

# *Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series*



## **Families Matter: Family Engagement as a Strategy to Strengthening Mentoring Relationships**

April 18, 2019

# 2019 Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series Planning Team

The Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series is funded by the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention** through the National Mentoring Resource Center and facilitated in partnership with MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership



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# Good to Know...

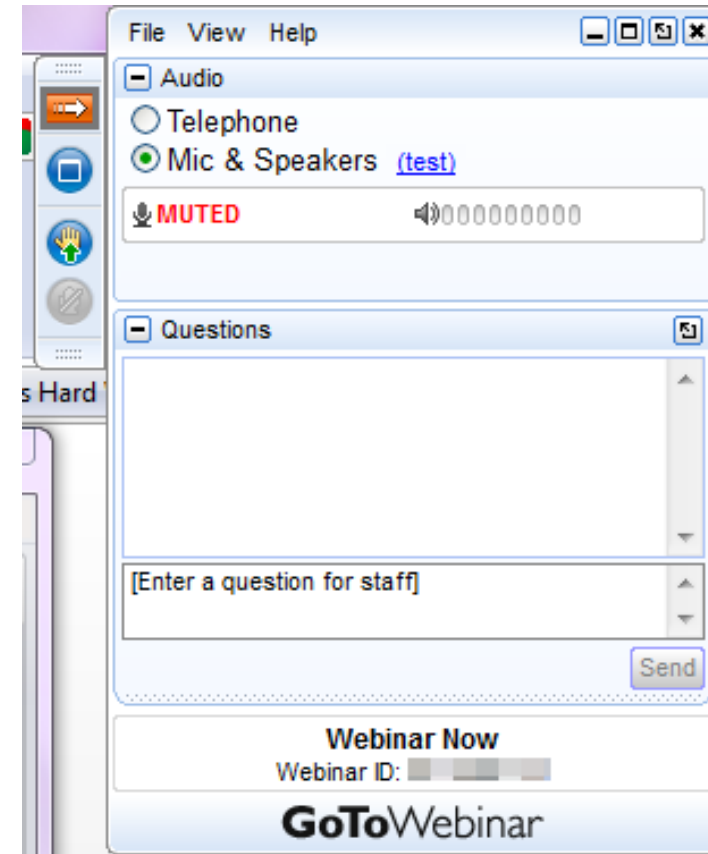
**One week after the webinar, all attendees receive an email with:**

- Instructions for how to access a PDF of presentation slides and webinar recording
- Link to the Collaborative Mentoring Webinar Series webpage, where all slides, recordings and resources are posted

**Please help us out by answering survey questions at the end of the webinar.**

# Participate in Today's Webinar

- All attendees muted for best sound
- Type questions and comments in the question box
- Respond to polls
- Who is with us today?



# Webinar Goals

Recognize the importance family engagement has on youth and mentoring relationships

Understand the barriers and misconceptions to caregiver and family engagement

Learn effective strategies on how to engage caregivers and families in helping to support youth in mentoring relationships



# Cheryl Howard Neal – MENTOR Illinois



Cheryl comes to the MENTOR Illinois with more than 20 years of service in the non-profit sector working with mentoring programs, volunteers and youth. As Director of Programs and Partnerships, Cheryl facilitates trainings and workshops, helps disseminate information about program best practices, meets with organizations to review their policies and procedures and assists them in creating work plans to strengthen their programming. Prior to MENTOR Illinois, Cheryl worked at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago (BBBSMC) for five years holding various positions including Director of Community Based Programs and Program Support Specialist.

