

JBS INTERNATIONAL: MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF SUPPORTING CHILD WELFARE AND FAMILY WELL-BEING



Understanding child welfare systems and developing solutions...

To succeed, families need safety, stability, and a sense of well-being. They need tools to build their strengths and enable them to achieve a better future.

JBS International works with federal, state, and local governments and nonprofits to understand and assess the challenges and opportunities children, youth, parents, families, caregivers, and systems face. We develop evidence-based solutions, implement them, monitor and evaluate the outcomes, and disseminate related knowledge and information.

Strengthening child welfare systems on the ground...

Getting to a better future isn't about developing one or two new solutions. It's about understanding how every solution comes together to improve lives and to support child, parent, and family well-being—and that's what JBS has been doing for decades.

Read about some of our current projects, then get in touch to discuss how we can support your efforts to strengthen and enhance positive safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and youth, parents, and families.



JBS INTERNATIONAL
A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

Current Children's Bureau-funded Child Welfare Projects at JBS

The **Child Welfare Reviews Project** (CWRP) provides program and technical support for the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs). This includes recruiting, training, and managing a large pool of child welfare experts to support the reviews; training states to be full participants in the review process; and managing all logistics. Our staff support the Children's Bureau (CB) Central and Regional Offices in conducting the reviews and providing technical assistance (TA) to states. We developed and continue to maintain and enhance the CFSR Information Portal, a one-stop shop for information about the CFSRs, and the Online Monitoring System, available to all states for the CFSR processes as well as Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) reviews. We collect, manage, and analyze the data from the CFSRs. Our research analysts provide quantitative and qualitative analyses to further support the reviews.

The **Child Welfare Compliance Reviews Team** (CWCRT) provides program and technical support for the Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews (IV-E Reviews), the Title IV-E Foster Care Error Rate Study, and the National Youth in Transition Database Reviews (NYTD Reviews). This includes recruiting, training, and providing peer reviewers and young adult reviewers; planning and logistics; writing, editing, and revising official documents and materials; tracking; monitoring; and data collection and analysis. For the NYTD Reviews, we also provide onsite technical support for our reviewers and TA to the states to help them engage young people in their reviews who have received independent living services.

The **Building Evidence Training Project** (BET Project) develops curricula on practical strategies to support evidence building in child welfare, and evidence-informed processes for designing and implementing changes in child welfare practice. The curricula build on CB-funded tools and resources also designed to support evidence building in child welfare. The BET Project is broadening the reach and utility of these resources by making the content accessible and useful to students in schools of social work and state child welfare training academies across the country.

The **Center for Native Child and Family Resilience** (CNCFR) partners with Tribes and Tribal communities to identify and enhance culturally based programs designed to strengthen community and family resilience. Based in or initiated by the communities, these projects are designed

to prevent or intervene in child maltreatment, while using culturally engaged, community-based evaluation models to demonstrate the effectiveness of these efforts. The Center disseminates information to the field on Tribally created or Tribally adapted child welfare intervention programs.

Tribal Title IV-E Development projects support Tribes to build organizational capacity required for IV-E development, including programs, policies, procedures, tools, and forms. We draw on our deep experience with IV-E legislation and programs, so that we can help bridge the gaps between existing Tribal policies and programs and federal IV-E standards. We help Tribes with practice mapping, clarifying program structure and operations, workforce development and support, community engagement, and data and technology tools in addition to guiding them through the intricacies of IV-E.

Our Staff Have Worked at Every Level of Child Welfare

At JBS International, our deep bench of child welfare experts brings real-world knowledge of the challenges that face state and local agencies and the solutions that can improve services for children and families. Collectively, our child welfare experts have more than 20 decades of experience in child welfare in all areas, from frontline investigation and in-home services to high-level leadership, in addition to working with critical child welfare system partners including legal and judicial systems. Our experts bring their knowledge and experience to our clients, designing tailored solutions to respond to local challenges and providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) to improve service delivery.

In addition to staff, JBS maintains and supports a national pool of more than 250 child welfare experts. They have extensive experience in private and public child welfare agencies. JBS also engages youth aging out of foster care who serve as reviewers to improve the child welfare system.



JBS Staff With Extensive Child Welfare Experience

Angela Adams, JD, LMSW, Child Welfare Specialist for CWRP 40 years of experience in child welfare in the areas of child protective services, in-home services, foster care, adoption, child welfare law, and youth services • Evaluates state child welfare programs to improve child safety, permanency, and well-being • Consults on CQI and models for successful systems change • Provides TA to states to improve child welfare • Served in various leadership roles in the public child welfare agency in New Mexico and worked internationally to improve child welfare services

Pamela Baston, MPA, MCAP, CPP, Technical Expert Lead 40 years of experience in the prevention and treatment of behavioral health disorders • Currently leading a T/TA project with 160 American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Tribes affected by opioid and other substance use disorders (OUD/SUD), many including populations with Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) involvement • Led an innovative state T/TA project with Florida's child welfare system to identify and engage opioid-using parents and align treatment and family court strategies • Expert in evidence-based treatment practices for women and mothers with behavioral health disorders, including those affected by intimate partner violence, HIV/AIDS, and other risks

