



Education Training Day - About our Presenters

My name is Cari Schroeder and I'm a CPS Regional Education Specialist. As an education specialist I serve as an advocate, liaison, and expert for educational resources between local school districts and CPS staff in order to provide the best educational outcomes for children in DFPS/CPS conservatorship.

My name is Rita Baldwin. I have 34 years of experience working with at risk students and families. My career started with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (CPS) where I was an investigative worker, substitute care worker and ended my career there as the agency legal liaison. I am currently the Homeless Coordinator, District Social Worker and Foster Care Liaison for Texas City Independent School District. I have worked in the education field for the last 28 years.

My name is Mary Patrick. I have a master's degree in the field of Elementary and Special Education with an emphasis in counseling and mid-management (Educational Administration). I started my educational career as a nurse and after two years switched to the field of education and it was the best move in my life. I have worked in the field of education for 42 years working from elementary to the college level (University of Houston Clear Lake and College of the Mainland) and I have even worked in several state institutions (Richmond and Denton State School).

I worked in the capacity of a Teacher, Special Education Consultant, a Special Education Director, Principal and presently I am the Executive Director of Special Programs/ECH/Homeless and Foster Care Liaison. In 2004, I was named the Special Education Director of the Year for the State of Texas.

Lois Jones is a school social worker, liaison for homeless and foster care programs in Santa Fe ISD and former University of Houston adjunct professor. She is a licensed master social worker who believes that every child deserves opportunities to explore, discover, achieve and succeed. Lois has over 30 years of experience in diverse setting. Lois was awarded the School Social Worker of the year from the University of Texas, School of Social Work in 2020.

Laurie Goforth Rodriguez:

I've been a public school educator since I began teaching in 1992 in Oklahoma... I've been blessed to spend 29 years in a career I love. I've taught general education (economics / government) and special education (vocational / life skills) at the high school level, served as a diagnostician at elementary and middle school levels, and I've been in special education administration for 18 years. I went to OSU (go Pokes), UH (Cougar Pride) and TAMU (whoop!) and most recently completed my superintendent certification at UT-Tyler. In Dickinson, I supervise all of the special education programs and personnel, as well as counselors, nurses, Section 504, Dyslexia, homeless and social workers.