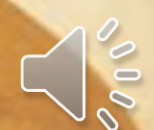




THE CENTER FOR
Exceptional
FAMILIES



Shelby Knight



Executive Director

Shelby is the parent of an adult son with autism. Since his diagnosis, she has been active in all issues and projects involving children, youth and adults with disabilities.

Shelby has more than 30 years of experience in the advocacy field working with families to insure the best possible outcomes for children and adults with disabilities. She is the board chair of a group home in Jonesboro, serves as an advisory board member of the Arkansas Academy for Educational Equity at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, she is a board member of a local early intervention program and is an advisory council member of the local branch of Project Search.



Board Members

Elizabeth Band
*Board Chair
Jonesboro

Bethany Rice
Hot Springs

Ruth Eyres
Sherwood



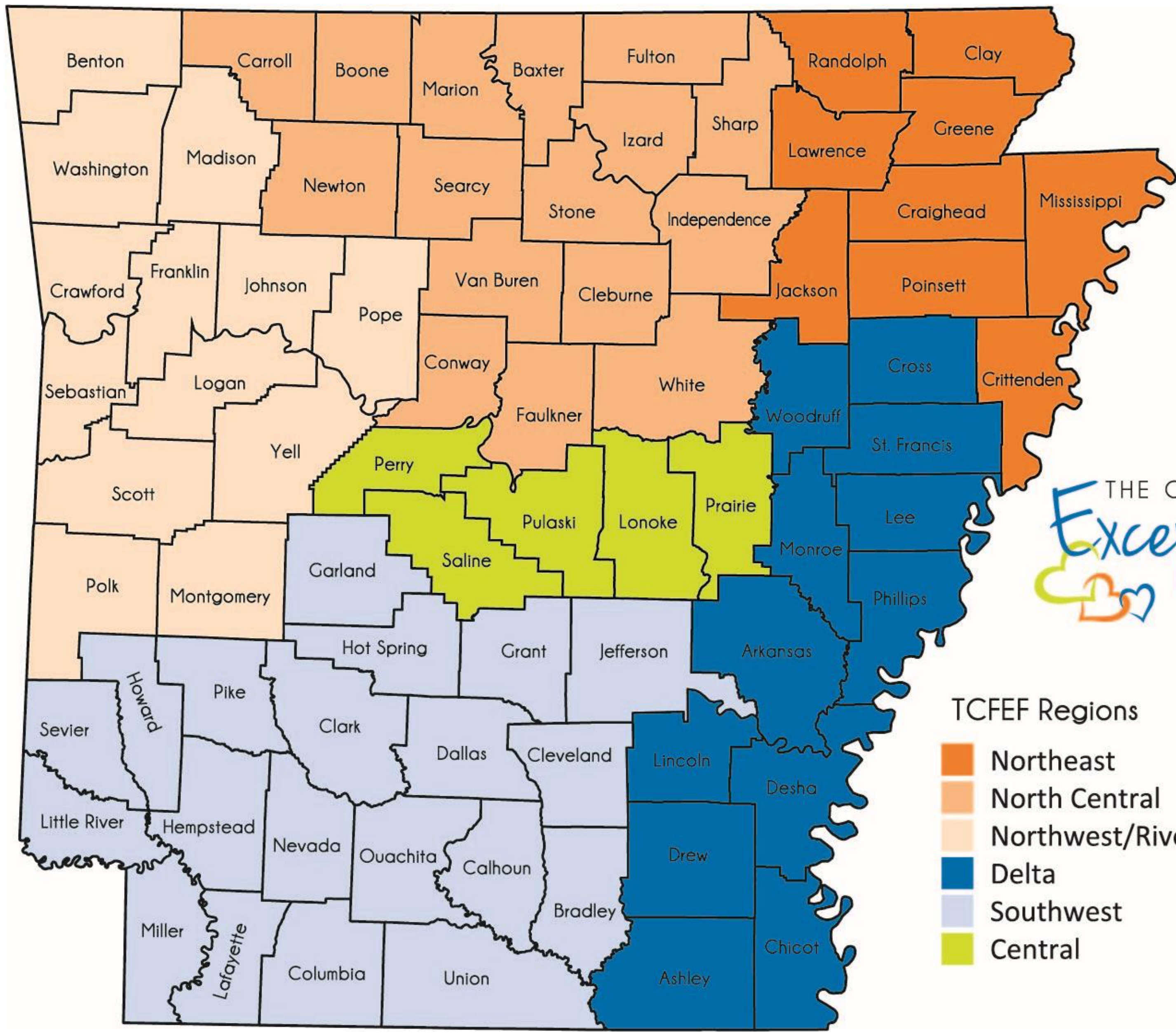
Pamela Hill-Pearson
West Memphis

Lauren Preston
Jonesboro

Monica Porter
Malvern

Rachel Hritz
Little Rock





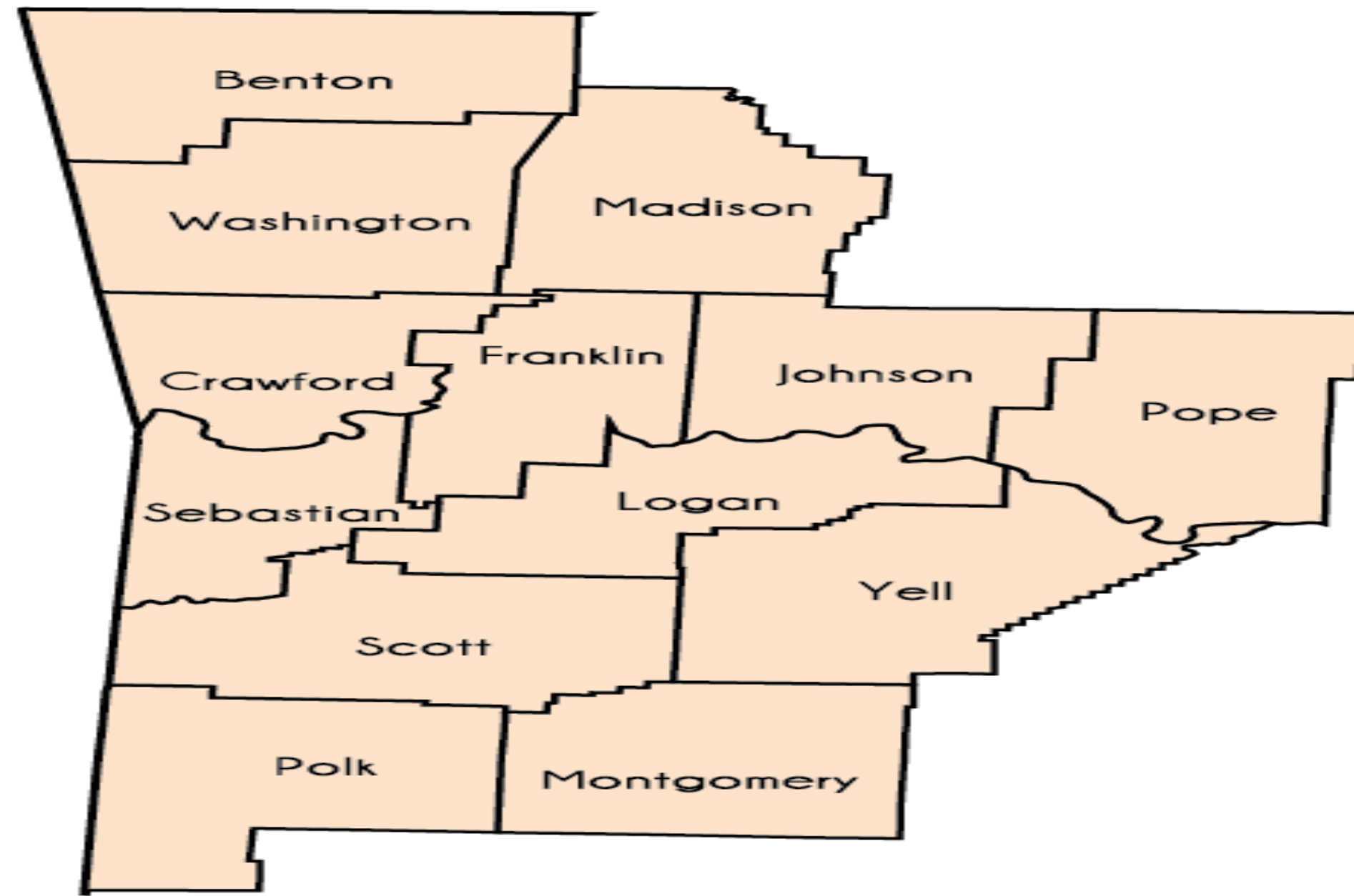
- TCFEF Regions
- Northeast
 - North Central
 - Northwest/River Valley
 - Delta
 - Southwest
 - Central



