Presenter Bios

**Pat Penning** is a graduate of Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, and is a Licensed Master Social Worker in the state of Iowa. She is a former Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS) employee of 35 years. She worked in all areas of IDHS, including cash and food assistance, services for adults, and child welfare. Pat was an IDHS Service Area Manager (SAM) for 13 years in the Des Moines and Sioux City service areas. During her time as an SAM, she worked closely with the local communities to reduce the disproportionality of minority populations in the child welfare system. Minority Youth and Family Initiatives and the Breakthrough Series Collaborative were implemented in both service areas. In that role, she presented information on these programs in Iowa and in many states across the United States. Since her retirement in 2015, Pat has continued with her commitment to serve the children and families of Iowa through volunteer work, involvement with the Breakthrough Series Collaborative, and serving as a Race: The Power of an Illusion facilitator. She is also a member of Iowa’s statewide Cultural Equity Alliance Steering Committee.

**Shane Frisch** is a supervisor with the Iowa Department of Human Services in Sioux City, Iowa. He received a BS degree from the University of South Dakota in 1996. Shane began his career with the Iowa Department of Human Services in 1997 as an SWII Case Manager. In 2004, he was promoted to a supervisory position. In 2010, he transferred to begin supervising the Woodbury County Native American Unit, where he currently oversees four case managers and two Native liaisons. While in this position, he has had opportunities to speak both locally and nationally at the annual National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference to share his experiences while working collaboratively with the Native American community in Woodbury County.

**Frank LaMere** is a noted social and political activist from South Sioux City, Nebraska, who has long been involved with issues of import to Nebraska Tribes and to Indian Country. He is a member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Mr. LaMere is the Chair of the Community Initiative on Native Children and Families and the Founder of the Memorial March to Honor Lost Children and was key to the 2003 passage of the Iowa Indian Child Welfare Act. He serves on the Board of the Siouxland Community Health Center and is a member of the Winnebago Health Advisory Board. Frank, who has won a number of awards for his advocacy and civil rights work, is the architect of the effort to stop the illegal flow of alcohol from Whiteclay, Nebraska, onto the dry Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and has been featured in two documentaries about the tragedy. He is the Associate Chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party and a member of the Democratic National Committee. Mr. LaMere works to develop the Four Directions Center in Sioux City, Iowa, where he counsels families involved in the child welfare system.