

## Extending Foster Care to Age 21: Benefits, Costs, and Opportunities for States

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### Patrick Boyle, Moderator



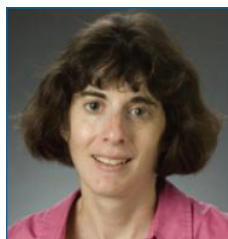
Patrick Boyle is the editor of *Youth Today*, the national trade newspaper for youth program providers, and the author of the parenting column "A Father's Place." He has covered child and family issues for *The Washington Post*, *Newsday*, *The Baltimore Sun*, ABC News, and several parenting magazines. He teaches at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and is the author of *Scouts' Honor*, which examined sex abuse in the Boy Scouts of America.

### Mark E. Courtney



Mark E. Courtney is professor and Ballmer Chair for Child Well-Being in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington. He is also director of Partners for Our Children, housed at the University of Washington. He previously served on the faculties of the University of Chicago, where he was director of Chapin Hall from 2001 to 2006, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His current work includes studies of the adult functioning of former foster children, experimental evaluation of independent living services for foster youth, and the experiences of families involved in welfare-to-work programs.

### Amy Dworsky



Amy Dworsky is a senior researcher at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. Much of her work focuses on youth aging out of foster care. She is a co-investigator for the Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth, a longitudinal study of young people making the

transition from foster care to adulthood in Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. She is also involved in an initiative to help states comply with and move beyond the National Youth in Transition Database requirements.

### Mary Gambon



Mary Gambon is the assistant commissioner for Adoption, Foster Care, and Adolescent Services for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. She has worked in the child welfare community, in both the private and public sectors, for three decades. She has held supervisory, managerial, and administrative roles in the child protective arena, focusing on placement and permanency for the last ten years.

### Jody Grutza



Jody Grutza is a senior policy analyst in the Social, Economic, and Workforce Programs division at the National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices, specializing in child welfare issues, including foster care, adoption, youth in transition, and juvenile justice. She provides customized technical assistance to governor's offices and also manages projects related to child welfare. Previously, she was a legislative associate for the American Public Human Services Association.