

The 29th Annual

CHILDREN'S LAW INSTITUTE

2022 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

FINDING OUR RHYTHM

January 12-14, 2022



Final Report: Executive Summary

March 2022

NM Court Improvement Project

Prepared by the NMSU Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing,
New Mexico State University, Department of Extension Family & Consumer Sciences



CENTER OF
INNOVATION
For Behavioral Health and Wellbeing

A Program of the New Mexico State University
Cooperative Extension Service, Extension Family
& Consumer Sciences Department



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Introduction

The 29th Annual New Mexico Children’s Law Institute (CLI) was held virtually from Wednesday, January 12th through Friday, January 14th, 2022. For twenty-nine years, the Children’s Law Institute has focused on new and emerging trends and best practices in ever changing child welfare and juvenile justice environments. Through the CLI, the child welfare and juvenile justice communities have successfully advocated for blending systems and preserving connections. Together the CLI community has learned the importance of a trauma-informed approach, acquired skills for enhancing practice, and deepened its service to children and youth by focusing on empathy and compassion.

This year’s conference included 44 unique workshops that provided attendees an opportunity to cultivate awareness, empathy, and enthusiasm as we find our rhythm in the collective process of transforming child welfare and juvenile justice to truly benefit those we serve. The conference encouraged all providers to find their rhythm, join the chorus, lending their hearts, minds, and voices to the call for a collaborative approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the community. The conference planning committee made the decision to hold the conference virtually and utilize the web-based version of the Attendee Hub event app to assist attendees in navigating the conference program and used Zoom as the online platform to host conference sessions. Overall attendees were satisfied with the ease of access to the virtual event.

The 2022 CLI offered four featured speaker presentations by Katie Biron, Lisa Kelly, Ruth White and Shrounda Selivanoff that covered Fostering Family Connections to Support Families Impacted by Child Welfare, Representation of Pregnant and Parenting Teens, Piecing Together the Federal and State Housing Policy Puzzle for Youth, and Elevating the Parent Voice and Influencing Policy to End Racialized Separations in Child Welfare. Other workshop topics included the importance of emotional regulation, the impact of generational trauma, innovative behavioral health interventions, child welfare hearing best practices, youth and family concerns, and updates on CYFD policies and procedures.

Opening keynote speaker, Jennifer Rodriguez, shared the power of excellent parenting and strong lifelong relationships as the most important intervention for children and youth in foster care and juvenile justice systems, and lessons learned from the Youth Law Center’s Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) about what is required to transform systems to prioritize relationships and love. The keynote speaker on day two, Jessica Pryce, emphasized the urgency of advocating for racial justice in the child welfare system and the importance of strategies for reducing biased decision making in order to keep families together. Closing keynote speakers, Jason Clarke & Lisa Smith, inspired attendees to think about how to connect new ideas, avoid reactionary problem-solving, and discover an inner confidence for sharing ideas for change with others. During the lunch break participants were invited to connect with other attendees and discuss common experiences during facilitated Community Conversations. During the afternoon breaks, participants had the opportunity to move and dance during facilitated “Zoomba” sessions. For a full list of session topics, descriptions and speakers visit the “Schedule” tab at the conference website, link provided on page 15.

The Children’s Law Institute is a multi-agency and organization collaboration, led by the Children’s Court Improvement Project of the NM Supreme Court. The annual conference was planned and coordinated by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts, the Center of Innovation for Behavioral Health and Wellbeing at New Mexico State University and the UNM Institute of Public Law, Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice. Major contributors to the planning process include the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department’s Divisions of Juvenile Justice, Protective Services, and Behavioral Health; the NM Family Advocacy Program and representatives of the court including contract attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and State and Tribal Judges. Major financial sponsorship of the 2022 CLI was from the NM Supreme Court, The Children’s Justice Act Advisory Group and the New Mexico State Bar, Children’s Law Section. For a complete list of financial sponsors for this year’s conference, see page 16.

