

## July 2023 Update #5

Hi Everyone,

Please join us as we continue to celebrate the great family reunification work happening across the country. Below are the latest Reunification Month updates:

2023 Reunification Month Theme- ***“We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!”***

**National Reunification Month Website:** This year, the site features:

1. **NEW Reunification Heroes:** There are more than 25 Reunification Heroes on the Reunification website. Below are a few more who have been added recently.

[Ambrosia Eberhardt, Parent \(Washington\)](#), [Kayla Bustamante \(Texas\)](#), [Joe Witmore, Parent \(Maine\)](#),

[Lynn Brave Heart, Guardian ad Litem Program Manager, ICWA Division \(Minnesota\)](#)

[Dr. Jocelyn Gainers, Family Recovery Provider \(Maryland\)](#), [Roxana Llarena, Parent Advocate \(Florida\)](#), [Jocelyn Valentin, Youth Permanency Worker \(Massachusetts\)](#), [Adrienne Rose Smith, Parent \(Mississippi\)](#), [Kirstin Iesalnieks, Parent \(Oregon\)](#). See **the full list** at [National Reunification Month](#)

### 2. **National Reunification Webinars:**

- a. On June 29, 2023, we had another dynamic reunification webinar on How to Improve Services and Speed Reunification for Families for the **Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification**. During this webinar, the exciting work of the [QIC Family Reunification](#) was highlighted by Darquita Fletcher, Project Director, her team, and the implementation sites located in Ohio, Kentucky, Montana, and New York. The webinar also included an incredibly inspiring message from Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, at the Administration for Children and Families, Rebecca Jones Gaston, on the importance of Reunification! - Click the link to view the webinar recording and resources from QIC-R materials. [Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification: How to Improve Services and Speed Reunification for Families](#)
- b. **Checkout out the other incredible Reunification Month Webinars**
  - [What Child Welfare Agencies Can Do to Support Reunification \(americanbar.org\)](#)
  - [Experiences in the Reunification Process - Our Primary Responsibility to Parents, Children, and Youth \(americanbar.org\)](#)

### 3. **New Resources**

- **NEW**- Congressional Black Caucus Special Order- On June 20, 2023, the Congressional Black Caucus issued a special order [FOCUSING ON NATIONAL REUNIFICATION MONTH](#)
- **NEW**- [Why Celebrating Reunification Month Matters By Jey Rajaraman, J.D. \(thefamilyjusticegroup.org\)](#) This article highlights the importance of celebrating parents and maintaining families.
- **New** Center to Support Resource Parents [CfE Overview for Reunification Month Article \(americanbar.org\)](#) The Children's Bureau has awarded Maryland DHS a grant to create a Center for Excellence and Resource Family Development (CfE): The CfE model trains and supports resource parents through an evidence-based intervention to work in collaboration with birth families to preserve and nurture critical parent-child relationships and support reunification

4. **Reunification Month State Updates:** This year, we will spotlight a jurisdiction each week that celebrates families in new and unique ways. The newest Spotlight is **New York Families Know Best—Listen and Learn, Seen and Heard (americanbar.org)**. The New York office of Justice initiatives child welfare Court improvement project hosted a two-day virtual series to celebrate National reunification month. Check out our State Spotlights this week- **Hawai'i Honoring the Francisco- Kaleleiki 'Ohana and the Lili'uokalani Trust Ka Pili 'Ohana program**. **Washington Washington Kicks Off First State-Wide Reunification Month Celebration Honoring Families Since the Pandemic (americanbar.org)**. **New Jersey- Unification Day: Celebrating Prevention During Reunification Month (americanbar.org)**

Check out what's happening in your state: [Arkansas](#), [Arizona-Updated](#), [Colorado](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Indiana](#), [Maryland-Updated](#), [Michigan](#), [Missouri](#), [Nevada-Updated](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oregon](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Carolina-Updated](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#).... Don't see your state, send us your information, and we will post it.