Katrinka Sullivan



NW & River Valley



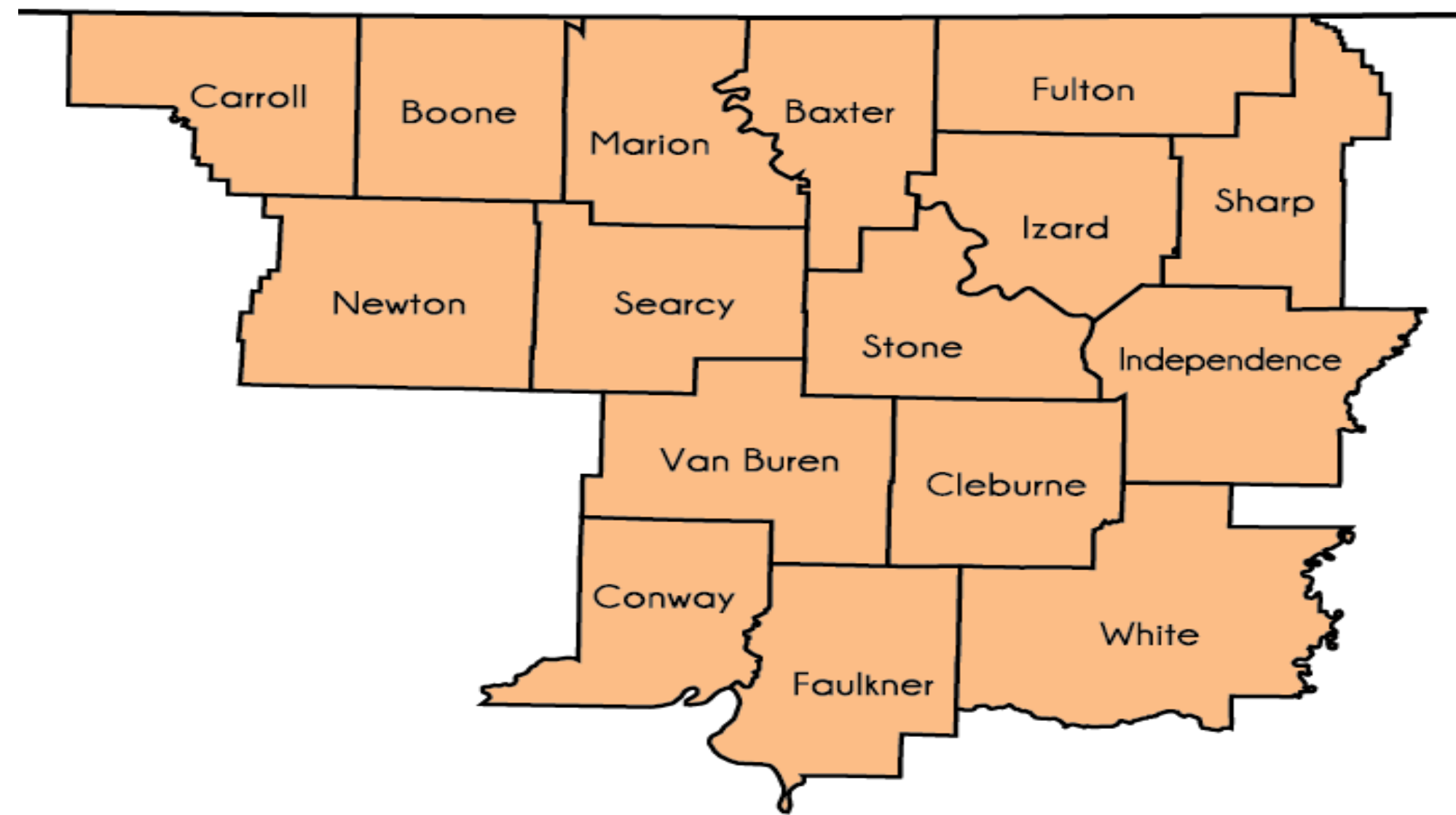
Katrinka Sullivan recently moved to Arkansas with her husband and three children from New Jersey. She has been actively involved in special education for over 20 years as both a special education teacher and administrator. Much of her career was spent as a principal at a school for children with alternative learning styles. She has a passion for guiding families on how to best navigate the 504/IEP process and help their children have positive learning experiences at school.



Loreena Hegebart



North Central



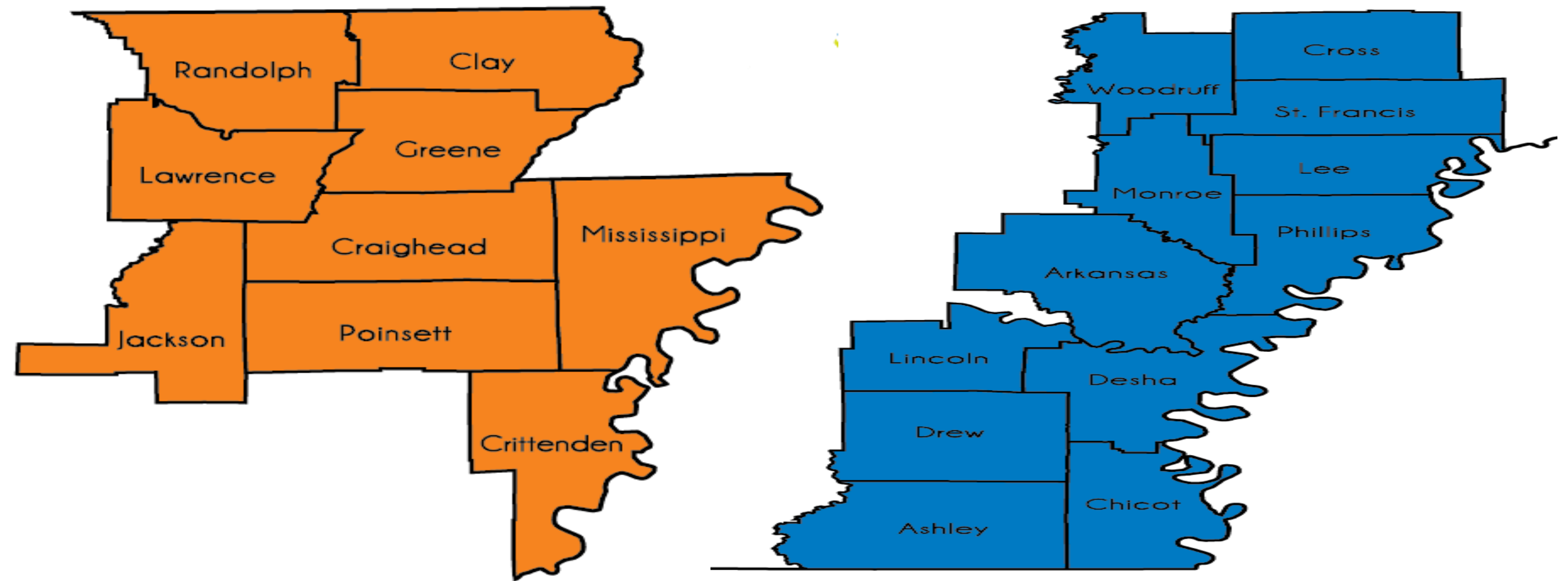
Loreena has knowledge and experience working with a wide spectrum of physical and mental disabilities. Having a sibling and one of her own children with a disability, her passion for obtaining the most inclusive education possible and improving her loved ones' quality of life became a career for advocacy work with families and children with disabilities. Loreena is the widow of a former military member and works with the Arkansas Council for Military Children on the Community Outreach Committee.