2022 Conference Attendance

This year, **1,116** participants registered for the conference with **1,029** in attendance. The breakdown of persons registering and attending, as well as those responding to the evaluation survey follows.

2022 Registration

Registration by category:

Total Registered: 1,116

Registration Breakdown by Payment Category:

Judge: 40

Attorney: 119

Professional: 788

Volunteer/Foster Parents: 86

Youth: 19

Presenters Only: 64

Other Registration Information:

Total Participating Presenters: 144

CLI Scholarships: 20

CLI Volunteers: 2

Registration by Position (self-report):

Registrants were asked to select up the Job Role that best described them, responses below will total more than the **1,116** total registrants.

CASA (Staff & Volunteer) - 88	CYFD – PS Children's Court Attorney - 35	Parent/Family Member - 2	Substitute Care Advisory Council (Staff and Volunteers) - 14
Contract Attorney (GAL, YA, RA) - 100	Educator - 6	Public Defender - 6	Therapist/Counselor/Social Worker - 44
CYFD Administrator - 14	Family Peer Support Worker - 25	School Social Worker - 41	Tribal Court Judge - 7
CYFD-Early Childhood Staff - 13	Foster Parent/Adoptive Parent - 11	Service Provider - 61	Wraparound Facilitator - 9
CYFD-Behavioral Health Services - 60	Law Enforcement - 3	State of NM Judge - 28	Youth -8
CYFD-Juvenile Justice Staff/Juvenile Probation Officer - 40	Medical: MD/RN/Other - 1	Student - 7	Youth Support Life Skills Coach-4
CYFD-Protective Services Staff-291	Other-178		

Attendance breakdown by Conference Session:

The following is estimated attendance based on CLI staff headcount during the Zoom sessions.

Title	Presenters	Estimated Attendance
Opening Session, January 12th 8:10am – 9:40am		
Rhythm, Melody and Harmony of a New Song: Transforming to Relationship Based Systems	Jennifer Rodriguez, JD	932
Workshop Session One, January 12th 10:00am – 11:30am		
Excellent Parenting as a Systems Intervention - Youth Law Center	Facilitator: Carol Campbell Edwards, MSW, LCSW Panelists: Hon Judge Thomas Duplantier; Carleen Chisholm; Darlene Bell; Palmira Ramirez; Catherine Pavelski	184
Practice Self-Regulation (PS-R): Using Neuroscience to Address the Effects of ACEs in Youth	Scott J. Patterson, MA, LPCC, LADAC Elizabeth Hamilton, LCSW	241
Harmonizing for Crossover Youth: Orienting Ourselves to the Participants and Process (CCIC Part 1)	Reed Ridens Bette Fleishman Bridget McKinney Dennica Torres David Richter	89
Measuring Child and Youth Well-Being and Gauging Agency Performance: An Introduction to CYFD's Key Performance Indicators	Alberto Edeza, CYFD Sarah Meadows, CYFD Jeffrey Toliver, CYFD	97
Getting in Step: Implementing Child Welfare Hearing Best Practices	Adrea Korthase, JD; Camille Glanzmann, MSW; Judge Kim McGinnis; Judge John Romero	203
Giving ALL Youth a Chance: Representation of Pregnant and Parenting Teens	Featured Speaker: Lisa Kelly, JD	119
Workshop Session Two, January 12th 1:30pm - 3:00pm		
Elevating the Parent Voice and Influencing Policy to End Racialized Separations in Child Welfare	Featured Speaker: Shrounda Selivanoff, BAS	205
Addressing the Intersection of Immigration and Child Welfare	Andres Santiago, JD Megan Finno-Velasquez, PhD, LMSW	217
NMCAN: Why the History of the Child Welfare System Matters to Young People	Alyssa Davis, Youth Leader, NMCAN Kira Luna, Lorilynn Violanta, and Hope Alvarado	142
Children's Court Mediations On the New Mexico Perspective Part 1	Sandra Gallegos Josh Pando Panelists: Eleanor Bravo; Jessie Lawrence; Judith Swinney; Kay Ohmberger	107
Taking the Sting out of Testifying: Preparing your Client	Eleanor Wilkinson, JD Victoria Bleier, JD	87
Rhythm (Sovereign) Nation: ICWA in 2022	Adrea Korthase, JD Judge Catherine Begaye Stacie Oso ICWA Specialist Leah Lopez, LMSW Ysleta del Sur Social Service Coordinator Jenessa Garay ICWA Children's Court Attorney	147
Break 3:00pm-3:30pm: ZOOMBA	Jessica Sánchez Romero	103