#### 5. **Additional Resources**

- Providing Hope and Plan with Family Center Treatment. [FTC-Whitepaper \(americanbar.org\)](#)-A white paper on family-centered treatment, a home-based treatment model for families face with forced removal of their children from the home or dissolution of the family due to external and internal stressors and circumstances
- [National Reunification Month Social Toolkit 2023 - Google Docs](#). This NEW toolkit provides easy copy/paste content you can adapt and use to spread the word about National reunification month, including hashtags, social posts, and graphics.

- [The June 2023 Issue of CBX is Live!](#) The June 2023 **Children's Bureau Express** highlights reunification and the importance of supporting families as they work towards their reunification goals.
  - [June Is Reunification Month!](#): **Child Welfare Information Gateway** Use these reunification resources to help engage children and families in the reunification process, equip parents to resolve issues that lead to family separation, etc.....
  - **Reunification Tools from AdoptUSKids:** -Resources Parents: [How foster parents can support reunification – AdoptUSKids blog](#)----- [Equipping-foster-parents-to-support-reunification- Webinar](#)
6. Please visit the ABA's updated website for more National Reunification Month information!  
[National Reunification Month](#)

Update #4  
Hi Everyone,

I am happy to share more exciting updates on National Reunification Month. Our Reunification Month theme for 2023 is ***“We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!”*** The theme highlights that families are resilient and strong, and we believe in the power of families and celebrating best practices in reunification. Here are the latest Reunification Month updates:

[National Reunification Month Website:](#) **This year the site features:**

7. **UPDATED NEW Reunification Heroes:** This week, we are excited to highlight more stories of several incredible parent and attorney heroes from across the country.

[Laura Bryant, Parent Attorney \(New Jersey\)](#), [Samantha Davis, Parent \(Washington\)](#)

[Jessica Paulson Duffy, Agency Attorney \(California\)](#), [Monique Gonzalez, Parent \(Texas\)](#)

[Christopher Moyer, Parent \(Georgia\)](#)

See the full list on the website [National Reunification Month](#). More will be added each week.

8. **National Reunification Webinars:**

- a. **NEW Webinar --REGISTER NOW: Overview of the Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification June 29, 2023, 1:30 pm ET.** The Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification is a federally supported program working with implementation sites to improve reunification practices across the country. This

webinar will provide an overview of the QIC-R and implementation sites located in Ohio, Kentucky, Montana, and New York. These QIC-R sites are implementing and evaluating interventions designed to improve services for families and decrease the timeframe of reunification for families involved in child welfare. [REGISTER NOW](#)

- b. **Over 450 people attended the Reunification Webinar on June 7<sup>th</sup>!!** Oregon Department of Human Services and Georgia Department of Human Services, in partnership with Rise. Click the link to view the webinar materials. [What Child Welfare Agencies Can Do to Support Reunification \(americanbar.org\)](#)
- c. **Reunification Month Kickoff Webinar:** Thank you for joining the Reunification Month Kickoff webinar hosted by the [ABA Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Plummer Youth Promise](#). Click the link to view the materials from the webinar: [Experiences in the Reunification Process - Our Primary Responsibility to Parents, Children, and Youth \(americanbar.org\)](#)

9. **Reunification Month State Updates:** This year we will be spotlighting a jurisdiction each week that celebrates families in new and unique ways. There are two **State Spotlights this week- 1) Hawai'i Honoring the Francisco- Kaleleiki 'Ohana and the Lili'uokalani Trust Ka Pili 'Ohana program.** Hawai'i will be celebrating its tenth National Reunification Month event. The Lili'uokalani Trust Ka Pili 'Ohana program is "a culturally-grounded pilot program designed to explore new ways of supporting Hawaiian kamali'i (youth) and 'ohana (family) in the foster care system." **2. Washington Washington Kicks Off First State-Wide Reunification Month Celebration Honoring Families Since the Pandemic (americanbar.org)** For the first time since the pandemic, the Washington Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care is bringing together child welfare stakeholders to celebrate family reunification.

