



## **Getting the Word Out...**

**William E. Painter, Jr. and Lee “Bob” Smith**

**Foster Family-based Treatment Association**

**Atlanta, GA**

**August 2-5, 2009**

**“Believing in the Magic of Families”**

William E. Painter, Jr., Senior Director, Organizational Development, Institute for Family Centered Services, and Lee “Bob” Smith, Director Training and Development, presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual FFTA Conference in Atlanta, GA. The conference, entitled “Believing in the Magic of Families”, brought together over 750 administrators, professional staff, senior managers, policy makers, researchers, educators, and treatment foster parents to improve competency and stimulate an exchange of information, best practices, and techniques that are being used in the field of Treatment Foster Care and related family-based services.

The Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) is an agency-led organization of treatment foster care providers established in 1988 with an initial purpose of defining and refining Treatment Foster Care practices. The Association’s membership is composed of agencies throughout North America currently operating treatment foster care programs. Organizations that are not direct service providers, but have an interest in the field, hold affiliate membership status. FFTA is assisted by recognized researchers and policy-makers in the fields of child welfare and mental health.

Mr. Painter presented “A Strategic Approach to Reunification for Juveniles with Placement Out of Home.” The presentation offered practical tools to overcome the typical barriers to the reunification process and taught fellow therapists how to engage parents and grandparents in this valuable process. Mr. Smith presented “Sensory-Based Systemic Treatment of Trauma.” This is an approach that helps to counter the effects of trauma on memory and provides a coherent narrative that has healing effects throughout the life span.