Workshop Session Three, January 12 th 3:30pm – 5:00pm		
Basic and Best Practices in Ensuring Meaningful Family Time for Children in Care	Judge R. Michael Key Susan Webb Diana Rugh Johnson	86
Identification of Human Trafficking Survivors/Victims & A Multidisciplinary Approach to Service Provision	Deshawnda Chaparro, JD Maria Ceballos	225
Getting in Synch with Placements for Cross-over Youth (CCIC Part 2)	Reed Ridens Bette Fleishman Bridget McKenney Jenessa Garay Richard Gaczewski Robert Apodaca	61
Memory, Traumatic Memory and Taking an Accurate Trauma History	George Davis, MD	289
Legal Update	Tyler Benting, JD Kelly O'Neill, JD	112
Piecing Together the Federal and State Housing Policy Puzzle for Youth	Featured Speaker: Ruth White, MSA Panelists: Adaora Onuora, Pamela Bress, Betsy Farmer	67
Opening Session, January 12 th 8:00am – 9:30am		
Keeping Families Together and Fighting for Racial Justice through Bias-free Assessments, Trauma-Informed Strategies, and Policy Transformation	Jessica Pryce, PhD, MSW	906
Workshop Session Four, January 13 th 10:00am-11:30am		
Fostering Family Connections to Support Families Impacted by Child Welfare: Tips and Resources to Cultivate Connection	Featured Speaker: Katie Biron, BSN	171
Disability: You, Me, & Everyone	Alena Schaim	148
Fine Tuning our Knowledge of Youth Mental Health and Education Needs (CCIC part 3)	Reed Ridens Mariel Willow Dr. George Davis Special Master John Schoeppner Heather Hoechst	207
Attuned to the Rhythm! The Roots of Rhythm, Regulation, and Connection	Donna Lucero, MA, LPCC	185
Children's Court Mediations pt.2 - How to Work with Different Perspectives of Reality: Practical Strategies to Overcome Resistance	Nina Meierding, MS, JD	101
Appeals in Child Welfare Cases: Navigating Preliminary Processes in Parental Rights Appeals, Reasonable Efforts and Procedural Due Process during Covid-19	Nancy Simmons, JD Susan Baker, JD	119
Workshop Session Five, January 13 th 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm		
Finding Our Rhythm - The Status of Family Peer Support Services in New Mexico	Gay Finlayson, MA, CFPSW; Lynette Torivio, CFPSW; Amanda Gattis, CFPSW, Sherri Rhoten, CFPSW	86
Civil Rights Protections for Parents in Child Welfare Services and in Recovery	Nancy Young, PhD Carla Carter, JD	124
The Individualized Planning Process: In Tune with New Mexican Families	Facilitator: Rachael Stinson, MSW Freida Baker, MSW Cornelius Bird, BS	107
Confidentiality Under the Children's Code: New CYFD Policy for Information Sharing	Tara Ford, JD Bette Fleischman, JD Sara Crecca, JD	344
Emotional Regulation as a Tool for Transforming the Child Welfare Workforce	Frank Picone	217