Check out what's happening in your state: [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Florida-New](#), [Georgia-Updated See GA's Reunification Heroes](#), [Hawaii](#), [Indiana](#), [Maryland- Updated](#), [Michigan-New](#), [Missouri](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [North Carolina-New](#), [Oregon-New](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#).... Don't see your state, send us your information, and we will post it.

## 10. Resources

- **NEW- New Center to Support Resource Parents CfE Overview for Reunification Month Article (americanbar.org)**—The Children's Bureau has awarded Maryland DHS a grant to create a Center for Excellence and Resource Family Development (CfE): The CfE model trains and supports resource parents through an evidence-based intervention to work in collaboration with birth families to preserve and nurture critical parent-child relationships and support reunification

- **NEW Reunification: Providing Hope and Plan with Family Center Treatment.** [ETC-Whitepaper \(americanbar.org\)](#) A white paper on family-centered treatment, a home-based treatment model for families face with forced removal of their children from the home or dissolution of the family due to external and internal stressors and circumstances
- [National Reunification Month Social Toolkit 2023 - Google Docs](#). This NEW toolkit provides easy copy/paste content you can adapt and use to spread the word about National reunification month, including hashtags, social post, and graphics.
- [The June 2023 Issue of CBX is Live!](#) The June 2023 **Children's Bureau Express** highlights reunification and the importance of supporting families as they work towards their reunification goals.
- [June Is Reunification Month!](#) : **Child Welfare Information Gateway** Use these reunification resources to help engage children and families in the reunification process, equip parents to resolve issues that lead to family separation.....
- **Reunification Tools from AdoptUSKids:** -Resources Parents: [How foster parents can support reunification – AdoptUSKids blog](#)----- [Equipping-foster-parents-to-support-reunification- Webinar](#)

**11. Share your work:** Do you have upcoming reunification activities or events that we can help share? I.e., Reunification events or celebrations, training/webinars, stories, Reunification Proclamations, best practices, or other resources? Please let us know so we can add them to the website and to the Social Media calendar for 2023 – **Contact Us:** [Chauncey Strong chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](#) and [Beverly Schulerbrandt beverly.schulerbrandt@americanbar.org](#).

Please visit the ABA's updated website for more National Reunification Month information!  
[National Reunification Month](#)

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Update #3

Hi Everyone,

I am excited to continue to share updates about National Reunification Month. Our Reunification Month theme for 2023 is ***“We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!”*** The theme highlights that families are resilient and strong, and we believe in the power of families and celebrating best practices in reunification. Here are the latest Reunification Month updates:

[National Reunification Month Website:](#) This year the site features:

1. **Reunification Heroes:** Check out the National Reunification Heroes: Our first hero is; [Mandy Hummer, a parent from Indiana](#). More will be added every week. Stay tuned!
2. **National Reunification Webinars:**
  - a. **Save the Date: June 29, 2023, 1:30 pm ET. Supporting Family-Centered Reunification: Learning from the QIC-R Implementation Sites.** Highlighting the Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification implementation sites in Ohio, Kentucky, Montana, and New York. **The registration link will be available soon.**
  - b. **Over 450 people attended the Reunification Webinar on June 7<sup>th</sup>!!** Oregon Department of Human Services and Georgia Department of Human Services, in partnership with Rise, a parent-led NYC-based advocacy organization, offered tips from the agency's perspective and the perspective of parents and resource caregivers. Click the link to view the webinar materials. [What Child Welfare Agencies Can Do to Support Reunification \(americanbar.org\)](#)
  - c. **Reunification Month Kickoff Webinar:** Thank you for joining the Reunification Month Kickoff webinar hosted by the [ABA Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Plummer Youth Promise](#). Click the link to view the materials from the webinar: [Experiences in the Reunification Process - Our Primary Responsibility to Parents, Children, and Youth \(americanbar.org\)](#)
3. **Reunification Month State Updates:** This year we will be spotlighting a jurisdiction each week that celebrates families in new and unique ways. This week the [State Spotlight of The Week: New Jersey](#) Not only does Legal Services of New Jersey(LSNJ) celebrate reunification of families during this time, but they also raises awareness about what can be done to keep families from being separated in the first place.  
Check out what's happening in your state: [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Indiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Missouri](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#).... Don't see your state, send us your information, and we will post it.
4. **Resources**
  - [National Reunification Month Social Toolkit 2023 - Google Docs](#). This NEW toolkit provides easy copy/paste content you can adapt and use to spread the word about National reunification month, including hashtags, social post, and graphics.
  - [The June 2023 Issue of CBX is Live!](#) The June 2023 **Children's Bureau Express** highlights reunification and the importance of supporting families as they work towards their reunification goals.
  - [June Is Reunification Month!](#): **Child Welfare Information Gateway** Use these reunification resources to help engage children and families in the reunification process, equip parents to resolve issues that lead to family separation.....

