# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FOR CHILD WELFARE STAKEHOLDERS

OCTOBER 19, 2023 12 - 1 PM

Register for Virtual CLE/CEU: https://bit.ly/CIPOct2023

It is important for child welfare stakeholders to be up to date on changes to law and policy that affect Child in Need of Care (CINC) cases. The 2023 Legislative Session did not see as many changes to Louisiana Children's Code Title VI as the 2022 Legislative Session. Yet, there were some relevant amendments to laws affecting the families that we serve. Kathy Lynn Cook, Deputy General Counsel for Mental Health Advocacy Service/Child Advocacy Program, and Richard Pittman, Director of Juvenile Defender Services for the Louisiana Public Defender Board, will help us understand these new provisions. In addition, they will refresh our recollection about the significant changes to Title VI that were made in 2022 as part of Act 272.













#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the 2023 legislative changes that impact Child in Need of Care cases and the families served by child welfare stakeholders.
- Gain more familiarity with specific 2022 legislative changes to Title VI of the Louisiana Children's Code.

#### AGENDA & SCHEDULE

12:00-12:25 pm 2023 Legislative Updates 12:25-12:50 pm 2022 Legislative Refreshers 12:50-1:00 pm Questions & Discussion



#### **SPEAKERS**



### Kathy Lynn Cook, J.D., M.A., C.W.L.S.,\* Deputy General Counsel, Mental Health Advocacy Service/Child Advocacy Program

Kathy Lynn Cook is the Deputy General Counsel with the State of Louisiana Mental Health Advocacy Service. She has been a specialized mental health attorney for juveniles and adults for almost 28 years, spending the last 18 years as a CINC attorney for children. Her agency responsibilities include legislation monitoring and drafting; training and data management; and working on child welfare policy and attorney quality indicators development at both the state and national level. Kathy has A.S., B.S., M.A., and J.D. degrees, and is NACC certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist. She shares her home with two dogs--Bunnie and Munchkin, two cats--Rain and Snuffles, and two opossums--don't ask. In her spare time ... never mind.



## Richard M. Pittman, J.D., C.W.L.S.,\* Deputy Public Defender, Director of Juvenile Defender Services, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Richard M. Pittman is a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist and has been involved in child welfare law and policy since 2006. He is currently in administration in public defense for Louisiana with responsibilities over parent representation as the Deputy Public Defender – Director of Juvenile Defender Services for the Louisiana Public Defender Board. He is the Co-Reporter of the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute, the Pelican Center Training and Education Committee, the CARE Committee, and the Steering Committee of the ABA Parent Representation Project.

\*Child Welfare Law Specialist, Certified by the National Association of Counsel for Children



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