

2016 Family Impact Seminar – Aging Out of Foster Care – Fostering Futures into Adulthood

Hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University's Wilder School of Government & the
Virginia Commission on Youth

Biographies

Andrew K. Block, Jr. was appointed as the Department of Juvenile Justice director effective April 7, 2014. He was most recently an associate professor and director of the Child Advocacy Clinic at the University of Virginia School of Law from 2010-2014. From 1998 until the spring of 2010 he was the founder and legal director of the JustChildren Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center.

Prior to his appointment, Director Block received various awards for his innovative and successful work as an advocate, including the American Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division Child Advocacy Award, the Virginia State Bar's Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year, and the Virginia Bar Association's Robert F. Shepherd Jr. Award. Director Block graduated from Yale University in 1987 and from the Northwestern University School of Law in 1994.

The Honorable Barbara A. Favola represents Virginia's 31st Senate District, which includes parts of Arlington and Fairfax counties, and a portion of Loudoun County. She served on the Arlington County Board for fourteen years (1997-2011) and chaired that body three times. During her service with the County, Senator Favola was the Board's leading advocate for children, youth and families, and her contributions to the community include establishing mental health services in the public schools. Throughout her public life she has been a vigorous supporter of universal human rights.

In the Virginia Senate, Barbara is focusing her legislative efforts on women's reproductive rights, health care access, K-12 education funding, social services, foster children and domestic violence issues. She is also dedicated to environmental stewardship and maintaining the ban on uranium mining. Senator Favola serves on Virginia's Senate Local Government Committee, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, and Transportation Committee. She is now the Senate Chair of the Women's Reproductive Health Caucus and Vice Chair of Virginia's Commission on Youth. She was recently appointed by Governor McAuliffe to serve on the Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission and chairs the Sexual

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Assault Advisory Committee. Senator Favola was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of Virginia Tech's School of Public and International Affairs. Senator Favola and her husband Douglas Weik have been residents of Arlington and the 31st district since 1982. Their son, Donald P. Weik, is a graduate of George Mason University.

The Honorable Anne Holton is a life-long advocate for children and families in Virginia and now continues that legacy as the Virginia Secretary of Education. After graduating with a B.A. from Princeton and a Harvard law degree, Holton worked as a legal aid lawyer serving low-income families. She served as a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge from 1998 until 2005 when her husband, Tim Kaine, was elected Governor of Virginia. As Virginia's First Lady, Holton championed a successful initiative to secure permanent family connections for more foster youth. She later served as a consultant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation on foster care systems reform, with a focus on judiciary issues and preventing unnecessary out-of-home placements of youth due to complex behavioral issues.

In 2008 Anne Holton worked with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education to establish the Great Expectations program, which works through campus coaches based on community college campuses to improve access to and success in higher education for Virginia's foster youth and alumni. She served as the Program's Director in 2013. Holton attended public schools in Roanoke, Richmond, and Fairfax County, Virginia. With her family she helped integrate the Richmond Public Schools in 1970. She has been an active PTA member and volunteer at six Richmond public schools, where her children were educated. Holton served on the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation Board 2010-2012 and on the Voices for Virginia Children Board 2010-2013. She also has served on the Advisory Board to Youth-Nex, the UVa Center to Promote Effective Youth Development at the Curry School of Education. Holton is the recipient of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Life Award of Distinction and the Richmond YWCA Outstanding Woman in Law award in 2006 among other honors. She and her husband (now U.S. Senator Tim Kaine) have three adult children and reside in Richmond, Virginia.

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The Honorable Christopher K. Peace represents the 97th District, of the Virginia House of Delegates, which includes part of Hanover, King William, Jay all of New Kent County. Peace serves on the prominent Appropriations, Health Welfare and Institutions, and General Laws (Vice Chair) Committees. He is Chairman of the General Laws Sub-committee on Housing and Chair of the Appropriations Sub-committee on Transportation. Delegate Peace has served as the Chairman of the Commission on Youth since 2011. He is a proud member of Virginia's Conservative Caucus. Delegate Peace also serves on several statewide boards important to his district, including the Criminal Justice Services Board, Joint Commission on Health Care, Virginia Commission on Youth, the Virginia Housing Commission, and the Virginia Indian Commemorative Commission. During his service several organizations have honored Peace for his exemplary legislative service. A handful of the organizations which have honored him include the Virginia Optometric Association, Virginia Nurses Association, Virginia Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Over the years, Delegate Peace has always been an active member of his community serving it in a volunteer capacity through these statewide and community groups: LEAD VA Statewide Board; Library of Virginia Foundation Statewide Board; Metro Richmond Habitat for Humanity Board; Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership Statewide Board; Hanover Republican Committee; Heritage and History of Hanover County, Inc.; Hanover County Historical Society; Hanover Association of Businesses/Chamber of Commerce; Hanover Safe Place; Hanover Ruritan Club; Mechanicsville Businessmen's Association; New Kent Chamber of Commerce; Sons of the American Revolution; Washington and Henry Fraternal Lodge and the Scottish Rite. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the St. John's Church Foundation, and the Board of Directors of the Richmond Justice Initiative, which advocates against the evils of human trafficking. An attorney, Delegate Peace owns his own law firm, and is an active member of the Virginia State Bar and the bar association of the District of Columbia. He taught legal studies as an adjunct professor of legal studies at Virginia Commonwealth University's Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Delegate Peace worked at McGuire Woods

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Consulting, a national public affairs and public relations firm, and began his public affairs career by working as a law clerk for the Richmond City Attorney and Virginia's Attorney General. Delegate Peace graduated from St. Christopher's School, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hampden-Sydney College and earned his law degree from the University of Richmond. Along with their daughter, Camden, son, Henry, and dog, Laney, Chris and his wife, Ashley, make their home in Old Church and attend St. Peter's Episcopal Church in New Kent, Virginia.

Sunny H. Shin, Ph.D. is an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Social Work. His primary research areas are childhood maltreatment, alcohol and other drug abuse and racial/ethnic disparity in child mental health service. In recent years, Shin has studied the effects of childhood maltreatment on adolescent binge drinking and patterns of adolescent substance use. He has practical experience in child welfare and school social work. Shin received his M.S.S.W. degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he taught research methods and practice evaluation courses.