

SPEAKER BIOS

Shannon Crossbear:

Shannon CrossBear articulates her purpose as: To demonstrate and promote gentle healing. She expresses her commitment to healing through her work in the world. Her own community and family history propelled her to develop leadership in order to address disparities that have led to poor outcomes for friends and relatives. Shannon's work has included facilitating and consulting with the National Indian Child Welfare Association, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Georgetown University, The National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the Surgeon Generals Conference on Children's Mental Health. She has worked with tribal and non-tribal communities in providing technical assistance to Systems of Care and Circles of Care utilizing traditional interventions and the promotion of culturally congruent and trauma informed practices. Shannon has worked in communities throughout the contiguous United States and Alaska, as well as within Canada, to address systemic change for improved outcomes for children and their families. Ms. Crossbear has facilitated and supported practices and services that include the provision of culturally cemented early childhood, parenting programs, supports for transition age youth and young adults and families with mental health and substance abuse issue. Ms. CrossBear is skilled in trauma informed community engagement. She has worked with supporting organized stakeholder voice and representation at local and national levels through various behavioral health initiatives.

Marisol Acosta, MEd, LPC-S:

Marisol is the Director of Clinical Services at Any Baby Can in Austin, Texas where she oversees the Family Health Programs, including counseling services and medical case management for children and youth with special health care needs. Marisol served as the former Texas' Children Mental Health Director and Manager of Child and Adolescent Services for the Behavioral Health Services at HHSC and oversaw children mental health services, residential treatment services, suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention services. Marisol contributed to the redesign of children community mental health programs and the Texas Resilience and Recovery service delivery system, including co-authoring the three version of the Texas CANS. From 2011-2019, she was the Trauma subject matter expert for the state of Texas implementing trauma informed care policies, evidence-based practices and systems change impacting behavioral health, child welfare, disaster behavioral health, schools and Tribal nations in Texas. Marisol is a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and holds a Bachelors degree from the University of Puerto Rico, a Master's degree in Counseling from the University of Houston and a Graduate Certificate from Harvard University and the Italy Ministry of Health on Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. She is a member of the NCTSN Steering Committee, the NCTSN Advisory Group and a CCCT Trainer and Facilitator. She has won several state and national awards, including the 2018 Public Service Award granted by the federal government for her leadership in the Landscape Assessment joint forces effort between multiple federal and state agencies assessing the immediate impact of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board of La Red Por los Derechos de la Niñez de Puerto Rico. She is the Co-Founder of Expertus Solutions, LLC that provides training and consulting services focused on enhancing quality of care and competency through the use and implementation of best practices and trauma-informed care. She is a state and national speaker and trainer on matters of trauma, trauma informed care transformation, unaccompanied minors, and children mental health.

Kenneth Rogers, Jr.:

Kenneth Rogers is an author, activist, innovator, speaker, and educator who uses comic book superheroes and villains to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse heal from their childhood trauma and understand their coping mechanisms through psychology and theories behind the different cognitive behavior therapies. Some of his titles include Heroes Villains and Healing, How to Master Your Inner Superman, How to Save Your Inner Wonder Woman, and How to Slow Your Inner Flash. As a male survivor of childhood sexual abuse, Kenneth does speaking engagement through the Rape Incest National Network (RAINN). Kenneth currently lives and teaches in Baltimore, MD.

Website: www.lostimaginations.com

Etsy: https://www.etsy.com/shop/LostByRogers?ref=search_shop_redirect

Gwendolyn Downing, LPC:

Gwen (she/hers) is a leader, advocate, developer, and trainer. She is the Originator and Director of the Connect All initiative. She was the former Manager of Hope and Resilience for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; former member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Steering Committee; recently co-author of the Oklahoma Crisis Line handbook for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, and Trafficking Advocacy; official UNA-USA representative at the 66th Commission on the Status of Women.



SHANNON CROSSBEAR

National Facilitator for
Change and Healing



MARISOL ACOSTA

Director of Clinical Services
Any Baby Can



KENNETH ROGERS, JR.

Educator, Author, Artist
Speaker, Advocate



GWENDOLYN DOWNING

Originator and Director
of Connect All

www.ConnectAll.online