Teresa Hendrix



Northeast and Delta



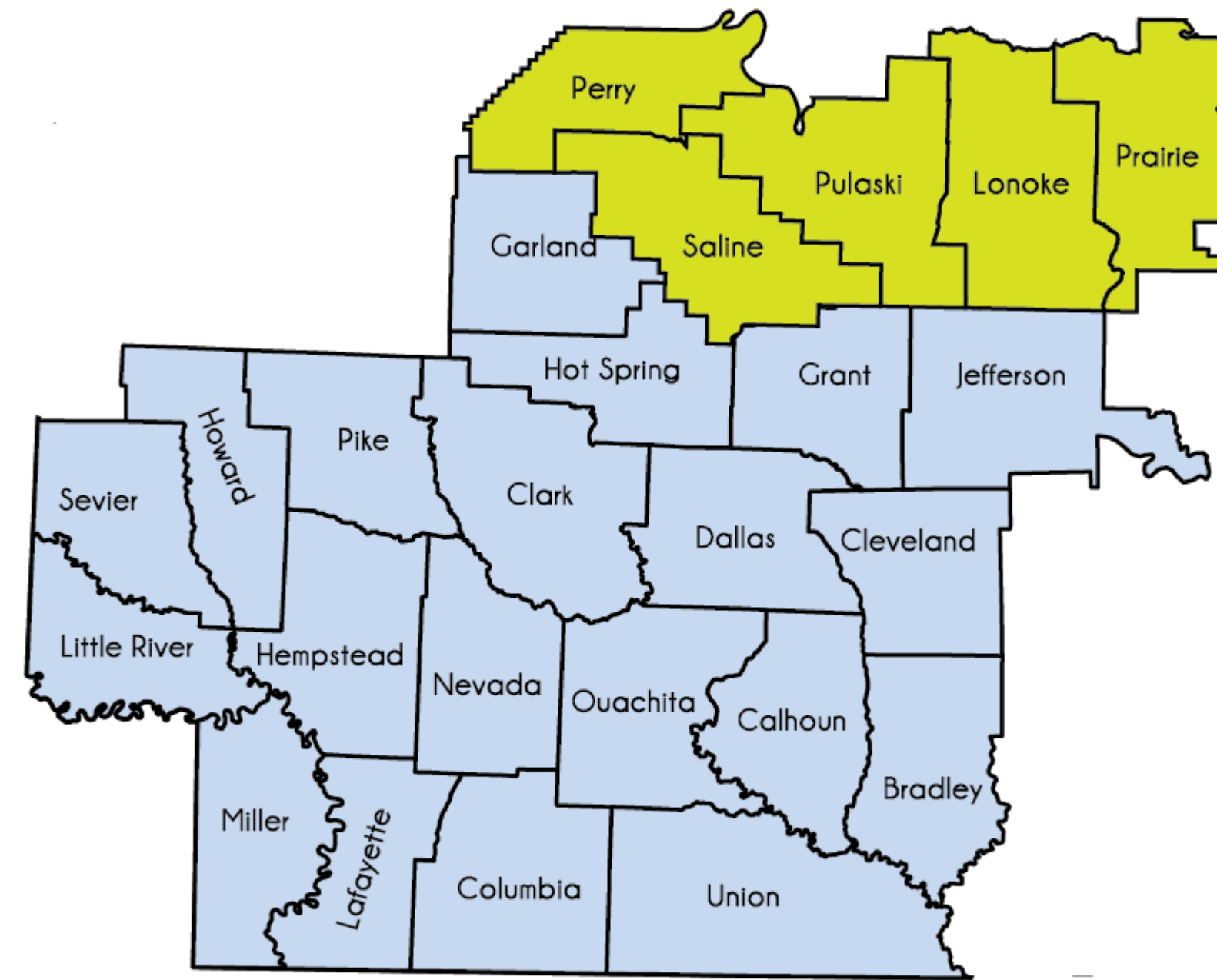
Teresa is a newly retired special educator. She spent the last 35 years in education as both a special education teacher and administrator. Teresa has a passion for special education that began as a small child visiting a Lions' Club nursery school for the blind in Memphis, TN. Having a close family member with a visual disability has allowed Teresa to see the unique challenges facing families and students with disabilities. Teresa also worked for Arkansas Transition Services for several years.



