

## WEBINAR:

Culturally Relevant and Affirming Approaches to Engaging Families: Reflections  
from the Brazelton Tribal Touchpoints Initiative  
Thursday, September 5, 2019 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

## PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

### **Joshua Sparrow, MD,**

*Executive Director, Brazelton Touchpoints Center, Boston Children's Hospital*

*Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School*

Child psychiatrist Joshua Sparrow, MD, DFAACAP, is executive director of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center in the Division of Developmental Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, where he also holds an appointment in the Department of Psychiatry. He is principal investigator for the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement (Office of Head Start, Office of Child Care, ACF, HHS), and is part-time associate professor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Sparrow, co-author of nine books on children's development, and hundreds of articles on related topics for academic and general audiences, has lectured extensively nationally and internationally, and has been invited to collaborate with numerous Federal agencies and philanthropic foundations. For example, in 2010, he was appointed to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Head Start Research and Evaluation Committee, and in 2016, to speak at the White House Early STEM Education Summit. At the Brazelton Touchpoints Center, his work has focused on cultural adaptations of family support programs, organizational professional development, cross-sector collaboration, and aligning systems of care with community strengths and priorities.

[www.brazeltontouchpoints.org](http://www.brazeltontouchpoints.org)



### **Jeanne Christopher**

*Director of Early Childhood Services, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*

Jeanne Christopher is the program director of Early Childhood Services and started with the program over 40 years ago as a teacher. She is an advocate for children and families, and she has worked at serving them to better their lives her whole career. She is a board member of "Proactive Living" which is a board that supports the independent living of adults on the autism spectrum. Jeanne received an honorary degree from SKC in 2017 for her tireless work in Early Childhood Education. Jeanne started a collaboration with Dr. Brazelton in 2003 to be one of the first tribal touchpoints sites. Jeanne is the proud mother of three grown children, Melissa, Joseph and Jim. She has nine beautiful grandchildren and numerous family members with whom she enjoys spending time.



**Andrea “Ondi” Adams**

*Touchpoints Site Coordinator, Education Manager, Early Childhood Services of The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes*

Andrea loves her role as a supervisor, coach and trainer for teachers at ECS. She has been a teacher/supervisor at Es Kʷʷalmi Nuwewlštn, a Salish Immersion Early Head Start, for the past few years. She is a proponent of bilingual education and language revitalization as a way to strengthen Native communities. Andrea is a fan of brain development and a trainer of “The Growing Brain” a Zero to Three curriculum. She has been a longtime fan of Dr. Brazelton’s work and a Community level trainer of Touchpoints for a few years. She was born and raised in Arlee, MT on the Flathead Indian Reservation and lives there with her Family and many pets.



**Joelfré Grant, M.A.T.**

*Project Director, Tribal Touchpoints Initiative at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center*

Joelfré Grant, a descendant of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, has dedicated his career to the care and education of young children. He served as a lead teacher and Special Services Coordinator of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes’ Early Childhood Services program for five years before becoming a faculty member in the Education Department at Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in 2002. In 2006, Joelfré left SKC to volunteer in Kenya for four months. Joelfré then worked for Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Portland, Oregon while teaching courses at Mt. Hood Community College and Clark College. Joelfré continued teaching psychology and early childhood education courses and was the Director of the Salish Kootenai College Childcare Center and Preschool and Project Director of a Department of Indian Education Readiness Grant. Joelfré is currently the Assistant Director for Partnerships & Professional Development, Project Director of the Tribal Touchpoints Initiative at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center and a facilitator for the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement.



**Ronda Alexander (Moderator)**

*Director of Operations, Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center*

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroit native dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization’s College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and





Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education. *Learn more about Vital Village at: <https://vitalvillage.org>*

### **About the Webinar**

*Grounding practice in a community's indigenous knowledge, expertise, and cultural traditions is critical for strengthening early childhood education initiatives. For nearly 20 years, Brazelton Touchpoints Center has worked in partnership with tribal communities to support American Indian/Alaska Native community goals for all children to thrive. This webinar will provide an opportunity to learn from tribal partners and staff with the Tribal Touchpoints Initiative as they reflect on strategies for strengthening collaborations between providers and tribal communities, centering indigenous identity, language, and practice in early learning and healthy development, as well as fostering sustainable peer learning among and between participating communities.*