Break 3:00pm-3:30pm: ZOOMBA	Jessica Sánchez Romero	67
Workshop Session Six, January 13th 3:00pm – 5:30 pm		
From Conflict to Co-Parenting: Changing Relationships Between Parents and Resource Parents	Leslie Jones, JD, CWLS Justin Hudson, Region 4 mediator; Panel: Clorisa Covington; Elizabeth Hollingsworth; Trina Jones; Rusti McConnell; Jill Michel; Catherine Pavelski	203
Childrens Court Mediations pt.3 - The Art of Effective Communication: Maximizing Listening, Customizing Questions, and Recognizing Cognitive Biases	Nina Meierding, MS, JD	82
Demystifying Direct Legal Representation for Children in Child Welfare Proceedings	Allison Green, JD, CWLS Rhonda Serrano, Esq., JD. Ivory Bennett	73
Families First Act in New Mexico	Milissa Soto, CYFD; Delphine Trujillo; Danielle Cossett	154
Minor Chords: The Reality of Youth Homelessness in Bernalillo County	Cathleen Willging Kim Zamarin	130
The Kevin S. Settlement – Finding Our Rhythm Two Years On	Eli Fresquez, JD, MA Jesslyn Friley, JD George Davis, MD Carrisa Tashito Bryce Pittenger, LPCC	237
Workshop Session Seven, January 14th 8:10am – 9:40am		
Interdisciplinary Practice – Providing Better, More Effective Representation to Parents	Catherine Pavelski- NMFAP Parent Mentor Kiley Forrest - NMFAP Social Worker Jake Vallejos- NMFAP Attorney Judge John Romero (Ret.) Corrie Griffith-NMFAP Program Manager Moderated by Twila Hoon-NMFAP Director	76
How Generational Trauma Shifts the Focus to the Family	Nicole Klasey, PsyD	358
The Practice and Benefits of Coaching for Child Welfare Professionals	Julie Donahue; Lindsey Davis; Ashley Anaya; Maurita Armijo; Armando Archuleta; Larry Lovato; Kathy Melendez	53
“Reintroducing” Functional Family Therapy: An Evolving Model with Systematic Adaptations, Using Real-time Evidence in Decision Making and Training	Thomas Sexton, PhD Marta Anderson, LCSW	179
Legal Update Repeat	Tyler Benting, JD Kelly O'Neill, JD	76
Fostering Connections Act in Action	Arika Sanchez, JD, MPA, Felicia Cater, Alison Endicott-Quinones, Lynn Perls, Judge Alma C Roberson, Krystal Goolsby, Farra Fong, and Eslella Swain	157
Closing Session, January 14th 10:00am-12:30pm		
Harmonizing Diverse Perspectives to Inspire Collaboration for Change	Jason Clarke & Lisa Smith	830

Overall Conference Evaluation Report

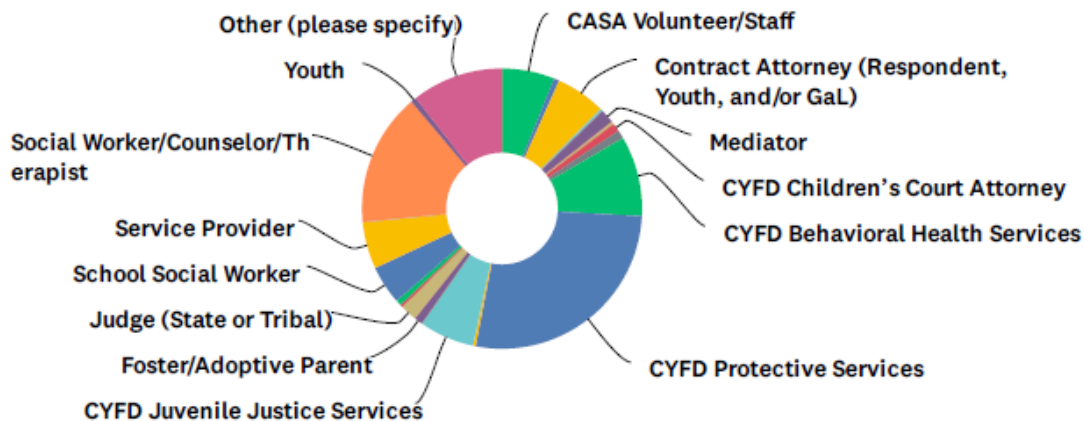
All attendees of the 2022 CLI Conference were sent an email with the online satisfaction survey on **January 14th, 2021**. The survey was available until **January 24, 2021**. Of the **1,116** participants at the conference, **314** responded to the survey. Participants were asked to identify what sessions they attended and answer a set of questions about each session each on a 5-point scale where 1 is low and 5 is high. Narrative feedback about each session was also collected. The responses about the general conference and overall feedback are summarized below. Responses about keynote and workshop sessions was provided to the individual presenters of those sessions and CLI planning committee members and may be provided to others upon special request.

