



**20th TOGETHER WE CAN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
100% Virtual!



**NOVEMBER
2-4, 2022**

**Conference
Program**



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AT A GLANCE

Wednesday, Nov 2

8:30 AM	Keynote 1
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Workshops
11:30 AM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	Workshops
1:45 PM	Break
2:00 PM	Workshops

Thursday, Nov 3

8:00 AM	Keynote 2
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Workshops
11:45 AM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	Workshops
1:45 PM	Break
2:00 PM	Workshops

Friday, Nov 4

8:30 AM	Workshops
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Workshops
11:45 AM	Lunch Break
12:15 PM	Workshops
1:45 PM	Keynote 3

Exhibits & Handouts

You can access exhibits and presenter handouts directly using our cool new conference event platform: Whova (Don't worry, we'll talk about it more on the next page); but just in case apps aren't your PB&J, handouts will also be available on the TWC website from November 1 - December 15. Just remember that some speakers don't use handouts.

CLE / CEU Credits

You'll verify your attendance and credit hours each day using the Conference Evaluation Form that will be shared via email. You must do an evaluation for each day. CEU certificates will be sent out within 30 days after the conference via email, PLUS all CLE hours will be entered online for legal attendees within 30 days. So just sit back, relax and watch those credit hours roll in!

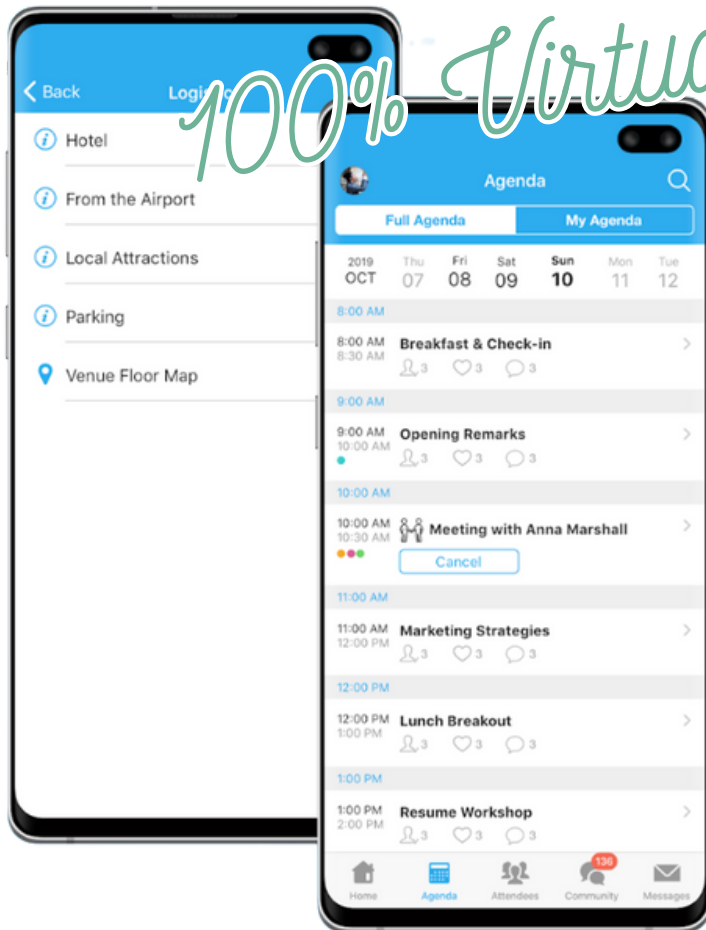
Evaluations

We want to hear from you! Liked a topic or speaker? Let us know! Thought we maybe missed the mark on something? We're ready to hear it! Got an idea for the next conference? Yes, please! And don't forget, Credit-Seeking Friends, an evaluation for each day you attend is required to receive your CLE/CEU Credits. So, let those opinions fly!

7:00am Zumba Every Day!

SPONSORED BY HEALTHY BLUE LOUISIANA

HOW TO ATTEND



Hello, Future!

