



# COLORADO

## Department of Education

## 2023 Transition Leadership Institute

**Speaker: Michele Williers, Executive Director PEAK Parent Center**

**Co-Presenters: Anna Stewart, Boulder School District and Yvette Plummer, ED of Show and Tell**

**Session Title: Parent Panel: Parent Perspectives and Effective Collaboration in the IEP Process**



**Michele Williers**, a servant & mission driven leader with a 30 year-career in leadership, operations, management, program and administration for youth serving agencies. During her tenure as the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of BBBS of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties- a leader in youth development, child safety and protection, she expanded the agency to serve a newly constituted three-county region and within twelve years, it grew from being the smallest to the largest agency in New Jersey. Now in Colorado, as the current Executive Director of PEAK Parent Center, she is a passionate leader and fierce advocate for families of children with disabilities, self-advocates, transition aged youth, educators, and professionals. A proud mother of a 20-year-old young man, she is a valuable contributor on a local, statewide, and national basis in support of schools to improve services and outcomes for students with disabilities.



**Anna Stewart** is the parent of three young adults, two with disabilities. As a parent liaison and advocate, she has worked with thousands of parents navigating special education through school and into adult life. Anna is a writer, writing teacher, transition specialist, Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) facilitator and trainer in addition to fostering dogs with PTSD. She runs ReWriting Our Worlds writing groups for family members/people with disabilities, hosts several parent groups, is a certified Common Sense Parenting instructor and hikes daily with the foster dogs!



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**Yvette Plummer** has a Bachelor in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Masters in Communications from Regent University. She has taken a break from her passion of making films, to pursue her other passion, being a mother and advocate for her 22-year-old son who has a disability. Yvette has been the Executive Director for THRIVE Center and Show and Tell for almost 17 years and proudly serves on several boards, committees and workgroups while still providing one-to-one parent advising and training at no cost to families. She believes it is important to make sure that there is a voice at the table for families, particularly families of color who have children with disabilities when policies and laws are being discussed that will affect their child's future well-being.