Karen Lutrick



Central and SW



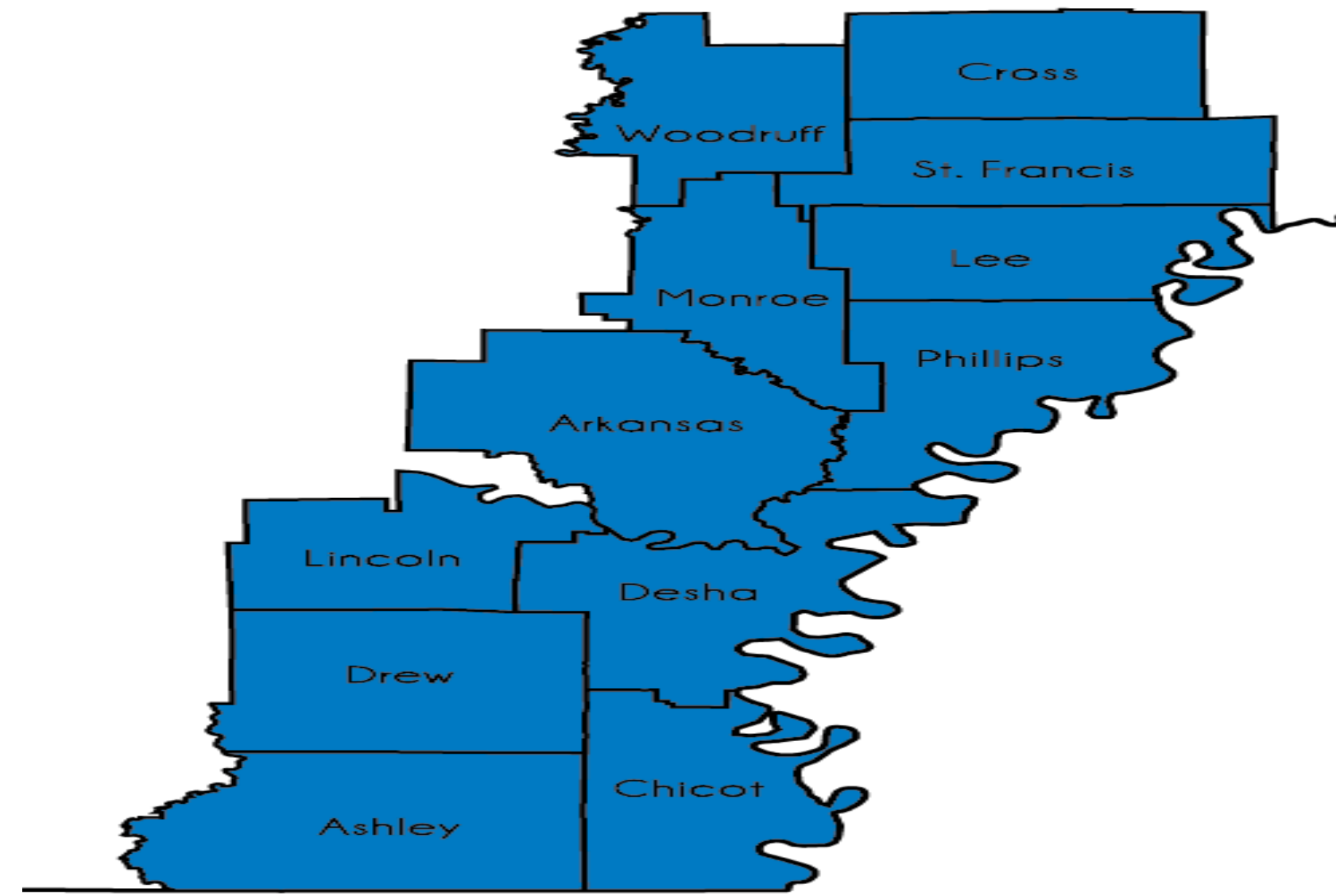
Karen Lutrick has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. She has advocated for children and adults with disabilities for more than 20 years as an educational advocate and resource provider. She is the TCFEF lead on the multi-state vocational rehabilitation grant. Karen enjoys sharing information and empowering individuals to achieve equality. She has three adult children, the youngest an individual with a disability.



Lauryn Tacker



Delta



Lauryn has a master's in social work and is a small business owner. Lauryn is married and has two children, one with multiple disabilities. Lauryn works hard to promote inclusion and raise awareness of her sons' challenges at home, school, and in the community. She also volunteers her time with both Ag for Autism and Make-A-Wish in the Northeast region and in the Arkansas Delta. A farming family heavily immersed in the culture of that lifestyle, Lauryn and her family make their home in Poinsett County.



Michele Lappin



**Media/Technology
Coordinator and
Intakes**



A native of Louisiana, Michele Lappin comes to TCFEF with years of experience in advocating for people with disabilities, including time spent advocating for children and adults in the Louisiana legislative session. Michele is a wife and a mother of three children with varying disabilities including Autism. She has a Bachelor's degree in Education. Michele is an avid researcher and her focuses include behavioral and mental health, disability laws, LGBTQ+ issues, neuroscience and psychology.



New Staff Member!



Hispanic Outreach
Coordinator



Biography coming soon!