That's right! Together We Can is a 100% virtual event. All you need to attend is a screen, an internet connection and your comfiest slippers (not totally required, but we definitely recommend it).

Once you download the Whova app to your device you'll be able to...

- See the conference agenda to plan your day.
- Access all active workshop livestreams
- Use the in-app Q&A feature.
- Network and connect with other attendees, trade info and even schedule virtual meetings!
- Make your voice heard in the event Community Board and discuss related (or unrelated) topics.
- Stay in the know with notifications of any last minute changes.
- Capture that info by directly downloading any presentation handouts or slides!
- Win cool prizes by participating in event-related games and activities (Because who doesn't love free stuff?)



To attend via web browser go to:

https://whova.com/portal/webapp/twcc_202211

You can access TWC on the Whova app up to 2 weeks in advance. So, go ahead, overachievers! Get in there and get cozy.

CREDITS

General CEU / CLE Credits

All sessions at TWC have been approved* for generalized CEU / CLE credit hours.

Each keynote and workshop are worth 1.5 hours. Institutes are three hours.

If a course is not listed, it simply doesn't have a specialty credit - it still counts!

**Presumptive approval of pending CLE credit application*

Specialized CEU Credits

SESS#	HOURS	CLINICAL	ETHICS
102	1.5	X	X
106	1.5	X	
202	1.5	X	
Inst 1	3	X	
Inst 2	3	X	
302	1.5	X	
304	1.5	X	
502/602	3		X
505	1.5	X	
506	1.5		X
605	1.5	X	
705	1.5	X	
802	1.5	X	
804	1.5	X	
902	1.5	X	

Specialized CLE Credits

SESS#	HOURS	PROFESSIONALISM	ETHICS
401	1.5	X	
701	1.5		X
901	1.5	X	

TOPIC TRACKS

Foster Parent / Kinship Care 

Social Work 

Everyone 

Legal 

CASA 



SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Nov 2

OPENING KEYNOTE

8:30 AM

Understanding Foster Youth: Expressions of Trauma & Grief

Derek Clark

Derek Clark, a powerful and inspiring motivational keynote speaker knows firsthand that children in the foster care system deserve compassion, respect, validation, love, and security. Every professional working with children and youth in the foster care system has a purpose: to make sure that each child feels important, to maintain their dignity, to feel secure, and to know that their past does not have to infect their future. Foster care expert Derek Clark is a popular motivational speaker and trainer for child welfare professionals, social workers, and foster parents. His programs provide alternative ways to understand why children behave and deal with child abuse, grief and trauma in the ways that they do. Social worker / case worker turnover hurts the children in foster care. These precious children need someone that will be committed to them as well as looking out for the child's best interest. We must do better for the child!

BREAK 101

10:00 AM

15 Minute Break

10:15 AM

Effective Strategies for Building a Case

Andy Shealy, JD and Barry LaCour, JD

Attend this session provided by a panel of district attorneys to learn about the process to submit information for cases leading to prosecution.

102

10:15 AM

Building Resiliency in Child Welfare Professionals and Volunteers

Michele Many, LCSW, MSW, BACS

Attend this session to learn about the importance and impact of self-care for child welfare professionals. Self-care is important for supporting our own resilience.

103

10:15 AM

Education by the Numbers

Mary Jacob, B.C.A.S.E. & Dr. Charles Michel

WNot all children with disabilities or special health care needs will qualify for special education or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Many of these children will qualify for a 504 plan. 504 plans can help kids who need more support get the support they need in a regular education class. These plans are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the discrimination of any child in a school which accepts public money.

104

10:15 AM

Internet Safety! Online Safety for Adults & Teens

LaTasha Watts

It is important to understand the risks associated with the internet so you can develop an internet safety and social media plan with your family. Learn more about the risks and how to discuss safety issues with teens.

105

10:15 AM

CINC Cases & Disparate Treatment

Dr. Jerry Milner & David Kelly, JD

Attend this session to learn more about the issues related to disparate treatment in the child welfare system and the children and families involved in child in need of care cases.