Participant Satisfaction Survey Respondent Profile

Participants were asked to provide six ratings on four-point scale of the conference overall.

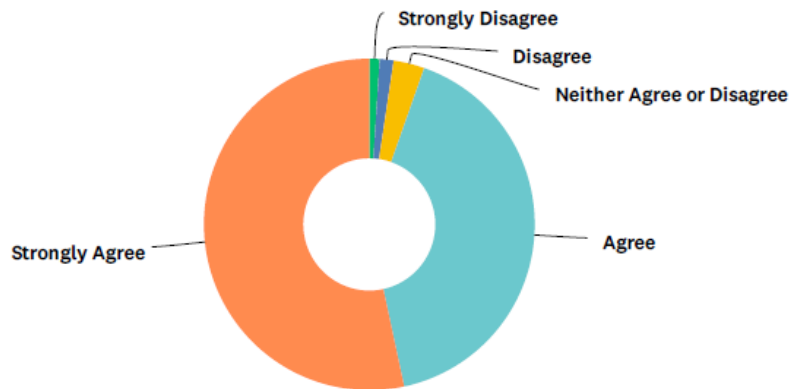
Q1 We would like to begin by asking you to select the category of participant that best fits you. Please select from the following:

Answered: 313 Skipped: 1



Q3 I learned new information that will inform my work with children, youth, and families.

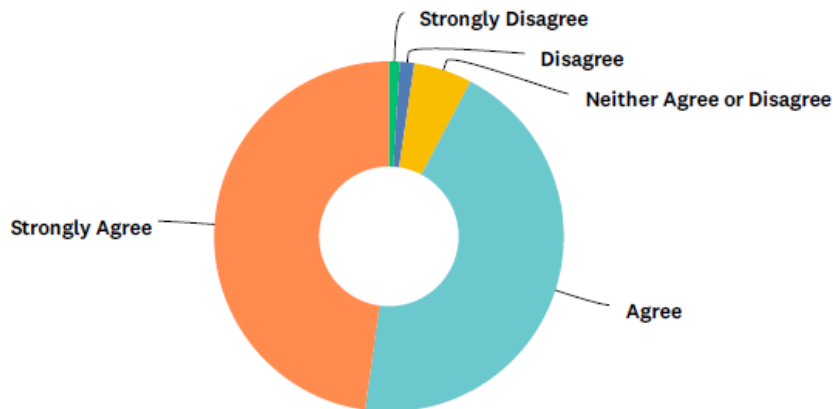
Answered: 296 Skipped: 18



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.01% 3	1.35% 4	3.04% 9	41.22% 122	53.38% 158	296	4.45

Q4 I learned new skills or gained new ideas that I will immediately apply to my work.

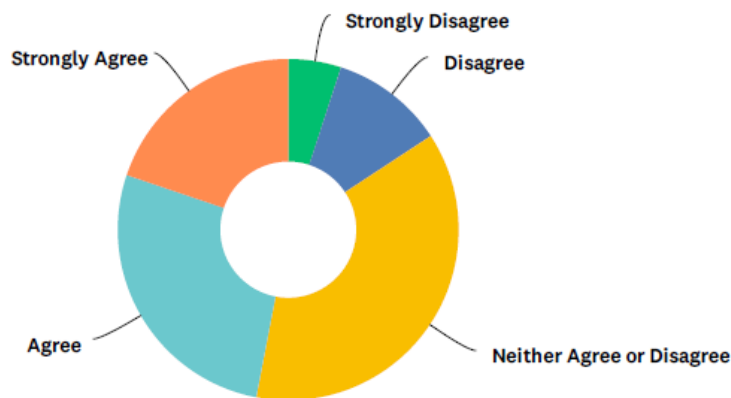
Answered: 297 Skipped: 17



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	1.01% 3	1.35% 4	5.39% 16	44.44% 132	47.81% 142	297	4.37

Q5 I met new people, or reconnected with people, with whom I can work collaboratively in the future.