# Rosa Julia Garcia Rivera – Gads Hill Center



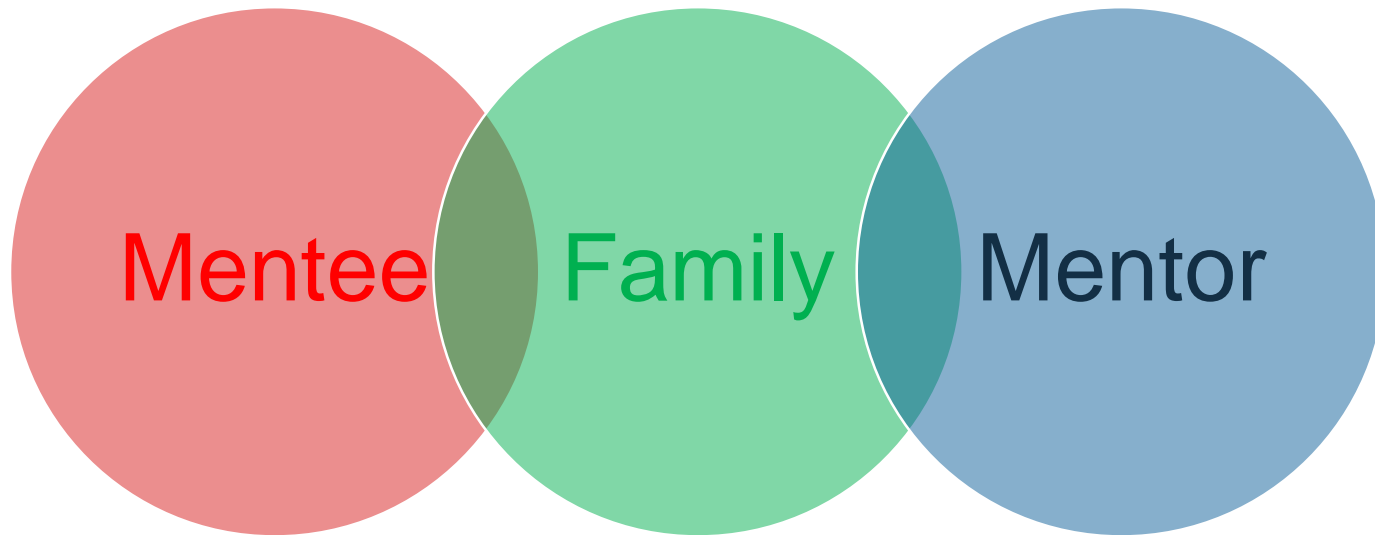
Rosa Julia is an Illinois state Licensed Clinical Professional Therapist with over 20 years of culturally competent clinical experience in the mental health services field. She has worked as a mental health consultant since 2002 and was the owner and operator of Rivera Mental Health Consultants. Rosa Julia utilized her extensive experience in creating and implementing successful organizational models to accommodate different developmental, cultural, and diverse populations and In 2014, became the Director of Mental Health, Youth and Community Initiatives at Gads Hill Center. In this role, she has built thriving departments providing clinical, youth and community health services to the south and southwest sides of Chicago.

# Coretta J. Pruitt "CJ" - Metropolitan Family Services



CJ is a Family Advocate/Resource Developer with Metropolitan Family Services. She works in the Child and Family Wellness Program, known as H3: Healthy Minds, Healthy Children, Healthy Chicago. The H3 Program provides care that supports children's physical, emotional, and mental health during their well child visits. CJ has a heart for learning and lives with the philosophy that 'every day you learn something new'. As such, in addition to her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Technology from Purdue University, she also has a license from the State of Illinois in both Real Estate and Life Insurance. CJ is also the proud mom of 6.

# Why Families Matter



# Families as Assets & Partners

- **Values:** Youth develop attitudes, norms and learn to assign value to work, school, other people and themselves
- **Traditions & Culture:** Youth learn about holidays, rituals, and celebrations as part of family life
- **Adaptability:** The family learns to adapt when faced with changes
- **Affection:** Youth learn to show warmth towards other people
- **Emotional Openness:** Youth feel comfortable and can be themselves around family
- **Problem Solving:** Youth learn resilience and see family members work together to solve problems and deal with issues
- **Shared Activities:** Family regularly spends time doing everyday activities together
- **Ability to Discuss Difficult Topics**—Family members openly discuss sensitive issues, such as sex, religion and financial issues

# Barriers to Family Engagement

Feeling like  
an outsider

Uncomfortable or  
embarrassed for  
wanting help

Not being able to  
provide what the  
mentor provides

Language/  
cultural  
barriers

Not having  
transportation or  
childcare to attend  
family engagement  
events

