

About Us

Founded in 1980, the Annual Conference of Agencies and Organizations Serving Promising (formerly Troubled) Youth has always been, as the name indicates, an interagency and multidisciplinary meeting of professionals from education, the juvenile court, human services, juvenile justice, and public/private treatment resources who all deal with children and youth, at-risk and under-resourced, who are experiencing educational, legal, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges. The goal of the conference has always been to provide cutting-edge training and networking opportunities for professionals, primarily direct-service providers who work daily with youth. Average annual conference attendance is 750 attendees.

Promising Youth Conference is funded primarily by registration fees; staffed by volunteers (the Conference Organizing Committee); and managed under the fiscal umbrella of Shelter Kids, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Conference Organizing Committee keeps the conference registration fee as low as possible to ensure that professionals working with youth will have the opportunity of attending and benefiting from this high-quality training experience.

2019 Conference Organizing Committee

Amanda Alkema, Utah Department
of Human Services

Carolyn Andersen, Community Member

Carol Anderson, Utah State Board of Education

Pat Berckman, Community Member

Fati Faatau, Vocational Rehabilitation

Dave Fowers, Private Therapist

Fulvia Franco, Jordan School District

Abby Gottsegen, Jordan School District

Stacy Gibson, Division of Child and Family Services

Mary Gully, Salt Lake Division of Youth Services

Sharon Hall, Granite School District

Gini Highfield, Second District Juvenile Court

Nicki Hopwood, Private Therapist

Catherine Johnson, Wasatch Mental Health

Steven Kaelin, Utah State Board of Education

Abe Kimball, North Sanpete School District

Verne Larsen, Division of Substance Abuse
and Mental Health

Marv Luddington, Davis School District

Pat Moore, Utah Division of Juvenile
Justice Services

Cuong Nguyen, Commission on Criminal and
Juvenile Justice

Daniel Ontiveros, UNI Behavioral Health Clinic

Paul Putnam, Utah Division of Juvenile
Justice Services

Debbie Rocha, Community Member

Bonnie Shaw, Private Consultant

Nicholas Shellabarger, Utah State Board of
Education

Adam Sherlock, Spy Hop Productions, Inc.

Pam Vickrey, Utah Juvenile Defender Attorneys

Ruth Wilson, Department of Human Services