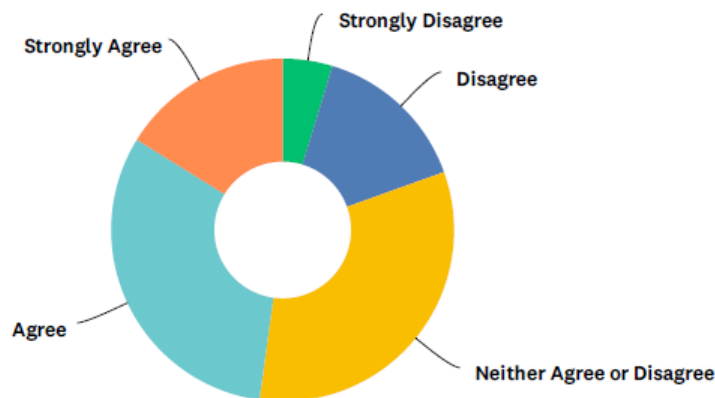
Answered: 298 Skipped: 16



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	5.03%	10.74%	37.25%	27.18%	19.80%	298	3.46
	15	32	111	81	59		

Q6 The conference allowed me to connect with colleagues I don't usually interact with.

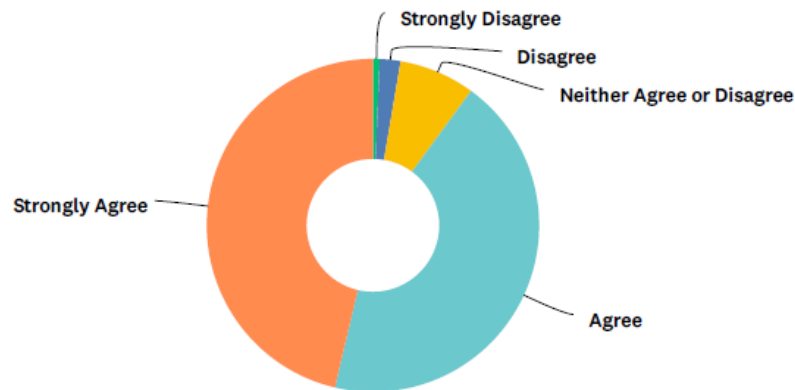
Answered: 297 Skipped: 17



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	4.71%	14.81%	32.66%	31.65%	16.16%	297	3.40
	14	44	97	94	48		

Q7 Overall, the CLI met my expectations.

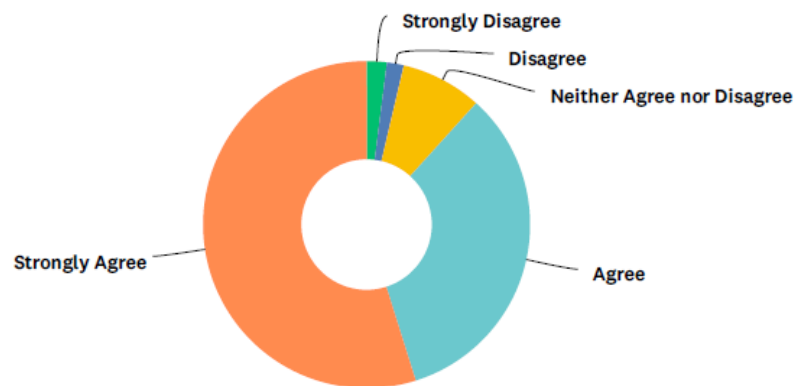
Answered: 298 Skipped: 16



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.67%	2.01%	7.38%	43.62%	46.31%	298	4.33
	2	6	22	130	138		

Q8 I would be interested in attending additional virtual trainings or conferences in the future were CLI to continue offering online opportunities.