Siblings or  
other youth  
feel left out

# Family Engagement Strategies

## Communicate clearly

Outline expectations

Explain everyone's role in the match

Answer questions and seek feedback

## Communicate in different ways

Family orientation sessions & open houses

Program handbooks & event calendars

Text, email, social media & website

## Help build the relationship

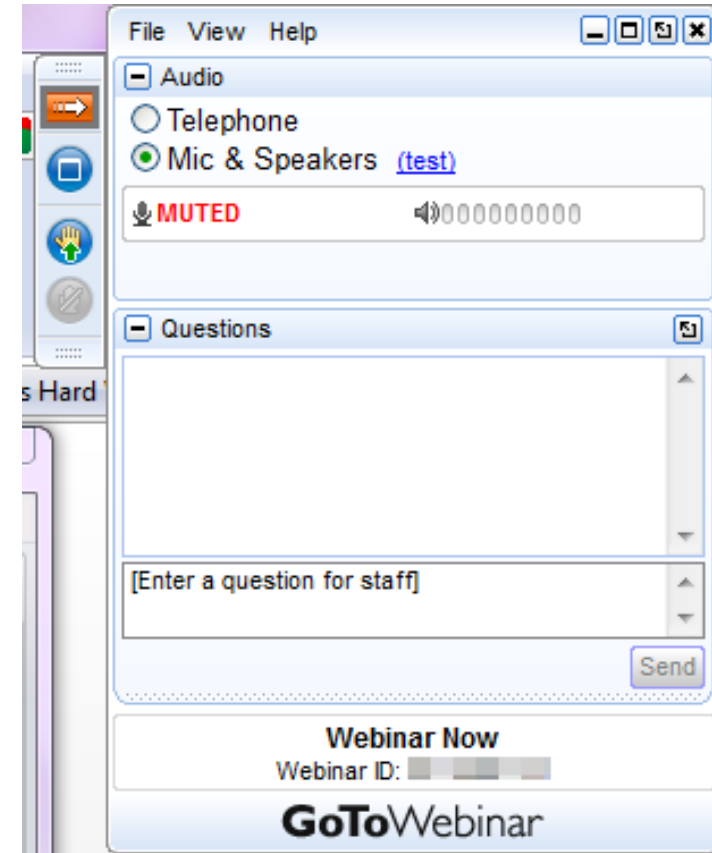
Formally introduce the mentor to the family

Make sure all parties have contact information

Coach and encourage communication

# Q&A

Type your questions in the question box:



# Gads Hill Center

## **Early Childhood Education**

Empowers parents to be their children's first teachers with early childhood development resources including comprehensive educational and developmental services.

## **Youth Services**

Provides out-of-school programs to youth from kindergarten through sixth grade, mentoring for sixth through eighth grade, and STEM-focused academic enrichment and college preparatory programs to high school youth.

## **Mental Health Services**

Enhances academic success, social-emotional development and wellbeing through individualized support, access to mental health resources and community engagement

## **Comprehensive Family Support and Community Services**

Connects children and families to comprehensive resources that meet their educational, job and health-related goals.



# Social Impact

**91%** of families achieved goals they set towards employment, housing or education.

**100%** of Building Leaders students in the last 15 years have graduated high school with acceptance to college as first-generation students.

**94%** of children in Early Childhood programs met or exceeded the major standards of child development and learning.

**80%** of Familias Exitosas cohort participants increased awareness of and skills in parent-child connection.

**4,563** individuals attended workshops and engaged in GHC program activities.

**13,000+** children and adults engaged in PlayStreets summer events which provide safe spaces for play and community connection.

**1,025** Chicago Public Schools students received mental health services resulting in 750 students improving attendance and increasing their GPAs.

**95%** of Junior Building Leaders showed high levels of leadership in the program.

## Mission and Vision

Gads Hill Center (GHC), a social service organization established in 1898, creates opportunities for children and their families to build a better life through education, access to resources, and community engagement. We work to accomplish our vision that all individuals regardless of where they start will achieve their full potential.

