

# SOCIAL SERVICE EXPERT NEWS

Committee for Public  
Counsel Services

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*Your place for SSE news, updates, training notices and more.*

Last year in the wake of George Floyd's death, we took the time to look at race and the justice system. In many ways it is easy to look outside of ourselves and see the impact of systemic racism on all aspects of the criminal justice system, but how did the system get so broken? Certainly, when we look back at the history of race in this country, it is not difficult to understand how we got to this point. The film "13<sup>th</sup>" on Netflix provides a good historical account of how being black in America became a criminal offense. In February 2022, Jeffery Robinson's "Who We Are: A Chronical of Race in America" will be released and further examines the history of race in this country. We had the opportunity to preview the movie and it is excellent. Here is the link to the webpage: <https://thewhoweareproject.org/the-film>

Identifying conscious and explicit bias and racism is easy. It is right there, and we know it when we see it. While new laws and initiatives seek to address the systemic racism in the child welfare and criminal justice systems, change will move slowly if we do not acknowledge and address the implicit biases we all hold. Educating ourselves and those in positions of power is essential to the work.

Kimberly Papillon, JD, a nationally recognized expert in the neuroscience of implicit and unconscious bias, defines implicit bias as operating outside of the person's awareness, and can be in direct contradiction to a person's espoused beliefs and values. What is so dangerous about implicit bias is that it automatically seeps into a person's affect or behavior and is outside of the full awareness of that person. She suggests that implicit bias is much more common than one would think.

## Getting Started on a Case

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What you need when  
starting a case:

- The ENTIRE APPROVED Motion for Funds.
- The NAC #.
- Letter of Engagement that specifies scope of requested work and services, and your role.
- Client contact information.
- Signed releases-remember do not contact anyone without permission from the attorney.
- The context/theory/criminal charges of the case.
- Timeline for any work product.

Here is a link Ms. Papillon's Ted Talk on Implicit Bias:

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=aaplw&ei=UTF-8&p=kimberly+papillon#id=1&vid=77355a19c5cc5aca001b227db645070d&action=click>

Ms. Papillon talks about race and policing:

<https://video.sopbs.org/video/american-black-journal-race-and-policing/>

Earlier this year a group of interns presented on the impact of implicit bias across all CPCS divisions. Here is a link to their presentation:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PAy8qLit8uh31aovVufzzyxKNnuY7yKX/view?usp=sharing>

*Please take a moment to read the PDF "Addressing Implicit Bias in the Courts" attached to the email that included this newsletter.*

## **Implicit Bias and Health Care**

To do our work, we not only have to understand the impact of implicit bias in the legal system, but also in the health care system. **The National Center for Cultural Competence tackles conscious and unconscious bias in health care. Visit their webpage for more information**

<https://nccc.georgetown.edu/bias/module-3/2.php>

## Testing for Implicit Bias

Below are links to two websites that host tests for implicit bias. Both are from Harvard, but the approach is different. Before jumping into the tests, we recommend reviewing this article as it provides some information about IAT testing

[https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB\\_XXII\\_WEDF\\_3.pdf](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB_XXII_WEDF_3.pdf)

Implicit Bias Tests

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/user/agg/blindspot/indexrk.htm>

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

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## NUTS and BOLTS

### BILLING

While we can help with some billing questions, your best resource for answers is the Vbill User Manual or you can email [vendorbills@publiccounsel.net](mailto:vendorbills@publiccounsel.net) with any questions. That being said, here are a few quick reminders.

- Travel time is billable. The rate is lower than the hourly rate for other services and is prepopulated by VBill.
- Remember if you make a billable phone call during your travel time, you cannot bill for both services.
- Reminder FY2022 is from 7/1/21-6/30/22
- Billable hours per FY are capped at 1,650, and you can only bill up to 12 hours/day. Anything over those hours requires a waiver.

