



Presenter's Short Bios

Nancy Craig; Email: ncraig@ftnys.org

Like a lot of parents, Nancy started her “career” learning to navigate the child serving systems for her four children. Little did she realize that her personal experiences would lead her on professional quest to ensure every family, no matter the challenges they are working through have access to a family peer helping to teach, coach and mentor parents as they journey towards their personal strength and empowerment.

Nancy has worked with Families Together for almost 20 years. First as a Western NY Region Parent Advisor for 17 years and now as the Director of Community and Systems Engagement, leading a team of 10 Regional Parent Advisors engaging and advising the child serving systems on the value of family driven and youth guided practices and the benefits of partnering with local family peer support programs.

Nancy works closely with Family Peer Support Programs and Family Peer Advocates in delivering the FANS (family needs & strengths) outcome measure for Family Peer Support Services to use to quantify the excellent work and partnership of Family Peer Advocates and parents during their journey.

Nancy participates on advisory boards and committees, and presents at local, regional and national conferences on Family Peer Support Services outcomes.

In her spare time Nancy and a small group of five family advocates saw a gap and need for families to have fun and recreation opportunities; to create positive family memories. In true advocacy fashion they worked together to create a very low cost summer camp experience for the whole family to come together for three nights -four days in a safe supported environment to build those memories as a family, not an illness.

Janice LeBel, Ph.D., ABPP; Email: Janice.Lebel@massmail.state.ma.us

Dr. Janice LeBel is a licensed, Board-Certified Psychologist with more than thirty years' experience in the public sector working primarily in mental health but also with child welfare, juvenile justice, and intellectual and developmental disability populations. She oversees a statewide system of inpatient and secure residential care for children and adolescents.

Dr. LeBel leads the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's nationally-recognized Restraint/Seclusion (R/S) Prevention Initiative and an Interagency Initiative with the same focus involving child-serving state agencies (7) and the public and private special education schools in the state. She is a founding member of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors' Office of Technical Assistance Center's teaching faculty, co-authored an evidenced-based curriculum on R/S Prevention, and works to implement trauma-informed care and R/S prevention efforts throughout the United States and internationally. Dr. LeBel has provided expert testimony at Congressional Briefings and legal proceedings. She has researched and published on seclusion and restraint-related issues and presented at many national and international forums. Dr. LeBel also serves as a peer reviewer for several journals.