

*Advocacy Activists, Inc.*



CHILD WELFARE  
**KNOW YOUR  
RIGHTS FORUM**

**A conversation about the rights of children and their families.  
This forum will focus on all the individuals involved with the nuclear family  
and the upbringing of the child.**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025 | 6-8 P.M. ET | ONLINE**

"I expect to pass through this world but once.

Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now.

Let me not defer nor neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

Etienne de Grellet

## Words of Wisdom

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

**This forum may contain legal information. However, the discussions or statements made should NOT be considered as legal advice. Advocacy Activists is a family advocacy support group that assists families that are going through the family, dependency, and juvenile court systems. We are not attorneys, and we clearly encourage all participants to seek legal counsel when and wherever necessary.**

**Disclaimer**

# Guest Presenters



Natalece Washington, JD, CWLS  
Policy Counsel  
National Association of Counsel for  
Children (NACC)  
Atlanta, GA



**Roberto Benavides Wong**  
Legal Services Coordinator  
Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc.  
(FLIC)  
Miami, FL



**Aubrey Edwards-Luce, Esq., MSW (She/Her)**  
Executive Director  
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families,  
Children and Courts (CFCC) at the University of  
Baltimore, School of Law  
Baltimore, MD





Nuclear Family



Extended Family

Natalece Washington, JD, CWLS, joined Team NACC in January 2021 as Policy Counsel where she leads the Counsel for Kids Campaign at the state level.

The campaign influences and drives policy change to ensure legal representation for all children experiencing foster care.

Prior to joining NACC, Natalece had 10 years of child welfare experience exemplifying her commitment to improved outcomes for dependent children. Natalece served as Policy Administrator with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, Director of Operations for Fulton County CASA, Inc., and Senior Child Advocate Attorney at the DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center.

Natalece has been certified by NACC as a Child Welfare Law Specialist since 2015.



# Child Welfare Governmental Hierarchy

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
(federal)

Children's Bureau's Office of the  
Administration for Children & Families  
(federal division)

Department of Children & Families  
(state – Florida)

Care Agencies at the local level  
(Example: ChildNet, Lutheran Services)



FAILING FLORIDA'S CHILDREN

# FOSTER SHOCK

A FILM BY MISS MARI.





# Foster Shock Trailer

Documentary  
67 mins  
2016



Roberto Benavides Wong has been advocating for immigrant rights for the last 10 years. Since the defeat of the Dream Act in the Senate in 2010, he has participated in state campaigns such as Instate Tuition for Undocumented Students, and national campaigns like DACA and DAPA, always fighting for relief and protection for his immigrant community. Since Roberto started working at FLIC in 2017, he has served as the Citizenship Coordinator as well as Quality Control Manager for the Civic Engagement team. Now as the Legal Services Coordinator, Roberto continues to push FLIC's theory of change by helping immigrants access quality pro bono legal aid.. Hailing from Lima, Peru, he continues to pursue his dream of becoming a Mechanical Engineer, acknowledging and honoring the sacrifices his loved ones have made to provide him with the opportunity.



# Child Protection

## Key Federal Laws and Initiatives

- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 1974/2010
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978
- Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997
- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
- Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018





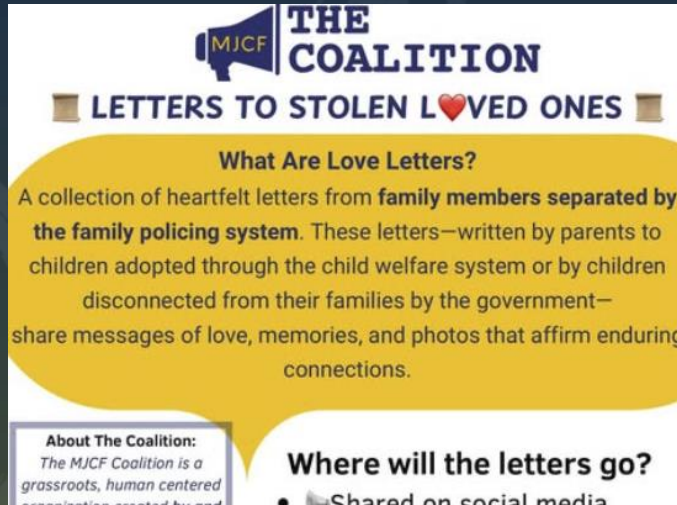
Aubrey Edwards-Luce, Esq., MSW is the Executive Director of the Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and Courts (CFCC). She is a passionate advocate for children, youth, and families, dedicated to co-creating liberating solutions with those most affected by social and legal systems.

Aubrey is a social worker turned lawyer who has over 15 years of experience working with children and families who were already in or were at-risk of entering court systems. She has worked in an informal juvenile court supervision program, a restorative justice-based youth neighborhood accountability program, a victim's services office, and as a guardian ad litem attorney for children in abuse and neglect cases.

Before joining CFCC, she was the Vice President of Child Welfare and Youth Justice at First Focus on Children. Throughout her career, Aubrey has observed the profound impact family courts have on the lives of children, motivating her to ensure that families have the resources necessary to avoid unnecessary court involvement. Aubrey founded the Child Welfare and Race Equity (CWARE) Collaborative in 2020. This coalition gathers advocates with federal policy expertise and those with lived expertise to radically transform the child welfare system and create anti-racist policies and systems that support children and families to thrive in their homes and communities.

Aubrey lives in Prince George's County, Maryland with her husband, elementary school-aged daughter, young adult goddaughter and two cats on land that is the unceded territory of the Piscataway tribe. She has lived experience as a hidden foster care caregiver.

# Take an Action



Send a Love Letter with  
The Coalition

[www.mjcfcoalition.com](http://www.mjcfcoalition.com)



Join the support group

Write to us at  
[info@advocacyactivists.org](mailto:info@advocacyactivists.org)



May 11, 2025  
Washington, DC

Register:  
[www.blackmothersmarch.com](http://www.blackmothersmarch.com)



# Thanks to our collaborators



Karina Ramírez  
KR Website Design & Creations  
[linkedin.com/in/karinaramirez](https://www.linkedin.com/in/karinaramirez)



Lolita Allen RN, BSN, CCM  
Program Intake  
Coordinator  
& Forum Researcher



# Thank you for participating

## Sign Our Petition on Change.org

<https://www.change.org/p/florida-state-senate-defund-child-welfare-dependency-and-family-courts-destruction-of-families>

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