### LINKS FOR BILLING MANUALS:

#### **Vbill User Manual:**

<https://www.publiccounsel.net/soc/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/Vbill-User-Manual-Jan-2017.pdf>

#### **How To Enter Vbills for Experts & Investigators:**

<https://www.publiccounsel.net/cfo/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/Job-Aid-Experts-and-PIs.pdf>

*There were changes to the timelines for submitting you bills. Bills must now be submitted within 30 days of the last billable service or they will be reduced, and after 60 days they could be rejected. Make sure you are aware of any impending billing deadlines. We want to make sure that everyone is getting paid for the fabulous work they are doing!*

### Best Practices:

In our last newsletter we covered best practices for social work/social services advocacy when you are part of the legal team. You can review these practice recommendations here:

<https://www.publiccounsel.net/soc/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/SSE-Newsletter-Edition-1-Volume-5.pdf>

## *Our Work, Works!*

### Feedback from a CAFL private panel attorney

I want to let you know that the social worker did a fantastic job doing a home study for a case of mine, where the mother had moved to another state, and we didn't want to take the time to do an interstate home study. She did the study over zoom; I got authorization for additional funds for her to review the DCF record and follow up with collaterals. The trial was a few weeks ago. DCF at the end agreed that the expert's report/home study could be admitted into evidence, so she did not need to testify. But I have no doubt she would have been an excellent witness. The judge granted mother's Motion for Review and Redetermination and custody was returned to her. This is quite a big step for the judge, because the child has moved out of state as a result of the decision and the court no longer has any follow up jurisdiction. Thank you so much for suggesting that I seek out this social worker.

## What are Attorneys Saying?

“[The SSE]... is passionate about her work; very intuitive when it comes to clients with needs for dual-diagnosis programs and always gives equal attention to case load...She has been able to find programming and services in sufficient time across 3 cases. She has managed to handle the stress very well as all 3 cases continue to be demanding. She is always responsive... She is insightful and guides counsel well. She does meet the clients frequently enough to have a thorough evaluation.”

“[The SSE] has been assisting with a young immigrant client who is in need of a dual-diagnosis facility. With the services of an interpreter, we continue to work on getting the client placement. She has done much research to aid the client and has now started to look into a good fit for a psychologist...Responsive and attentive.”

“[The SSE] did nice work in helping me with a client who had substance use issues. She was a long-term addict. He managed to remain on task and did many follow-up phone calls with different entities to find placement. His efforts on calling various places was much appreciated.”

“[The SSE] has met the client several times. She has been doing in-depth work with a troubled client, who court questions as being stable. Another complicated case. It is also a case where a psychologist would be needed, but the need is being assessed before we do.”

### **EXTRA! EXTRA!**

Check out the vendor webpage!  
<https://www.publiccounsel.net/soc/>

Make sure to spend some time exploring the CPCS website where you can find links and resources to helpful information.

<https://www.publiccounsel.net/>

# Trainings, Conferences & Certifications

## November 3, 2021

### The Child Welfare System & The History of White Paternalism: Deconstructing the Dominant Narrative

Please join us on November 3 for a webinar on “The Child Welfare System & the History of White Paternalism: Deconstructing Dominant Narratives.” Our presenter, Noor Toraif, a doctoral candidate at the Boston University School of Social Work and a graduate fellow at the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, will delve into the history of the U.S. child welfare system, its connection to white supremacy, and the enduring legacy of dominant narratives on racial disparities in the child welfare system. This program, co-sponsored with the Court Improvement Program, DYS/JDAI, DCF, the Juvenile Court and the Family Resource Center of New Bedford, is a continuation of our three-part series last spring on cultural humility and preserving the identities of system involved children and youth.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-child-welfare-system-the-history-of-white-paternalism-tickets-182856969117>

## November 16-18, 2021

NLADA & the National Alliance of Sentencing Advocates & Mitigation Specialists (NASAMS) present:

**The Fundamentals of Mitigation Certificate Program**

Tuesday, November 16, 12:00 noon - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17, 12:00 noon - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 18, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

(All times Eastern Time)

This is an intensive training offered to beginners and experienced professionals who want to refresh their mitigation skills. Over the course of the training, we will provide a best practices framework for mitigation and sentencing advocacy work during COVID and in the approaching more “normal” times as well. We will cover the history and development of the profession and highlight standards of practice and ethics. Specific skill sets will be addressed, including investigation, records collection, interviewing, writing, and story-telling. An exploration of race, ethnicity, and cultural issues will provide a wider lens for understanding and sharing the client's unique story. The program provides training for participants from nationally recognized experts in the field. The small class size will ensure quality instruction, coaching, and hands-on learning. Participants will receive sample materials, organizational tools, sample reports, scholarly articles, and e-tools to assist their practices.

