



Brief Overview of Presenters

Gretta Gardner, Esq., is the Deputy Director for the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Ujima, Inc.: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, a project of the Coalition. Ms. Gardner's career as a legal advisor for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault was inspired by her early work as a prosecutor in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. She has worked for two decades to help shape guidelines, policies, and procedures that communities can use to end intimate partner violence and best practices for prevention and intervention in the Black community.

Cherrise Picard has been advocating for 18 years. She assisted in the coordination and implementation of Chez Hope Emergency Shelter opening in 2007. In 2015 she became The Executive Director for Chez Hope Inc. She is recognized as an Expert witness for the 16th JDC and Chitimacha Tribal Court. Cherrise Picard is a certified Batterer's Intervention Facilitator as well as a certified Safe Visitation Monitor. She is an Official certified STAR (Small Town and Rural Training) Instructor. In 2015 she coordinated and implemented the opening of KKIDSS (Keeping Kids in Domestic Situations Safe) in St. Mary Parish and currently in Iberia Parish as well. In 2017, she coordinated and implemented the opening of three outreach offices in Assumption, Iberia, and St. Martin Parishes.

Rachel Valentine is Executive Director of the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, a rural/suburban stand-alone sexual violence services agency with a vision of a world free of sexual violence and all other forms of oppression. Rachel has 15 years of experience in the anti-sexual violence field, primarily as a preventionist. Rachel grew up in the drizzly splendor of the Pacific Northwest and moved to the South in 2004 for undergraduate studies at UNC-Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain Scholar.

Futures Without Violence

Tien Ung, PhD, Program Director, Impact & Learning helps individuals and organizations translate and apply relevant research, build knowledge, and generate culturally authentic evidence to improve outcomes for families impacted by adversity and trauma. At FUTURES she collaborates with colleagues and external partners to design practice, program, and policy solutions by integrating community wisdom, lived experience, and 21st century science. Tien draws from 25+ years of experience as a child protection expert, trauma therapist, social work educator, community-based researcher, and systems consultant. She has worked across sectors—including child welfare, criminal justice/family law, schools, rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and child and family trauma clinics. Prior to joining FUTURES, Tien was Director of Leadership Initiatives & Programs at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. Tien is a licensed clinical social worker and has a PhD in Social Work.

Jennifer L. White, JD, is the Program Director for Curriculum Development & Program Design at FUTURES. She manages the Institute for Leadership in Education Development (I-LED) and the Supporting Organizational Sustainability to Address Violence Against Women Institute (SOS). In addition, she provides technical assistance and training on instructional design and facilitation skills for various projects within FUTURES and for outside organizations. Jennifer has been an educator in the field of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking since 2002. Prior to joining FUTURES, she worked with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the Washington, D.C. office of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.