- **Reunification Tools from AdoptUSKids:** -Resources Parents: [How foster parents can support reunification – AdoptUSKids blog](#)----- [Equipping-foster-parents-to-support-reunification- Webinar](#)
5. **Share your work:** Do you have upcoming reunification activities or events that we can help share? I.e., Reunification events or celebrations, training/webinars, stories, Reunification Proclamations, best practices, or other resources? Please let us know so we can add them to the website and to the Social Media calendar for 2023 – **Contact Us:** [Chauncey Strong chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](#) and [Beverly Schulerbrandt beverly.schulerbrandt@americanbar.org](#).
  6. Please visit the ABA's updated website for more National Reunification Month information! [National Reunification Month](#)

Thanks,

Chauncey

Chauncey Strong, MSW

**Executive Director**

Strong Training and Consulting, LLC

*Building Strong Families Together!*

(804) 338-3071

<https://strongfamilytraining.com>

[National Reunification Month](#)



## National Reunification Month 2023

I am excited to give a few updates on National Reunification Month. Our Reunification Month theme for 2023 is "***We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!***" The theme highlights that families are resilient and strong, and we believe in the power of families and celebrating best practices in reconnections. Here are a few Reunification Month Updates:

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[View this email in your browser](#)



**National Reunification Month Begins Tomorrow!**

*We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!*

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## Reunification Month Webinar

June 7, 2023, 1:30-2:45 PM

### What Child Welfare Agencies Can Do to Support Reunification: Parent Partnerships and Reunification Practices

The relationship between resource/foster caregivers and parents whose children are in foster care can be one of the most impactful connections to supporting reunification. Resource caregivers play a critical role in supporting family time and maintaining children's connections to family. What is the role of Child Welfare agencies in supporting this connection? Please join us as we explore this role and offer concrete ways Child Welfare agencies can be a partner in supporting reunification through this relationship and other practices.

Oregon Department of Human Services and Georgia Department of Human Services will offer tips not only from the agency's perspective but also from the perspective of parents and resource caregivers in partnership with Rise, a parent-led NYC-based advocacy organization. Participants will hear personal perspectives from parents who have been impacted by the child welfare system and will leave with practical tips for how agencies can support families in achieving reunification from the moment a child is placed into care.

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**

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### Save the Date

June 29, 2023, 1:30 pm ET

#### ***Supporting Family-Centered Reunification: Learning from the QIC-R Implementation Sites***

This final National Reunification Month webinar will highlight the Quality Improvement Center for Family-Centered Reunification (QIC-R) implementation sites in Ohio, Kentucky, Montana, and

New York. These sites are implementing and evaluating interventions that will improve services for families and decrease the timeframe of reunification for families involved in child welfare.

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### **Tell us about your reunification events.**

We are sharing state and local reunification activities and events on the National Reunification Month [website](#). Please share upcoming events, celebrations, training/webinars, stories, Reunification Proclamations, best practices, or other resources so we can add them to the website and share on social media.

**Contact:** [Chauncey Strong](#) or [Beverly Schulerbrandt](#)

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June is National Reunification Month  
We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!

ZOOM VIRTUAL BACKGROUND - Right click image above, select "Save image as", then save to your computer. Access it from Zoom by clicking the (+) button in the Virtual Backgrounds section of your video options.

