



Antwone Fisher Opens Child Welfare Conference



Child welfare practitioners, policy makers, and administrators flocked to Philadelphia for the [Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice & Research](#)’s bi-annual conference, “[One Child, Many Hands: A Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Welfare.](#)”

[Antwone Fisher](#) opened the conference on the morning of Wednesday, June 12. An acclaimed author and screenwriter, Fisher’s autobiographical story was the basis of a film starring Denzel Washington.

Fisher gave an inspirational address that chronicled his life and seemingly serendipitous path to success as a Hollywood film writer. He offered specific insight about best practices from a client’s perspective.

“He was shared sobering details of his horrific experience as a child growing up in the crippled foster care system, while balancing this dark topic with comical interludes -like the story of receiving his first check as a screen writer with more "zeros" than he had ever seen before,” a conference attendee, recalled. “Antwone’s poignant message reminded me of the power of human resilience and endless possibilities for those who refuse to give up, despite difficult circumstances.”

[State Representative Louise Williams Bishop](#) gave the keynote address on Thursday. Bishop is a known legislator, radio personality, minister, and survivor.

“This year’s conference allowed speakers and attendees to consider what child protective service and child welfare policy might become in the next five to 10 years,” said [Dean Richard Gelles](#). Gelles closed the conference on Friday with “What Will Child Protective Services be like in 2020?”

Diverse plenary panels addressed critical and controversial topics including “The Role, Responsibilities, and Ethics of Media in the Reporting of Child Abuse” to “Jerry Sandusky as an Agent of Social Change: Pennsylvania’s Efforts at Reform – A View From the Inside.”

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