Parent Centers



- Initially funded in 1975 through the disability movement (later known as IDEA)
- *Every* state and U.S. territory has a Parent Center (TCFEF is the only PTI in Arkansas)
- Parent Centers encourage, inform, empower individuals, families, and providers



Parent Center

- Serves families of children ages birth to 26 and works with all disabilities.
- Provides information about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to benefit individual's outcome.
- Offers a variety of services including one-to-one support and assistance, workshops, printed materials and publications, and social medias.



Parent Centers serve. . .

- **1.4 million** contacts with parents and professionals through trainings, presentations, calls, letters, home visits, and e-mails.
- **1.2 million** parents and professionals have received individual assistance from Parent Centers.
- **4.7 million** have been reached through print and electronic newsletters.





Parent Centers Help Families



Understand

their children's disabilities and educational needs.

Educate and Encourage

families regarding their child's educational rights and responsibilities and encourage them to get involved in the processes.

Train

parents to advocate for their children and provide training for educational professionals on specific disabilities.

Connect

families to community resources.

Assist

in resolving problems between families and schools.

Teach

parents how to effectively communicate with their school and related service providers.

Promote

high expectations and endless possibilities.



Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

To improve educational opportunities for students with disabilities, including students transitioning to adult life beyond high school.



Vision Statement

To work in collaboration with families and their local school districts to promote an innovative approach to special education services for individuals with disabilities.

Advocacy with heart



Grant Goals

- **Provide**
knowledge regarding special education services.
- **Create**
opportunities for youth and young adults to become effective self-advocates.
- **Increase**
engagement between families and professional communities
- **Conduct**
outreach programs to underserved groups to increase their knowledge of programs and services available to them.



TCFEF Data



660

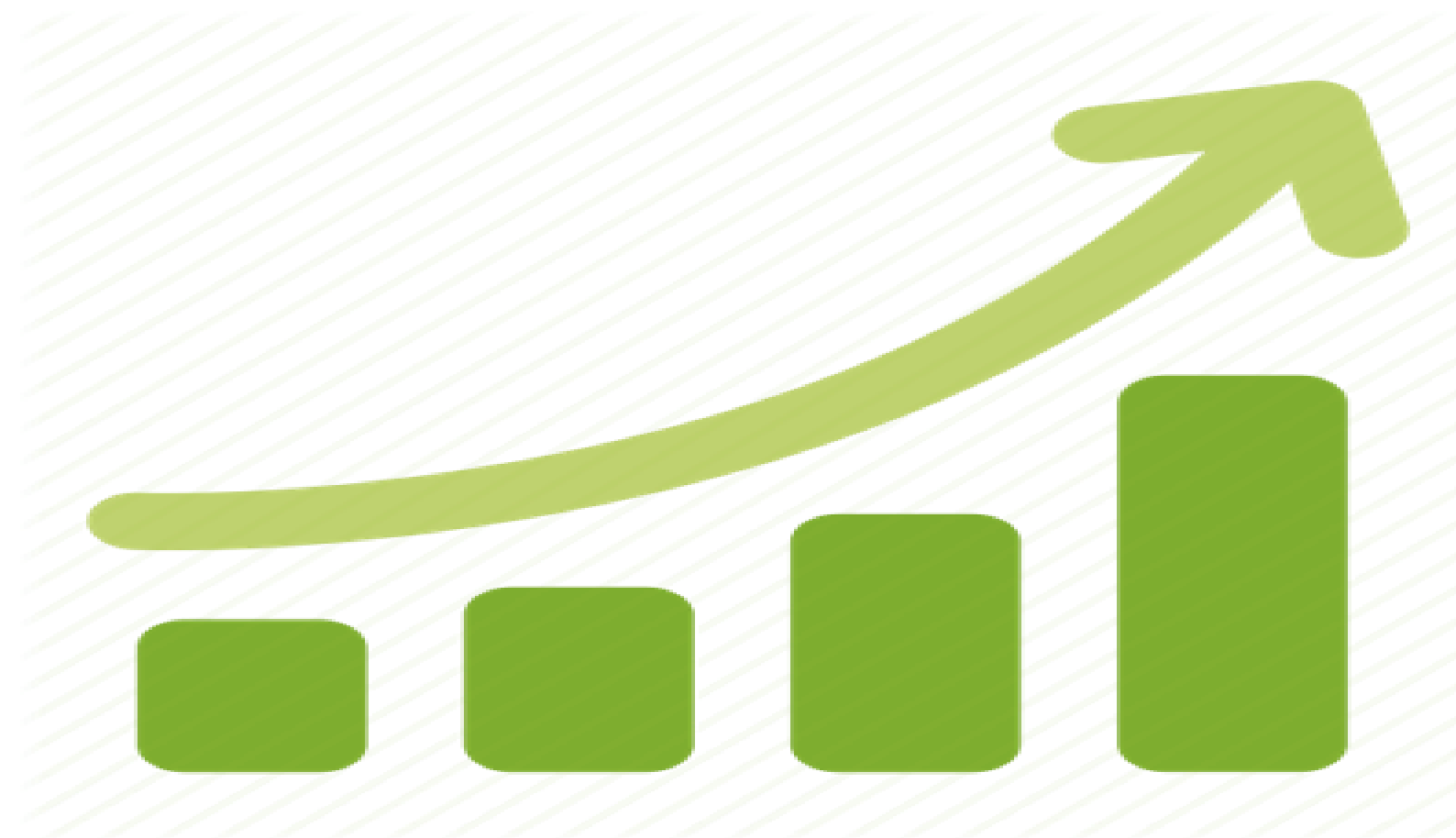
workshops conducted by TCFEF staff across the state