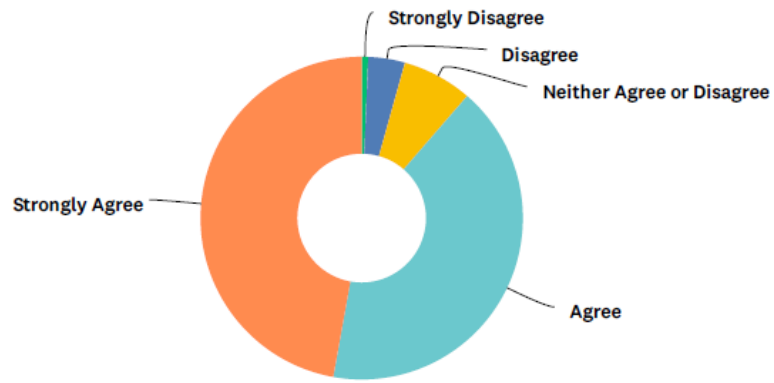
Answered: 299 Skipped: 15



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	2.01%	1.67%	8.03%	33.44%	54.85%	299	4.37
	6	5	24	100	164		

Q9 I found the digital conference interface easy to navigate

Answered: 299 Skipped: 15



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEITHER AGREE OR DISAGREE	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.67%	3.68%	7.02%	41.47%	47.16%	299	4.31
	2	11	21	124	141		

Overall Conference Narrative Feedback Summary

Overall Organization of the Event

Overall, most respondents felt positively about the organization and implementation of the conference. Many participants noted that the conference was highly informative, inspiring, and well planned. While participants missed the face to face interactions, they believed the virtual conference was a suitable alternative. The opening and closing sessions were greatly appreciated by many surveyed.

Some respondents suggested clearer written instructions be provided about registration, accessing sessions and handouts.

Speaker and Workshop Content

The majority of survey respondents had positive feedback about the quality, speaker and topic variety, and structuring of the workshop sessions. Many responses indicated that the presentations they attended were educational, relevant, and informative. Some suggestions for improvement included clearly labeling the skill level of the intended audience, and offering more advanced level workshops. Attendees appreciated dynamic workshops and some mentioned struggling with workshops that were primarily lecture based.

Technology

Participants had varying opinions about navigating the digital interface and ease of use of the Attendee Hub and Zoom apps. Many respondents expressed satisfaction with the platforms used and found them easy to navigate. Others appreciated that the digital conference eliminated travel time and expenses and felt that the digital environment allowed them to be more focused on the presentations as there were no audience or environmental distractions.

A few participants expressed that they had technical difficulties and found it challenging to have to continuously log in and out. Some respondents noted that while they understood the necessity of a digital conference this year, they missed the in-person interaction and networking opportunities existing in previous years.

Common Topic Suggestions for Future Conferences

- Fostering Connections
- Substance Abuse
- Meaningful Family Time for Children in Care
- Trauma Informed Care practices
- Youth Homelessness/Housing Resources
- ICWA's Active Efforts Requirement
- Youth with lived experience panel
- Support groups for families not just individual with addiction
- CPS Immigration Unit Outcomes
- Resource and Bio parent interaction and support
- Legal updates/changes to New Mexico law
- LGBTQ topics
- GAL/YA practical information
- Self-Care

2022 CLI Sponsors

Gold Level Sponsors

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Responsible Sex Education Institute @ Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Silver Level Sponsors

Advocacy Inc.

Families & Youth Innovations Plus

New Mexico Child First Network

New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence

New Mexico Family Advocacy Program

New Mexico Friends of Foster Care

Bronze Level Sponsors

New Day Youth & Family Services

[View the Detailed Conference Program Here:](#)

<https://cvent.me/d9BbkB>