[Visit the National Reunification Month Website](#)

Features:

- Reunification Hero Stories
- Toolkits to Plan a Reunification Month Event
- Resources: Articles, Webinars, Videos & Podcasts



I am excited to give a few updates on National Reunification Month. Our Reunification Month theme for 2023 is ***"We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!"*** The theme highlights that families are

resilient and strong, and we believe in the power of families and celebrating best practices in reconnections. Here are a few Reunification Month Updates:

- 1) **The 2023 [Reunification Heroes Nomination form](#) is now available.** This will be our 9<sup>th</sup> year celebrating parents and those who rally around them to make reunification goals a reality in the majority of child welfare cases across the country. Past heroes include parents who reunified with their children, resource families, attorneys, social workers, kin judges, service providers, and organizational leaders. Please nominate someone and share this widely with your networks. **Deadline May 12.**
- 2) **Reunification Month Kickoff Webinar:** Thank you for joining the Reunification Month Kickoff webinar hosted by the [ABA Center on Children and the Law](#) and [Plummer Youth Promise](#). The Plummer staff and families did a great job and shared excellent resources. As promised, here are the materials from the webinar: [Webinar: Experiences in the Reunification Process Recording, and Related Resources April 2023](#)
- 3) **SAVE THE Date:** Join us for our next National Reunification Month webinar: "We Believe in Parent Partnerships and Reunification: Supporting Reunification Through Families Working Together" **June 7, 2023, at 1:30 pm EST.** Stay tuned for the registration link.
- 4) **Share your work:** Do you have upcoming reunification activities or events that we can help share? I.e., Reunification events or celebrations, training/webinars, stories, Reunification Proclamations, best practices, or other resources? Please let us know so we can add them to the website and to the Social Media calendar for 2023 – **Contact Us:** [Chauncey Strong](#) [chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com) and [Beverly Schulerbrandt](mailto:beverly.schulterbrandt@americanbar.org) [beverly.schulterbrandt@americanbar.org](mailto:beverly.schulterbrandt@americanbar.org).
- 5) **[National Reunification Month Website](#)** – We have recently updated and streamlined this to make the following more accessible: Past Reunification Hero Stories; Toolkits to Plan a Reunification Month Event; Resources: Articles, Webinars, Videos & Podcasts.

That's all the updates I have for now. Please let me know if you have any questions or want to share any information. Thank you for helping us to recognize and celebrate Reunification Month!

Chauncey

**Chauncey Strong, MSW, Executive Director**  
Strong Training and Consulting, LLC  
*Building Strong Families Together!*-(804) 338-3071  
<https://strongfamilytraining.com>

### [National Reunification Month](#)



**From:** [chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com) <[chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:52 PM

**To:** 'Chauncey Strong' <[chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** National Reunification Month Webinar April 19, 2023 at 1:00-2:00 EDT

**Importance:** HighHello Everyone,

National Reunification Month is celebrated each year in June and acknowledges the people and efforts around the country that help families involved in the child welfare system reunite.

I am excited to partner again this year with the [ABA Center on Children and the Law](#) to celebrate reunifications and highlight the great stories and reunification practices happening across the country.

Our Reunification Month theme for 2023 is "***We Believe in the Resiliency and Strength of Families!***" The theme highlights that families are resilient and strong, and we believe in the power of families and celebrating reconnections.

As we prepare for National Reunification Month, please join us for our kickoff webinar on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 1:00-2:00 EDT. Please see the information below and attached. [Register Today](#)

Feel free to register and share this email far and wide so others can attend.

