

New York Public Welfare Association

**152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Conference**

***Rough Roads***

***Can Lead to***

***Great Destinations***

***Virtual Event***

**January 19-22, 2021**

# **Announcing the NYPWA**

## **152<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winter Conference**

### **Rough Roads Can Lead to Great Destinations**

**• Virtual Event • January 19-22, 2021 •**

#### **Opening Address**



Tara Linh Leaman is a listener, learner, unlearner and relearner, while speaking from her heart. As a transracial adoptee, who spent the first chapter of her life in international foster care, her voice conveys a powerful calling to share her experiences on transforming adversity into resiliency. Since May 2014, she has helped lead Westchester County's efforts to assist young people in foster care successfully transition to adulthood. Many of us know Tara's work to boost the Bravehearts, Inc., featured in past NYPWA programs, and the BraveLife Intervention, which are both youth-directed initiatives laser-focused on advancing equity through the lens of elevating youth voice and informed choice. Tara helped create our conference theme; and it is our goal that her keynote will inspire us all, knowing that Rough Roads can lead to Great Destinations.

#### **Life's Challenges and Lessons Learned in 2020**

"It's been a wild ride for everyone. A new camaraderie developed that has lasted through the challenges." These are the words of NYPWA President Kathryn Muller in speaking on a recent panel with other commissioners about the honor and privilege of being a leader during these times.

Helping people in need is what we do. We all have stories to share about how people have made it through life's challenges and found themselves in a better place. Often it is through the efforts of our local departments of social services and children and family services that make this possible. Here are a few lessons learned this past year that serve as a backdrop to our conference:

- Leadership is stewardship and guiding.
- Adversity can bring strength and resiliency.
- Strive to maintain optimism and to build hope.
- Recognize the light in other people.
- Transparency and sharing information are essential.
- The decisions made today are based on what we know today.
- When others know that we are doing our best, their trust grows.
- Have fun and allow natural levity to occur.
- People adapt and overcome challenges. Staff rise to the occasion.
- Deal with the circumstances you are given and find a way forward.
- Remind yourself that it is a great time to work in human services and that this is a tremendous opportunity.

## Looking Ahead

Winter Conference details and registration information will be distributed in early December. Please continue to reserve January 19-22, 2021. To accommodate more sessions and meetings virtually, we are considering whether or not to add more days and you will be the first to know if we do. In the meantime, the January 19-22 dates are definite.

Our state agency partners at DOH, OCFS, OTDA, ITS, local districts, and others have submitted presentations on timely and important topics, covering all program areas, including:

- Executive Budget Proposal
- State/Local Fiscal Topics
- Homelessness
- Technology & IES
- Temporary Assistance/Employment
- SNAP
- Medicaid Eligibility Update
- Long-Term Care Changes
- Child Support Policies
- Legal Track (CLEs)
- Family First
- Children's Services
- Child Care
- Adult Protective Services
- Implicit Bias
- Management
- Staff Development

### **NYPWA Staff**

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