[https://netforumpro.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NLADA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt\\_key=b9558dbd-818a-4548-9a0b-ac8c29c0fed2](https://netforumpro.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NLADA&WebCode=EventDetail&evt_key=b9558dbd-818a-4548-9a0b-ac8c29c0fed2)

## November 17, 2021

### **Barnstable County CAFL Meet and Greet**

Deborah Cassell, CAFL Resource Attorney for Barnstable County, and Meg Grant are holding a training and facilitated zoom meeting on **Wed. November 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 3:00 pm** for the CAFL private bar attorneys and Private Social Service vendors. This is an opportunity for you provide a **brief (2 minute) summary** of your professional experience, areas & topics of expertise, and types of services & skills you are qualified to provide. Please RSVP to [mgrant@publiccounsel.net](mailto:mgrant@publiccounsel.net) if you can join us.

### Brown Bag Series

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, we will be hosting Brown Bags to provide mini trainings on various topics relevant to our work. Please keep an eye on your email for information regarding upcoming sessions.

### Podcast/Movies and Books

Institute for Family: Seen and Heard Podcast

<http://go.pardot.com/webmail/888923/283413737/efb6652cca222e1266fad77503360fb69b253c501123d5195c0d57654d1ebe1>

### Ongoing Resources

Please check out the CPCS training page for upcoming trainings available to the public:

<https://www.publiccounsel.net/train/events/>

The various schools of Social Work and other graduate programs offer trainings, workshops, and post graduate certificate programs in Trauma, CBT, Human Service Management and other specialty areas.

NASW Events/workshops/ trainings:

[https://www.naswma.org/events/event\\_list.asp?show=&group=&start=3%2F19%2F2020&end=&view=&cid=20886](https://www.naswma.org/events/event_list.asp?show=&group=&start=3%2F19%2F2020&end=&view=&cid=20886)

Charles Hamilton Houston Institute:

<https://charleshamiltonhouston.org/>

Boston University Center for Anti-Racism Research:

<https://www.bu.edu/antiracism-center/the-center/>

# Helpful Resources and Links

*One Can Help:* <https://onecanhelp.org/>

“We work with court-appointed attorneys and social workers to provide clients at risk with essential resources when no other aid is available, to help them break the cycle of deprivation and hopelessness.” Resources available in juvenile court case (Primarily CAFL & YAD).

*National Association of Forensic Counselors:* (<http://www.forensiccounselor.org/>)

*The National Board of Forensic Evaluators:* (<https://www.nbfe.net/>)

*William James College Continuing Ed/Life Long Learning:*  
<https://www.williamjames.edu/academics/lifelong/index.cfm>

*Massachusetts General Hospital: Center for Law, Brain & Behavior:* <http://clbb.mgh.harvard.edu/>

“The Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Law, Brain, and Behavior is an academic and professional resource for the education, research, and understanding of neuroscience and the law.”

*National Alliance on Mental Illness, Massachusetts:* <https://namimass.org/>

*Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS):*

Helpline: <https://helplinema.org/>

Search for Treatment: [https://mahelplineonline.custhelp.com/app/account/opa\\_interview](https://mahelplineonline.custhelp.com/app/account/opa_interview)

*Sentencing Project:* <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

*Family Resource Centers:* <https://www.frcma.org/>

## Re-Entry Services

*Coming Home Directory Greater Boston:*

[http://www.cominghomedirectory.org/assets/2019/02/CHD\\_Print\\_Final\\_With-cover-2019.pdf](http://www.cominghomedirectory.org/assets/2019/02/CHD_Print_Final_With-cover-2019.pdf)

*Office of Returning Citizens, Boston:* <https://www.boston.gov/departments/returning-citizens>

*After Incarceration Support Systems (AISS), Hampden:* <http://hcsdma.org/ais-3/>

*Worcester Initiatives for Supported Reentry (WISR):* <https://www.advocates.org/services/worcester-initiative-supported-reentry-wisr>

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*Don't forget to keep us updated on new licenses, additional certifications, or potential conflicts. If you have not done so already, please update the attached vendor information questionnaire.*

## Your Social Service Expert Contacts

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If you have any questions or need guidance, please contact the person who oversees the Social Services Experts for that division.

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**Children and Family Law Division**

### The Committee for Public Counsel Services

- We Defend the Accused
- We Demand Justice
- We fight for the Rights of Parents and Children