Thanks for supporting reunifications, and I look forward to working together. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chauncey Strong, MSW

**Executive Director**

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<https://strongfamilytraining.com>

[National Reunification Month](#)



## National Reunification Month 2022

Hello everyone, I hope all is well and that you all are continuing to celebrate and recognize National Reunification Month 2022. This year's theme is ***Reunification: Shifting Power and Reconnecting Families All Year Long***, and I am excited to share with you some exciting updates and resources:

[National Reunification Month \(americanbar.org\)](http://americanbar.org)

### National Webinars

- June 21, 2022, 3:00-4:30 pm ET [Building Parent Leadership and Power to Support Faster, Lasting Reunification and Prevent System Involvement \(americanbar.org\)](#)
- **Click the link to the Recording and Resources for the webinar** [Supporting Families through Reunification and Beyond \(americanbar.org\)](#)

**Reunification Heroes:** Check out the National Reunification Heroes: CA-[Robyn Robbins \(americanbar.org\)](#), GA- [Samantha Walker \(americanbar.org\)](#), OK-[Jamie Yott \(americanbar.org\)](#), NY-[Nora McCarthy \(americanbar.org\)](#), and ND- [Harmony Bercier \(americanbar.org\)](#). **(More to be added soon come [National Reunification Heroes-](#)**

**What's Happening In Your State?** Here's the great reunification work/events happening across the country for 2022. [Colorado \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Florida \(americanbar.org\)](#), [North Carolina \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Oregon \(americanbar.org\)](#), [South Carolina \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Virginia \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Washington \(americanbar.org\)](#). If you want to add your state's activities, please send me an email.

### Resources:

- [Achieving Permanency through Reunification \(americanbar.org\)](#): NEW! This article describes a national training program from Plummer Youth Promise that uses the latest knowledge, research, and interventions to help organizations and agencies achieve permanency for children in foster care through reunification. (6/13/22)
- National Reunification Month 2022 Social Media Toolkit [National Reunification Month 2022 Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [June is Reunification Month! \(govdelivery.com\)](#) **June is National Reunification Month!** This year, consider how investing in culturally appropriate services and supports can help keep families together!  
Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children are at [greater risk](#) of being removed from their homes than other children. By utilizing a culturally responsive approach and seeking culturally appropriate services for families of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, we can address racial disproportionalities and disparities in the child welfare system and increase the likelihood of reunification for these populations.

Find strategies, tips, and tools to better engage children and families in this [resource collection](#) on reunifying families, and explore tools on [cultural responsiveness](#) to make addressing [racial equity](#) a priority in your practice

## Reunification Videos & Stories

[Jamall and Jennifer's Story - National Reunification Month 2022 - YouTube](#)

[Catherine's Story - National Reunification Month 2022 - YouTube](#)

[Teen Reunites with Long-Lost Mother & Aunt](#): Based in Virginia, Connect Our Kids helps reunite families all across the country. In this story, a Wendy's Wonderful Kids® (WWK) recruiter from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services used Connect Our Kids tools to reunite a Haley back to her former basketball coach. This coach has since adopted Haley.

[Teen Boy Reunites with His Long-Lost Mother \(connectourkids.org\)](#)

[Abby's Story](#) In this Connect Our Kids story, Ryan, a teenager who spent many years in foster care, is reunited with his long-lost mother thanks to a Wendy's Wonderful Kids® (WWK) recruiter from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services diligent search using Connect Our Kids technology.

### A Blast from the Past

- **Reunification Podcast:** The Children's Bureau recorded a [podcast about reunification](#) featuring Mimi Laver, Scott Trowbridge, and Chauncey Strong. Listeners will hear a conversation focusing on the current reality of reunification across our public child welfare system.
- [Building Partnerships Between Parents and Caregivers Webinar \(americanbar.org\)](#): A Community-Based Multidisciplinary Approach to Strengthening Families: NEW! In this webinar, Birth Parent National Network leaders and lawyers who work as part of interdisciplinary legal representation teams shared: new Birth and Foster Parent Partnership Tools, the importance of parents and caregivers working together to achieve positive outcomes for children, and how the legal team can support the relationships between parents and caregivers.
- **Sibling Connections [On the Road to Reunification: Experiencing Foster Care with My Sister by My Side](#):** D'Artagnan Caliman shares his journey through foster care to getting his MSW and being a national resource for other families. His enduring connections to his sister, mother, and others resonated with the team.

