

**Melanie Richard, M.A.** has been a Team Decision Making (TDM) facilitator since 2006. She provides TDM meetings with family, caregivers, community representatives, agency staff, and children, for all placement related decisions and assists participants in clear and honest communication to manage conflict and strong emotions as they arise, with the goal of reaching group consensus. Prior to this work she was a victim advocate for the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit, Special Skills-African American Culture from 2004-2006 where she provided short-term counseling to the victims of domestic violence criminal cases. She received her master of arts in clinical psychology, with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy from Pepperdine University.