3,000

IEPs, IFSPs, FIEPs, 504s,
and meetings attended

15,100

phone calls received from
families and professionals



**Data collection: 2015-2020



Our Workshops

- Early Intervening Services and Response to Intervention
- The Center for Exceptional Families
- 123's of the 504
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Effective Parent Advocacy
- Parent Training and Information Centers
- Autism
- Understanding the IEP
- Developing Your Child's IEP
- Dyslexia 101
- Testing and Evaluation Procedures
- Parents Rights Under IDEA
- The More You Know for School Meetings
- Sensory Processing
- Info on Test Acronyms

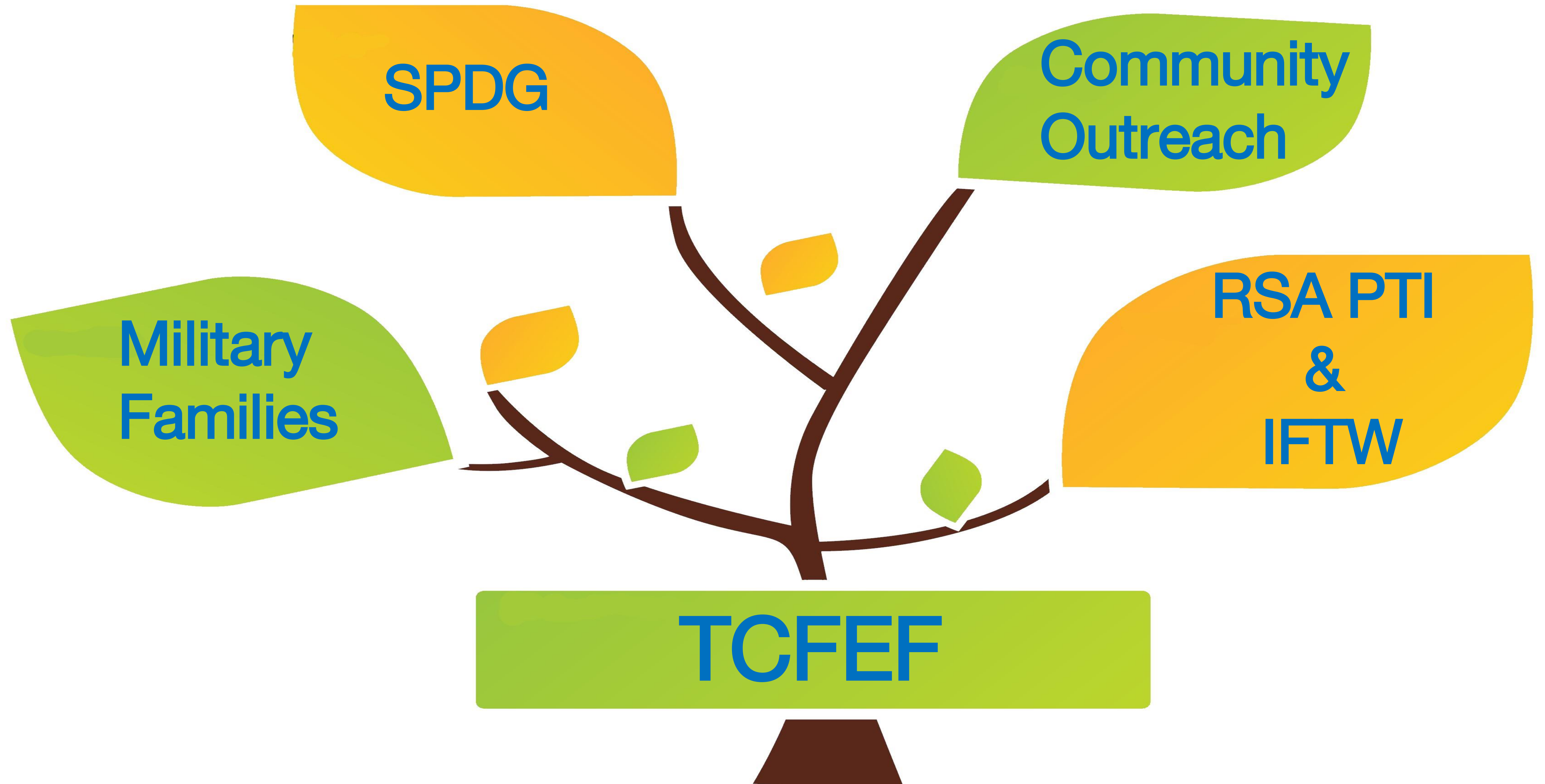


Workshop Comments

- “I love what TCFEF has to offer me both as a parent and a professional!”
- “I have and will continue to recommend TCFEF to people that have a need. I value the information and support I received from the Center.”
- “Our parent mentor is a valuable asset to our families! Always available to answer questions and respectfully help or find the answers.”
- “As a service provider I feel this workshop was not only beneficial to parents but also to service providers in providing families with the necessary resources to meet their needs.”



