

The 2009 Annual McKinney-Vento Workshop

New York City

October 26, 2009

MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Renee “Robyn” Causey

Director of Youth Initiatives, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
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Robyn Causey received her Masters of Social Work Degree from the University of South Carolina in 1995. She has extensive experience working with youth, adults and families in both residential and non-residential settings. Currently, she is the Director of Youth Initiatives at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for New York City. In this capacity, she is responsible for Chairing the Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee and provides program and fiscal oversight for approximately one hundred agencies who provide services to vulnerable youth. She is also a Graduate Adjunct Professor at Hunter College.

Prior to her present position, Ms. Causey was a member of the Steering Committee and served as the Executive Director of The Waccamaw Youth Center, a residential facility in South Carolina for abused, abandoned and neglected adolescents who do not have a place to call home. Most of the residents were juvenile offenders who had been labeled as disposable youth. She maintained a pristine record; developing goals of promoting education, life skills and providing assistance to family members. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Horry Georgetown Technical College and was instrumental in setting up the first Human Services Associates Degree Program. In September of 2004, she received the “Hero” award for her work in the field of Domestic Violence.

Prior to her career at The Waccamaw Youth Center, she held the position of the Director of Education and Community Services in New York City. She also provided instruction to court mandated batterers. Ms. Causey also has extensive experience working in the field of Corrections with both juvenile and adult offenders. Ms. Causey has created, developed and implemented training programs, written curriculums, conducted presentations and offered technical assistance to many service providers. As a result of her work, she was invited to speak at the United Nations in 1998.

Additional Morning Remarks

Paul Sealy

Program Director, Independence Inn Programs, SCO Family of Services
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Paul Sealy is the Director of SCO Family of Services, Independence Inn Programs, which are considered to be one of the premier programs servicing young people in New York State. In his capacity, he is responsible for four transitional independent living residences for females, males and parenting females as well as a Brooklyn-based Drop-In Center. Services cater to runaway and homeless youth between the ages of 16 and 20. Paul has been the Director for over eight years and describes his work as being necessary to aid youth in having successful and progressive futures. Paul has worked in youth services for over fifteen years.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

Frank Assaf

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Overview and New Developments for
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