

June 2019 Speaker Information

Dr. Tina Payne Bryson is the co-author (with Dan Siegel) of **THE YES BRAIN** (Random House, 2018), as well as two New York Times bestsellers -- **THE WHOLE-BRAIN CHILD** (Random House Delacorte, 2011), and **NO-DRAMA DISCIPLINE** (Random House Bantam, 2014) -- each of which has been translated into over thirty languages. She is a psychotherapist and the Founder/Executive Director of [The Center for Connection](#) and [The Play Strong Institute](#) in Pasadena, California, where she offers parenting consultations and provides therapy to children and adolescents.

Dr. Bryson keynotes conferences and conducts workshops for kids, parents, educators, and clinicians all over the world, and she has written for numerous publications, for example [mom.me](#), [SkillForKids](#) and [the PBS series "This Emotional Life."](#) She has also co-hosted a web-based parenting show and makes frequent media appearances at venues like TIME, "Good Morning America," Huffington Post, Redbook, The New York Times, and Real Simple. She is the Child Development Specialist at Saint Mark's School in Altadena, the Director of Parenting Education at the Mindsight Institute, the Director for Child Development for Camp Chippewa in Cass Lake, Minnesota, and the Child Development Director for Lantern Camps. Tina earned her LCSW and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, where her research explored attachment science, childrearing theory, and the emerging field of interpersonal neurobiology.

Tina emphasizes that before she's a parenting educator, or a researcher, she's a mom. She limits her clinical practice and speaking engagements so that she can spend time with her family. Alongside her husband, parenting her three boys is what makes her happiest: "They're my heart. Their personalities make life so much fun. They've also made my research very personal, helping bring together the different roles I play in my life, where I'm part-time educator/researcher, and full-time Little-League-mom/super-Jedi-spy-with-laser-powers. As I've studied attachment and childrearing theory and the science of how brains work, I've been able to apply that knowledge and let it help me parent more the way I want: lovingly, intentionally, and effectively."

Tina's professional life now focuses on taking research and theory from various fields of science, and offering it in a way that's clear, realistic, humorous, and immediately helpful. As she puts it, "For parents, clinicians, and teachers, learning about how kids' (and their own) brains work is surprisingly practical, informing how they approach discipline, how they help kids deal with everyday struggles, and ultimately how they connect with the children they care about."

Dr. Briscoe-Smith earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard University. She then received her clinical psychology Ph.D. from University of California Berkeley. She then went on to continue her specialization in trauma and ethnic minority mental health through internship and postdoctoral work at University of California San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital. She has combined her love of teaching and advocacy by serving as a professor and by directing mental health programs for children experiencing trauma, homelessness or foster care. Much of her work has been with schools, as a clinician, consultant and trainer. Currently she is a professor at the Wright Institute in Berkeley California and she provides consultation and training to bay area non profits and schools on how to support trauma informed practices and cultural accountability.

Chris Foreman, MSSW, became a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) in 2009 when she was selected as one of the five sites in the US to pilot *Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma; A Workshop for Resource Parents* curriculum. She has since gone on to develop Trauma Informed Parenting training and implementation coaching for agencies across the United States.

Chris is currently a Liaison for the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS) co-located at UCLA and Duke Universities. Her job duties include consultation, resource brokering, facilitating collaborative connections, and technical assistance to a complex network of NCTSN organizational members and consumers of NCTSN resources. Chris remains an active trainer for trauma-sensitive schools, a coach in systems change processes and an adjunct lecturer in trauma-informed evidence-based practices.

Sonni Vierling is the Vice President of Orchard Place PACE Center, joining the organization in 2013. Sonni has over 25 years experience in public health and human services. Prior to Orchard Place, she was the Iowa ACEs 360 Coordinator and worked at the Iowa Department of Public Health where she ran statewide programs ranging from improving early childhood assessments in medical practice settings to increasing access to healthcare coverage for low income children. At a local level, Sonni worked directly with children and families as a community-based provider in homes and school settings.

She has a BA in Psychology at Grinnell College and an MA at the University of Iowa in Education and Women's Studies.