

February 16th, 2018 held at the Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ

Hosted By

ABILITY360



AzCAAR



Conference Recap and AzCAAR Highlights



The 2018 conference featured speakers, disability subject matter experts, advocates, academics, and professionals from the state of Arizona and across the country.

The conference held 24 workshops and featured over 30 exhibitors

Welcoming Remarks: J.J. Rico, Executive Director, Arizona Center for Disability Law

Opening Remarks: Connie Robinson, Chair, AzCAAR and Roy Dawson, Executive Director, AzCAAR

Key Note Speaker: Adrian Fontes, Maricopa County Recorder, Arizona

Guest Speaker: Reginald Bolding, Arizona State Representative, Legislative District 27

Special Speaker: Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, (Washington, D.C.)

Appointed by President Obama



Keynote Speaker: Adrian Fontes, Maricopa County Recorder, comments on all things voting and election related in Maricopa County. He challenged attendees to encourage their family, friends and colleagues who are not register to vote to do so.



Guest Speaker: Reginald Bolding, Arizona State Representative, District 27, spoke on the need to become informed and aware of legislation being proposed and passed at the state level, with an emphasis on how it impacts persons with disabilities.





Special Speaker: Thomas Hicks, Commission & Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, appointed by President Obama, flew in from Washington, D.C. to discuss the latest events from a national perspective regarding elections and voting.



AzCAAR at the Conference

As a co-host of the conference, AzCAAR assisted with conference development with Ability360 and the Arizona Center for Disability Law, gave the opening remarks and held 4 workshops pertaining to African American children on the topics of child welfare, education, health care, and juvenile justice.





Connie Robinson, Chair, AzCAAR, and Roy Dawson, Executive Director, AzCAAR, give their opening remarks and discussed the mission and vision of AzCAAR to improve the lives of America Americans in Arizona.





Child Welfare workshop panelists, Anika Robinson, Kris Jacober, Leslie Reprogle, and May Mgbolu address a full workshop on the foster care system and its disproportionate impact on African American children.





- Dr. Carlian Dawson, AzCAAR Board Member, addresses the workshop on early education issues facing African American children in Arizona.
- Health Care panelists, Yomaira Diaz-Castillo, Ilce Alexander, Katherine Levandowsky, Dr. Monica Ennis, and Patricia Neff discuss sudden unexpected infant death (SUID).



Roy Dawson, Executive Director, AzCAAR, explains disproportionality in the juvenile justice system for African American youth in Arizona before the panelists discuss their challenges and opportunities.



AzCAAR Workshop Panelists

Child Welfare Panelists

- Kris Jacober, Executive Director, Arizona Friends of Foster Children and Families
- May Mgbolu, Policy Advocate, Children's Action Alliance
- Leslie Reprogle, Executive Director, Agape Adoption Agency
- Anika Robinson, Foster Care Liaison, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)

Education Panelists

- Sandra Chase, MSW, Director Master's Social Work Internship Program, Children's Institute (Los Angeles, CA)
- Rev. Steve Cossey, Sr. Pastor, Total Faith Community Church (Rockford, IL)
- Dr. Darlene Little, Executive Director, Tanner Community Development Corporation
- Anabel Maldenado, Community Organizer, Demand2Learn Campaign, ACLU Arizona
- Janelle Wood, Founder, Black Mother's Forum



AzCAAR Workshop Panelists

Health Care Panelists

- Ilce Alexander, Injury Prevention Program Manager, Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Yomaira Diaz-Castillo, Injury Prevention Specialist, Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Dr. Monica Ennis, Arizona Black Nurses Association
- Katharine Levandowsky, Chief, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, AZ Dept. of Health Services
- Patricia Neff, Ed.D., Director of Education, Pilgrim Rest Foundation

Juvenile Justice Panelists

- Rafael Batain, Community Member, Tucson IF Project, Pima County JDAI Team
- Shiela Kembel, Pima County JDAI Coordinator, Pima County JDAI Team
- Tara Laurie, Founder & CEO, Youth World Education Project
- Angie Lopez, Detention Specialist/JDAI Coordinator, Arizona Supreme Court
- Lance Meeks, Goodwill Metro Program Manager, Pima County JDAI Team
- Jenn Ortiz, JDAI State Coordinator, Arizona Supreme Court



Conference Workshops Morning Session

- Child Welfare in Arizona
- Phoenix Police Department: Engagement and Outreach, Part I
- Best Practices in School Intervention for Children with Medical, Behavior and Academic Needs
- Advocating and Self-Advocacy for Voting Rights
- Lupus: Deciphering the Clues
- Success in Medicaid Appeals
- Education in Arizona: Improving the Education for African American Children
- Phoenix Police Department: Engagement and Outreach, Part II
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: understanding and Navigating Supports and Services
- The Health of Mental Health: Access Authority & Protecting Individuals from Abuse & Neglect
- Protections for HIV Positive Individuals under the American's with Disabilities Act
- Enforcing Early Intervention and Educational Rights: Birth to 22 years old



Conference Workshops Afternoon Session

- Health Care: Infant Mortality
- Employment Initiatives in Arizona: Promoting Competitive, Integrated Employment for All
- Socio-Economic Determinants and Disparities in Autism Treatment for African Americans
- FDIC Money Smart: Financial Recovery Education
- In Our Own Voice: Living with Mental Illness
- Legal Update: Employment Protections under the American's with Disabilities for People Living with Sickle Cell,
 Autism, HIV, and Lupus
- Juvenile Justice: the injustice of Disproportionality
- Youthful Tips for Successful Transition to Adulthood
- I Didn't Know I Could Ask For That: Strategies for Building an Effective IEP/504 Plan
- Alzheimer's and Dementia: What You Need to Know
- Powers of Attorney for Adults with Behavioral Health Diagnoses
- Enforcing the Rights of Clients with Disabilities Who Have Been Denied Accessible Medical Care



For more information about the work of AzCAAR or to make a donation please visit our website:

www.azcaar.org