Our Projects and Collaborations



SPDG



Arkansas
State Personnel Development Grant

RTI  arkansas

ACMC



ARKANSAS COUNCIL FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

RSA PTI IFTW



Resources for Teen and Young Adults

Not secure | http://thecenterforexceptionalfamilies.org/programs/youth-in-transition/

Gmail YouTube Maps PIX Arkansas - Google...

Po Box 16125 • Jonesboro, AR 72403
(870) 336-3012 • Toll Free (888) 360-9654
If you have used our services, please take our survey, [CLICK HERE](#)

THE CENTER FOR Exceptional FAMILIES

Our Team Resources Programs News & Events Calendar

Resources for Teen and Young Adults

Current Arkansas Resources

Independent Futures That Work Project

[Website](#)

Select Language

IFTW Arkansas State Advisory Committee

Type here to search

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Community Outreach

**Sensory Saturday
Movie Events**
Jonesboro, Batesville,
Monticello, and
Russellville



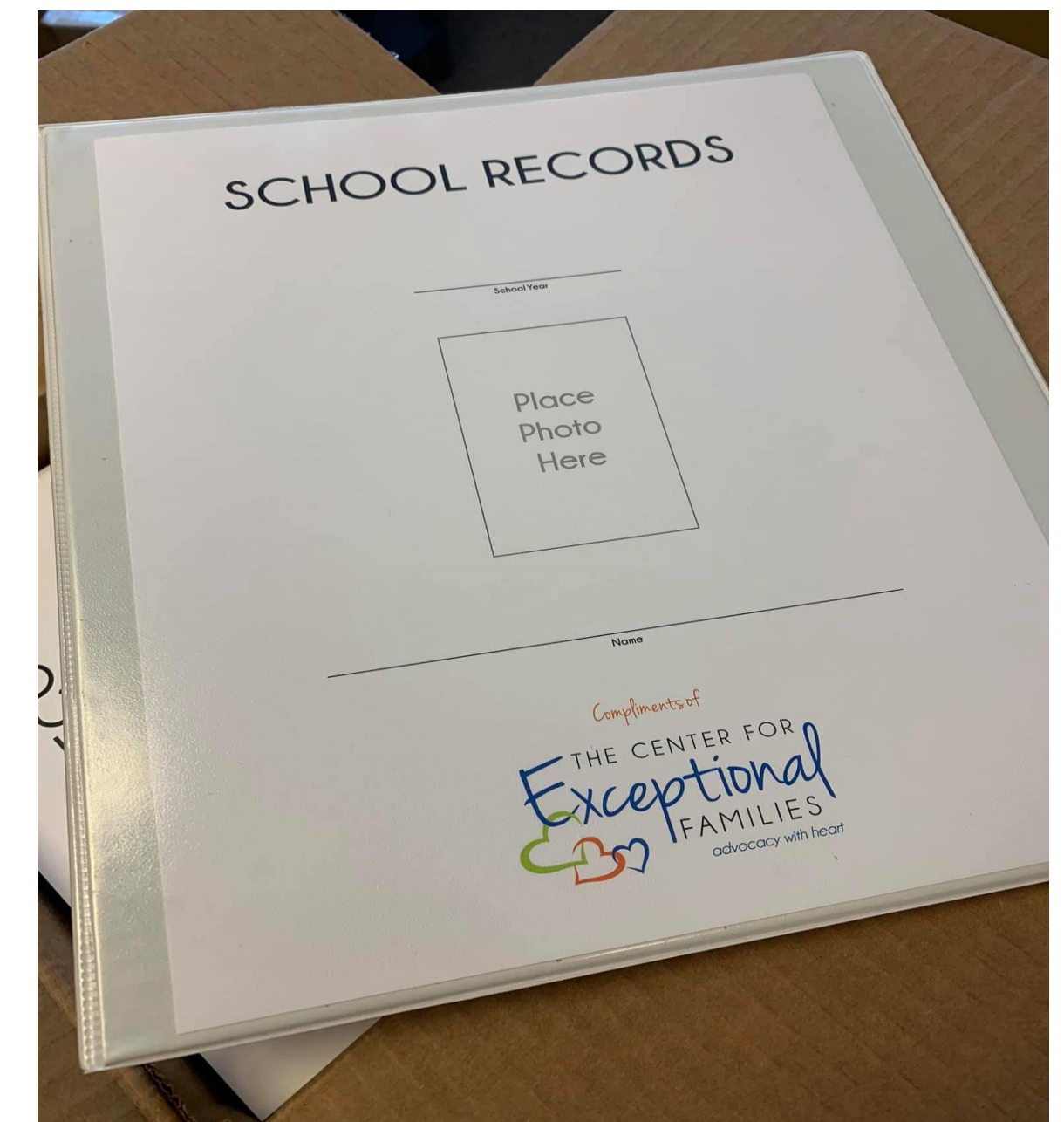
Youtube
Webinars, Workshops, Fast
Five Friday (technology), and
Tips for Tuesday



Email Newsletter
Includes information
about news, events,
workshops, tips,
organizations, public
school info, and other
disability related
information



Parent Binder
Includes a binder with
tabs for keeping
educational records
organized.



Sensory Cinema



Contact Information

888-360-9654

toll free

www.tcfef.org



[@exceptionalfamilies](https://www.instagram.com/exceptionalfamilies)



**Advocacy
with Heart**