That's it for now but stay tuned for additional reunification updates soon! Until then, let's remember our theme this year, and let's keep celebrating Reunifications-- ***Reunification: Shifting Power and Reconnecting Families All Year Long!***

**From:** chaunceystrong78@gmail.com <chaunceystrong78@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:42 AM

**To:** chaunceystrong78@gmail.com

**Cc:** 'Mimi Laver' <Mimi.Laver@americanbar.org>; 'Felicea Robinson' <Felicea.Robinson@americanbar.org>

**Subject:** National Reunification Month 2022-Updates

Hello everyone, I hope all is well. It's only a few days away before we celebrate National Reunification Month 2022. This year's theme is ***Reunification: Shifting Power and Reconnecting Families All Year Long***, and I am excited to share with you a few updates:

National Reunification Month Website: [National Reunification Month \(americanbar.org\)](https://americanbar.org/national-reunification-month)

## Webinars

### Webinar 1: Supporting Families through Reunification and Beyond

June 9, 2-3 pm ET. This webinar, hosted by Georgia and Oregon's Reunification Program Managers, will explore four key areas that support successful and lasting reunification: Family Team Meetings (Building a Team), Conditions for Return, Discharge Planning/Post-Reunification Supports, and Case Worker/Family Relationships. Click the link to learn more and register. [Supporting Families through Reunification and Beyond \(americanbar.org\)](https://americanbar.org/supporting-families-through-reunification-and-beyond)

### Webinar 2: Building Parent Leadership and Power to Support Faster, Lasting Reunification and Prevent System Involvement

Tuesday, June 21, 3-4:30 pm ET. This webinar, hosted by Rise, a NYC advocacy organization, will introduce the Rise CORE Program, which equips Parent Advocates to help parents navigate the system and equip them with skills, tools, and resources to reunify quickly and avoid re-entering the system. Click the link to learn more and register. [Building Parent Leadership and Power to Support Faster, Lasting Reunification and Prevent System Involvement \(americanbar.org\)](https://americanbar.org/building-parent-leadership-and-power-to-support-faster-lasting-reunification-and-prevent-system-involvement)

In addition to these excellent webinars, the Reunification Heroes will be celebrated soon on the ABA website. Stay tuned!!

We are also looking for great Reunification resources and to know what each state is doing to recognize Reunification Month. We hope that you share your reunification activities, trainings, and resources so that we can post them on the ABA website. We have a few this year that will be shared shortly, but we welcome more. Here are a few examples from 2021. ***What's happening in your state?*** [Oregon \(americanbar.org\)](https://americanbar.org/oregon), [Georgia](https://americanbar.org/georgia),



[Virginia](#), [Nevada \(americanbar.org\)](#) [Hawaii \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Maryland](#). We would love to have your 2022 updates.

I am looking forward to celebrating the National Reunification month with you!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chauncey

Chauncey Strong, MSW

**Executive Director**

Strong Training and Consulting, LLC

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(804) 338-3071

<https://strongfamilytraining.com>

[National Reunification Month](#)



**From:** [chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com) <[chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:47 PM

**To:** [chaunceystrong78@gmail.com](mailto:chaunceystrong78@gmail.com)

**Cc:** [mimi.laver@americanbar.org](mailto:mimi.laver@americanbar.org)

**Subject:** National Reunification Month 2022- Nominate a Reunification Hero

Hello Colleagues,

National Reunification Month is celebrated in June and acknowledges the people and efforts across the country that help families involved in the child welfare system reunite. This year's theme is ***Reunification: Shifting Power and Reconnecting Families All Year Long.***

As we prepare to celebrate this year, if you are inspired by someone who you think of as a National Reunification Hero, please take the opportunity to nominate them. Nominations are being accepted on the [American Bar Association Reunification Website](https://www.americanbar.org/resources/publications/american-bar-association-reunification-website). The nominations are open through May 6, 2022, and the heroes will be recognized in June.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ReunificationHero>

Also, we hope that every state will acknowledge families who reunified this year and the professionals who assisted them. Please share your reunification activities, training, resources, and other information happening in your state, and we will post them on the website.

