

## SPECIAL NC DHHS SPEAKER



### **Susan Osborne, Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being**

Susan was appointed to the role of Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being at NC DHHS in June 2023. Susan provides senior leadership for Social Services, Early Childhood Education, Child and Family Well-Being, Aging and Adult Services, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Services for the Blind, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Determination Services, and Office of Economic Opportunity.

In her first role as the Assistant Secretary for Human Services at NC DHHS she provided oversight for the Division of Social Services and the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Prior to joining DHHS in 2019, she worked for the Alamance County Department of Social Services for more than 28 years in many social work roles and served as the agency's Director for more than 18 years.

Susan's career has been focused on creative problem-solving and innovation, with those being served always at the center. Susan believes that strong collaboration and partnerships are critical in the work to improve the well-being of our citizens and has committed her energy and available resources to improve outcomes for North Carolinians.

Susan is a graduate of North Carolina State University and the UNC School of Government Municipal County Administration Program.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER: OPENING SESSION

## **Jes Averhart** **Principal & Founder** **Reinvention Road Trip**



Jes Averhart is a 4th generation entrepreneur, creator of Reinvention Road Trip and three times award-winning author. Over the last two decades, Jes has worked with a portfolio of Fortune 500 companies, public sector organizations and high-performing individuals interested in increased personal growth and greater professional impact.

As a master-certified life coach, Jes has two decades of cross-industry corporate engagement. Clients have included: Research Triangle Park companies, Google for Start-ups, Amazon, Fidelity Labs, Cisco, Wells Fargo, Palo Alto Networks, and Blue Cross Blue Shield to name a few.

In 2015, Jes co-founded Black Wall Street Homecoming, a non-profit aimed at closing the funding gap for Black and Brown tech founders. While earlier in her career, she provided production management services for the likes of the Cincinnati Bengals and Cleveland Browns (NFL), Cavaliers (NBA), the Procter & Gamble Company, and Pepsi Cola North America.

Originally from Evansport, Ohio, Jes moved to North Carolina in 2005 with her son Tré. When she's not working, you can find her enjoying live music, walking local railways and cheering on The Ohio State Buckeyes.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: INNOVATION AWARDS

### **The Honorable Judge Sunshine Parker**



The Honorable Judge Sunshine Parker is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Social Work and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee. Judge Parker was sworn in as a judge with the Cherokee Court in April 2021, bringing to the bench a rich background in child welfare, behavioral health interventions, and trauma-informed practices. Judge Parker served as the EBCI Human Services Director from 2017-2021 and prior to that served as an attorney for the EBCI Office of the Attorney General.

Judge Parker is passionate about service to her community serving on several local boards and committees including the Cherokee Indian Hospital Board, Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Board, Nantahala Health Foundation, and the NC Governor's Crime Commission Juvenile Justice Committee. She is a UT Alumni Promise Award Recipient, September 2019 and UT College of Social Work Grand Challenge Honoree, February 2019.