

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Fourth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Justice Council
Common Ground: Community, Kids, Courts & Education
November 16, 2021, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Castle Ridge Conference Center
Centralia, Illinois

Father Gregory Boyle

Father Gregory Boyle was born in Los Angeles and is one of eight children. He entered the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1972 and was ordained a priest in 1984. He received his BA in English from Gonzaga University, an MA in English from Loyola Marymount University and advanced theology degrees from The Weston School of Theology and the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley. He has taught at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, was chaplain in the Islas Marias Penal Colony in Mexico and at Folsom prison, and worked with Christian Base Communities in Cochabamba, Bolivia. He was appointed pastor of Dolores Mission Church in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1986 where he served through 1992. Homeboy Industries was born in 1988 and is now the largest gang intervention, rehab and re-entry program in the United States.

Erica Hughes

Erica Hughes works for the Illinois Department of Human Services as the Program Administrator for Redeploy Illinois, where she ensures Redeploy sites have the tools and resources necessary to run effective programs. Prior to her work at IDHS, she worked as a researcher for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for 18 years. She has experience in statistical analysis of justice-related data and has done extensive research in juvenile justice, domestic violence, and sexual assault on college campuses.

Sherri Luttrell

Sherri Luttrell is a licensed and certified Speech-Language Pathologist with 40 years of experience and an expert in Autism Spectrum Disorders. She is a presenter at local and state conferences and workshops regarding autism spectrum disorders and behavior modification. She enjoys developing and implementing curriculum and community outreach programming to include the Social and Life Skills Courses and Face to Face: A Social Club for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome. She is a regular instructor for the St. Clair County Sheriff's Academy. She is deeply committed to delivering quality care and achieving superior client outcomes.

Jonathan Masters

Jonathan Masters is an author, consultant, behavior interventionist and special educator who works with incarcerated youth. After twelve years of teaching, including two alternative schools, a mental hospital and two prison settings, Jonathan has published a pair of books chronicling his experiences with lost and broken youth. [The Throwaway Kids](#) and [Maggie Rose](#) are great resources to better understand troubled youth. Jonathan is available for speaking, training and consulting.

Jeff Morris

Jeff Morris was a high school math teacher and principal for twenty years in southern Illinois and St. Louis. He is also a suicide attempt survivor. For the last decade he has been speaking in schools and other organizations teaching how to prevent suicide.

Ericka Sanders

Judge Ericka Sanders is an Associate Judge from Marion County, Illinois, appointed in 2010. Sanders presides over the abuse and neglect, delinquency and truancy cases in Marion and Clinton Counties and leads the Student and Family Education Court, a truancy diversion project based upon the drug court model, at the Centralia Junior High in Centralia, Illinois. She serves as the chair of the Fourth Circuit's Juvenile Justice Council and is a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee for Juvenile Court.

Colleen Sheehan

Judge Colleen F. Sheehan was elected Cook County Circuit Court Judge in 2000. Currently, she is dually assigned to the Juvenile Justice and First Municipal Divisions in Chicago. She also serves on the Illinois Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and is a Board member of the Illinois Judicial College. She is passionate about restorative justice and has been instrumental in several restorative justice projects including the new Restorative Justice Community Court in Cook County, which opened in 2017.

Chas Swearingen

Chas has a MA in Clinical Psychology from University of Illinois at Springfield and numerous years of experience working with children in the mental health field, including the last seven specializing with children in crisis. With Lincoln Prairie, he runs an LGBTQ group at a hospital which includes members from the Springfield PFLAG chapter. Having grown up in a tiny Illinois town, his passion is bringing education and resources to rural communities in Illinois. Chas is a father, husband, IL Master Gardener and the parent to an 11-week-old Labrador puppy.