We are planning two Reunification webinars in June, and I will share more information as it becomes available. Please feel free to share this email broadly with your peers.

Thanks

Chauncey



Chauncey Strong, MSW

**Executive Director**

Strong Training and Consulting, LLC

*Building Strong Families Together!*

(804) 338-3071

<https://strongfamilytraining.com/>

**National Reunification Month 2021**

**All in for Reunification 2021**

NEW! A webinar for foster care managers about Reunification Month to get them interested in honoring families in their states, and professionals who assisted them, throughout the year. This year's theme is "All in for Reunification 2021" and the goal is for every state to participate this year. Held March 25, 2021. 6/1/21. [All in for Reunification 2021 - YouTube](#)

National Reunification Month is celebrated in June and acknowledges the people and efforts around the country that help families to stay together. I am always excited to support and promote national and local efforts to recognize Reunification Month.

The theme this year is **All In For Reunification 2021!!** The Planning Committee and I hope every state and will acknowledge families who reunified this year and the professionals who assisted them. Share your reunification activities, and we will post them on the [National Reunification Month website](#).

Thank you to the planning committee members, Mimi Laver, ABA, Scott Trowbridge, Children's Bureau, Tracy Serdjenian and Keyna Franklin, Rise, Britt Cloudsdale AdoptUSKids, Jennifer Marcelli, Capacity Building Center for States, Marla Galvan, Information Gateway, and Taffy Compain, Children's Bureau. I am always very appreciative of your continued dedication and being champions for Reunification!!

Below, I have listed highlighted some of the [National Reunification Month website](#). Throughout the month, we will post additional resources as we receive them about reunification and, most importantly, share the stories of this year's Reunification Heroes. If you have additional information you would like to share, please let us know. Then feel free to share this email broadly, and let's go **All In For Reunification 2021!!** 😊

### [National Reunification Month Website](#)

**This year the site features:**

1. **Reunification Heroes:** [Erin Thomas, our first 2021 Reunification Hero](#). (The site will be updated throughout the month and more Reunification Heroes will be added, please check back periodically). [National Reunification Month \(americanbar.org\)](#)
2. **Reunification Podcast:** The Children's Bureau recorded a [podcast about reunification](#) featuring Mimi Laver, Scott Trowbridge, and Chauncey Strong. Listeners will hear a conversation focusing on the current reality of reunification across our public child welfare system.
3. **National Reunification Month Event: Preserving Families and Creating Connections:** Join us on **Wednesday, June 30, 2021, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Eastern** for the virtual event "[Preserving Families and Creating Connections](#)." Participants will learn about the Family Connections Program in Washington State. [Register Now!](#) **Questions?** Contact Chris King, [chris.king@icf.com](mailto:chris.king@icf.com)

4. **CBX highlights reunification.** [Children's Bureau Express \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/childrens-bureau-express) This issue features a message from Associate Commissioner Aysha Schomburg on National Reunification Month. Also, an article that delves into the disparities and reunification outcomes for children of color.
5. **Oregon Reunification Manager:** In this article, [Oregon Refocuses on Reunification](#), our colleagues talk about the position and the 14 person team supporting the Manager that work to achieve reunifications across the state.
6. **What's happening in your state?** Checkout out the great reunification efforts happening in: [Oregon \(americanbar.org\)](#), [Georgia](#), [Virginia](#), [Nevada \(americanbar.org\)](#) [Hawaii \(americanbar.org\)](#), and [Maryland](#). Don't see your state? Send us information and we can post it.
7. [How Judges Can Support Family Reunification through Parent-Resource Parent Partnerships:](#) New Resources: This alert highlights how parent-resource parent partnerships support family reunification.
8. **Reunification Webinar** [All in for Reunification 2021 - YouTube](#)
9. **enCircle** [Visit Coaching: When Reunification Is Unknown](#)

For more reunification information, please visit the [National Reunification Month website](#).

If you have more resources to share, please send them to me, and we will have them posted on the site. Again, feel free to share this email broadly, and let's go **All In For Reunification 2021!!** 😊

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