# Gads Hill Center's Parent Engagement Model

- Family engagement as an organizational pillar both strategically and operationally
- Utilize a racial equity lens to break down barriers to engagement
- Cultural lens to the services provided
- Building Relationships – family, school and community

# Gads Hill Center's Parent Engagement Model

- Provide a safe inclusive space
- Staff onboarding and training - importance of endurance
- A whole family approach - starting at intake
- Evidenced based curriculum ( PC con Chispa, Learning Hero's)
- Celebration



# Gads Hill Center's Parent Engagement Model



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# Metropolitan Family Services



*An engine of change since 1857, empowering families to positively impact their communities*

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# Empowering & strengthening families to reach their greatest potential



## PARENTS

Gerst Family Young Fathers Program  
Healthy Families  
Older Caregiver Project  
Parenting Fundamentals  
Parents as Partners  
Safe Exchange



## YOUTH

Bridges to Pathways  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health  
Community Schools  
Early Childhood Education  
H3: Healthy Minds, Healthy Children,  
Healthy Chicago  
Mental Health Juvenile Justice  
School-based services  
YouthBuild  
Upward Bound



## FAMILIES

Adoption Support & Preservation  
Empowering Families Initiative  
Families in Transition  
Family Self-Sufficiency  
Family Works  
Supportive Housing Initiative for  
Families in Transition  
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

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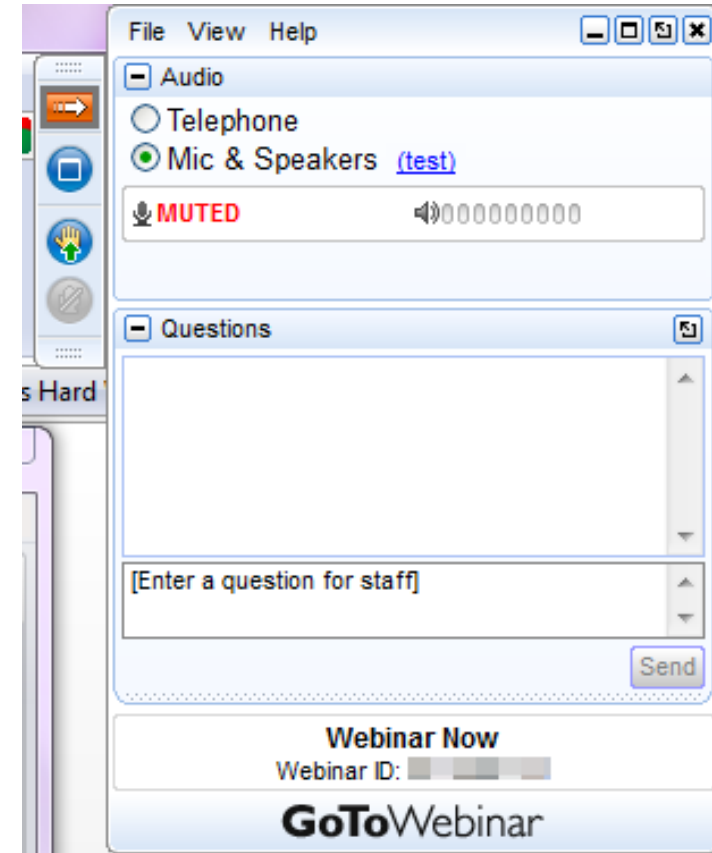
**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IS ...being involved in your child's life from the moment they come into your life**



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# Q&A

Type your questions in the question box:



# Contact Information

**Rosa Julia Garcia Rivera** [rrivera@gadshillcenter.org](mailto:rrivera@gadshillcenter.org)

Director of Mental Health and Youth Services

Gads Hill Center

**Coretta J. “CJ” Pruitt** [PruittC@metrofamily.org](mailto:PruittC@metrofamily.org)

Family Resource Developer

Metropolitan Family Services

**Cheryl Howard – Neal** [chneal@ilmentoring.org](mailto:chneal@ilmentoring.org)

Director of Programs and Partnerships

MENTOR Illinois



Thank  
you

# Additional Resources



## **Affiliates**

Affiliates serve as a clearinghouse for training, resources, public awareness and advocacy. Find your local affiliate here:

