke currently serves as Guardian Ad Litem for children involved with the Child Welfare System. She has worked as a McLean County Assistant State’s Attorney, McLean County Assistant Public Defender and in private practice. She is currently the only attorney actively involved in our Child Welfare System with experience as an Assistant State’s Attorney Juvenile Division in both Abuse/Neglect and Delinquency Courts, Assistant Public Defender Juvenile Division in both Abuse/Neglect and Delinquency Courts, and Guardian Ad Litem in Abuse/Neglect and Dependency cases. As an attorney in private practice, she represented parents, foster parents and grandparents.

Judy Kilbride Donze, Moderator

Judy Kilbride Donze retired in June 2014 following a 37 year career working in public education in the Pontiac Elementary School District. She taught special education and 3rd grade for 21 years. For 7 years she served as principal at Washington Elementary School grades K-5 and for 9 years she served as Principal at Pontiac Junior High School grades 6th-8th. Following retirement, Judy completed training through AdvancEd and has served as an External Reviewer for AdvancEd. She completed an interim principal position in spring of 2015 at a K-8 school. Judy served on the Institute for Human Resources Board for 4 years and the Livingston County Children’s Advocacy Center Board for 20 years. She was a member of the Child Protection Network Board for 5 years and served as secretary for 3 years.