Maryellen Bearzi, MS, LMSW, Deputy Project Director for CWRP JBS Principal with 35 years of child welfare experience at the state and national levels • Provides support and TA on continuous quality improvement processes, implementation science, and adaptive leadership • Led efforts to develop recommendations for national performance compliance standards

Candace Charkow, Project Director for CWRP, Officer-in-Charge of CWCRT JBS Vice President with 35 years of experience in public child welfare services at the state and national levels • Directs all CWRP activities • Serves as corporate monitor for other JBS child welfare projects

Brenda Corsi, MSW, LCSW-C, Project Director for CWCRT JBS Principal with over 25 years of experience in child welfare at the state and national levels • Directs all program and technical support for IV-E Reviews and NYTD Reviews • Recruits, trains, and manages peer reviewers and young adult reviewers • Provides onsite technical support for consultants and TA to states • Provides oversight for the Title IV-E Foster Care Error Rate Study and reports

Karen Fenton-LeShore, PhD, Project Director for BET Project 15 years of child welfare experience • Develops curricula for current and future members of the child welfare workforce to participate actively and effectively in building evidence for what interventions work best for whom and in which circumstances • Previously served as program director for the Child Welfare Training Academy at the DC Child and Family Services Agency

Emily Fisher, MSW, Deputy Director for CNCFR 19 years of experience in child welfare with extensive knowledge in implementation and evaluation of evidence-informed practices in child welfare and mental health • Experienced writer, leader, researcher, caseworker, and provider of T/TA • Developer of products and online tools that help users plan for organizational change and implement evidence-supported innovations in child welfare

Christine Kiesel, JD, BS, Child Welfare Specialist for CWRP Over 26 years of experience in public and private child welfare law • Works to support court capacity-building efforts to promote legal and judicial integration into child welfare policy and priorities • Enhances the role of states' legal and judicial systems in federal monitoring processes to improve outcomes for children and families • Provides training to lawyers and judges nationally • Led state-level court systemic change efforts using data to drive reform in New York

Deborah Martinez, LMSW, Program Analyst/Customer Service Specialist for CWRP 30 years of experience in child welfare at the state and national levels • Provides TA and support to CFSR Information Portal users across the United States • Conducts research to identify and review promising practices in child welfare • Designed, implemented, coordinated, and managed capacity-building strategies for state public child welfare systems

Allison McDowell, MS, Child Welfare Specialist for CWRP 24 years of child welfare experience • Provides TA to states to improve child welfare • Evaluates state child welfare programs to improve child safety, permanency, and well-being • Consults on CQI and models for successful systems change • Participates in and facilitates numerous and varied systems change efforts centered on child welfare policy and practice, including educational outcomes, systems automation, data analysis, regulation development, creating process instruments, business needs development, and collecting and incorporating public feedback

Guadalupe Ortiz-Tovar, BS, NYTD Manager for CWCRT 15 years of experience in child welfare • Expertise in NYTD reviews • Expertise in program analysis, T/TA and curriculum development • Recruits, trains, and supports young adults who participate in the NYTD Reviews and state youth participants • Oversees planning and logistics for NYTD Reviews and provides onsite TA

Deborah Ramelmeier, LCSW-C, JD, Deputy Project Director for CWRP 31 years of state and national public child welfare experience • Manages planning and logistical support for the CFRs • Oversees reviewer and consultant management, including recruitment, training, and contracts • Supervises Data and Technology Team managing the development of complex federal review instruments and data collection and reporting applications, and providing widespread support to more than 5,000 state and federal government users • Designated expert witness in public child welfare policy and practice

Sonja Ulrich, DSW Candidate, MSW, Project Director for CNCFR 28 years of experience in child welfare and Tribal child welfare • Works with Tribes and Tribal communities to identify and enhance culturally based programs designed to strengthen community and family resilience and decrease child endangerment in Indian Country • Leads Tribal IV-E program development • Consultant Collaboration Specialist for the Child Welfare Capacity Building Center for Tribes • Former Project Director for the Children's Bureau Training and Technical Assistance Center

Joseph Walker, MA, BA, Indigenous Projects Program Lead for CNCFR 119 years of child welfare and Tribal child welfare experience • Member of the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma • Serves as Center lead for ensuring T/TA is provided in empowering and culturally informed ways that honor effective Tribal community and practice-based models of prevention • Plans and leads site visits with grantees • Advances prevention models in Indian Country • Develops and adapts tools and resources, such as organizational assessments, evaluation plans, theories of change, and workplans to build evidence

Contact us to learn more about how the **JBS team** of experts can help your agency address today's most urgent issues in the delivery of child welfare services.



MARYLAND
5515 Security Lane
Suite 800
North Bethesda, MD
20852

JBS INTERNATIONAL
A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY
www.jbsinternational.com

CALIFORNIA
155 Bovet Road
Suite 210
San Mateo, CA
94402



Contact Candace Charkow, Vice President, at CCharkow@jbsinternational.com
or 240-645-4128 (direct), 301-495-1080 (main)