<http://www.mentoring.org/our-work/our-affiliates/>

## **Mentoring Connector**

Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the Mentoring Connector

<https://connect.mentoring.org/admin>

## **National Mentoring Resource Center**

Check out the [OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center](#) for no-cost evidence-based mentoring resources

# Remember...

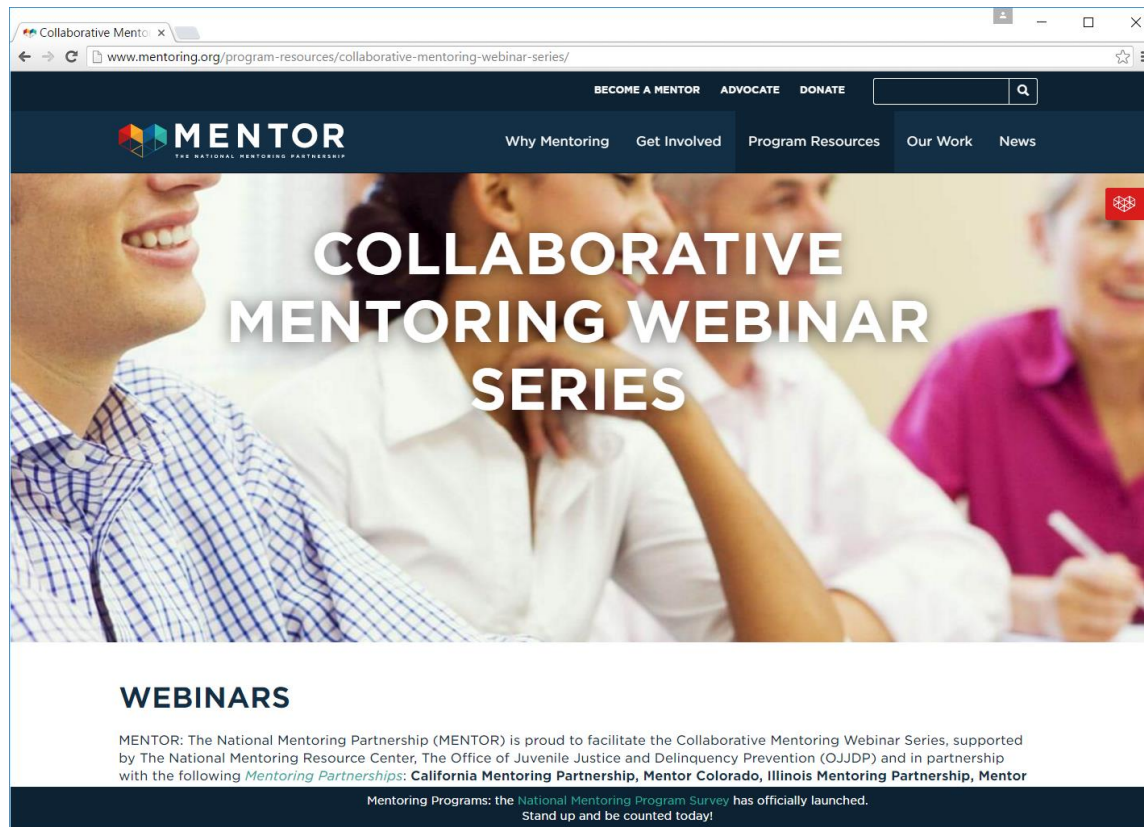
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[http://www.mentoring.org/program\\_resources/training\\_opportunities/collaborative\\_mentoring\\_webinar\\_series/](http://www.mentoring.org/program_resources/training_opportunities/collaborative_mentoring_webinar_series/)

# Stay Connected

- **Email us** at [collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org](mailto:collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org)
- **Tweet** with hashtag #MentoringWebinar
- **Visit our webpage** on the MENTOR website for past and upcoming webinars:



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# Join Us Next Month!



Kickstart Better Business Strategy at all Levels:  
How to Run a “Strategy-Led” Organization  
May 16, 2019  
1 - 2:15 pm Eastern



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