

**HRTW Topical Conference Call: February 23, 2007
Transition & Cultural Competence**

S P E A K E R S

When e-mailing speakers, please reference "Transition & Cultural Competence" in the subject line.

BIOS

HRSA/MCHB funded National Centers

Healthy & Ready to Work National Resource Center

- Toni Wall, MPA ([link to her bio](#))

National Center for Cultural Competence

- Wendy Jones, MEd ([link to her bio](#))

National Center for Family Professional Partnerships at Family Voices

- Sophie Arao-Nguyen, Ph.D.
- Trish Thomas ([link to her bio](#))

YOUNG ADULT

- WILL ADD NAME ON 2/20 ([link to bio](#))

MCHB LEADER

- Richard (Dick) Aronson, MD, MPH ([link to his bio](#))

Richard Aronson, MD, MPH,
MCH Title V Medical Director
Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Augusta, ME
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Since 2002, Dr. Aronson serves as the MCH Medical Director for Maine. Previously he was the Chief Medical Officer for Family and Community Health in Wisconsin and was also the Director of Medical Services for the State of Vermont Health Department and as Director of the Vermont Child Development Clinic. For the past 13 years he has been named to the National Center for Cultural Competence Advisory Board. In 2004 he received the John C. MacQueen Lecture Award. He lives in Hallowell, Maine, with his wife, Linda, and two children, Toby and Angela.

Sophie Arao-Nguyen, Ph.D.
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Wendy Jones, M.Ed., MSW

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Wendy Jones is a research instructor in the Department of Pediatrics, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She has been associated with the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD) for the past 12 years and is a bilingual special educator and social worker specializing in advocacy, support, and training for individuals and families with limited English proficiency and families with developmental, educational and emotional disabilities. Ms. Jones is currently the Director of the Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Project of the National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC). In this capacity she provides technical assistance and consultation to agencies and organizations providing services and supports to children and youth with special health care needs and their families.

Patricia (Trish) Thomas

Partnership Coordinator
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Trish serves as Consultant and Cultural Competence and Liaison Advisor to Family Voices (FV) network and the Tribal Roundtable for Young Adults with Disabilities Summit of the Department of Health and Human Services' Young Adult Program, of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) in coordination with the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Tribal Roundtable Advisory Group. In addition she is also Consultant on Cultural Competence & Liaison Advisor for the Healthy & Ready to Work National Resource Center.

In this capacity she provides technical assistance in review and development of project materials and nationwide dissemination among the FV network. She has held several positions with in the Family Voices National office she currently hold [the position of](#) Partnership Coordinator for the National Center on Family/Professional Partnerships for CYSHCN coordinating [the network and](#)

partnering of various local, regional, and national groups with the Family Voices Network and the Family to Family Health Information Centers. She also mentors family leaders who come from the various ethnic and racial backgrounds along with training of health care professionals. She is also part of a faculty training team for the Georgetown's University National Center on Cultural Competence CSHCN program. Trish sits on many boards, task forces and committees at the local, state, regional and national level, which include but are not limited to NM long term care advisory board, Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competency CSHCN Program advisory board, [AMCHP Conference Planning Committee](#), Mountain State Regional Genetics Network newborn/education/consumer advisory boards, [National Indian Health Board Tribal Youth Summit Advisory Committee](#), and the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) advisory board. Trish has also reviewed grants for the Federal government, state programs and Regional programs over the past 16 years.

Trish is a member of the Laguna Tribe in New Mexico and resides on the Pueblo of Laguna Indian Reservation. She is the mother of two children, a daughter Kori, who manages allergies and asthma, and a son Travis, who was born with severe to profound bilateral hearing loss, a vision impairment and a few other undiagnosed conditions. Trish Thomas has had to overcome cultural barriers in order to speak out for her son's rights. She has worked in the area of deaf and hard-of-hearing children with special healthcare needs for over 20 years. And she is a proud grandmother to Leolla and Maxamillion.

Toni Wall, MPA, CSHN Program, Augusta, ME,
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Toni Wall is the Maine Title V CSHCN Director and Director of HRSA/MCHB's Healthy & Ready to Work National Resource Center. She has extensive experience serving as Project Director on state and federally-funded initiatives including the *Maine Adolescent Transition Partnership* and *Maine Works for Youth!* (Maine's MCHB-funded HRTW Phase I and Phase II initiatives), statewide Traumatic Brain Injury projects, and the recently-funded MCHB Integrated Services Grant. She supports Maine Family Voices, the Rural Medical Home Improvement Project, and the Family to Family Support Network. She serves on a number of state and federal interdepartmental committees and boards and is the AMCHP representative to the National Initiative on Physical Fitness for Children and Youth with Disabilities. Under Ms. Wall's leadership, Maine is credited with being the first state in the nation to have a Title V Youth Advisory Council as well as to have a youth with disabilities participate as a reviewer for the MCHB Block Grant. She holds a BA in Environmental Science/Biology and a Masters in Public Administration.