106

10:15 AM

Talk is Not Cheap - Understanding the Role of Coercive Control in Domestic Violence

Corie Hebert, PhD & Heather Anthony

This session will explore the connection between families with lived experience with domestic violence and involvement with the child welfare system.

107

10:15 AM

It Takes a Team to Protect a Child

Det. Michael (Mike) Johnson, BSCJ (ret.)

There are real challenges faced by CAC's and the multidisciplinary teams that utilize them. This interactive workshop seeks to identify inherent obstacles to this process and educate attendees on multidisciplinary team best practice principles to attain a more functional MDT intervention. This interactive, demonstrative presentation will expose the most common challenges and provide solutions in a frank, yet humorous, way. This is a skills based workshop wherein participants will learn collaborative intervention and investigative techniques designed for multidisciplinary team members. Coordination, intervention, and the importance of collaboration will be stressed. The presentation will include a discussion of critical areas of interdisciplinary cooperation, such as multidisciplinary team response to initial outcry and disclosure.

LUNCH 201

11:30 AM

45 Minute Break

12:15 PM

Instant Safety Plan Orders (ISPOs) & Informal Adjustment Agreements (IAAs): What You Need to Know

Courtney Myers, JD & Kayla Jones

Instant Safety Plan Orders (ISPOs) and Informal Adjustment Agreements (IAAs) offer a court process that can help minimize trauma for children and families. The ISPO is a court-ordered safety plan requested by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to manage the safety of children while custody remains with their parents. An IAA is essentially a pre-adjudication diversionary process, which may be entered regardless of whether children are in the custody of DCFS or their parents and sets forth what the parents need to do to keep the children in the home or have the children returned. These two legal arrangements can work in conjunction with one another: Sometimes a case will begin with an ISPO and then after a Petition is filed, an IAA will be entered. Come, hear from DCFS staff and an Assistant District Attorney who are utilizing ISPOs and IAAs. DCFS staff, attorneys, judges, CASAs, and foster caregivers are all welcome to attend; there will be an opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

202

12:15 PM

Faith & Trauma: How Theology & Neuroscience Can Work Together to Promote Overall Health & Wellbeing for Our Children

Rev. Dr. Darrell Armstrong

This session will empower faith communities to recognize and respond to sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. This session is ideal for child protection professionals working to develop stronger ties with faith leaders. The session is also helpful for forensic interviewers, investigators, medical and mental health professionals, social workers, and prosecutors seeking to better understand the spiritual impact of child abuse and working to address this aspect of maltreatment.

203

12:15 PM

Resilience

Madelyn Rosette & Jeremy Richard

Attend this session to learn more about how CASA services support the development of resilience skills.

204

12:15 PM

Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force (LEAF): Who Are We? What Do We Do?

Aliyah Zeien, Kayana Bradley & Antonica Frazier

Attend this session to learn more about the Louisiana initiative regarding youth advocacy for those with lived experience in the foster care system. Leaders from the LEAF Advocacy Board will highlight the development implementation of the initiative, an overview of their involvement in the initiative and explain the group's mission and vision, as well as how to best engage youth with lived experience in the community to effectively impact system changes.

INSTITUTE 01

12:15 PM The Importance of Differentiating between Autism Spectrum Traits & PTSD in Children & Adolescents

Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW

There are many traits that are shared or 'crossover' between youth with autism spectrum disorders and survivors of abuse/neglect. Differentiating is helpful to develop effective treatment and supports.

INSTITUTE 02

12:15 PM The Process of Seduction: How Grooming Leads to Human Trafficking

Dr. Shobana Powell & Kathy Givens

Join Kathy Givens and Dr. Shobana Powell as they dive into the process of seduction as a form of grooming into human trafficking. The speakers will cover the 6 steps of seduction, clinical considerations for each step, and recommendations for how to support survivors from a trauma-informed, clinical lens.

INSTITUTE 03

12:15 PM Braiding the Personal, the Professional, and Liberation: Reflections on the "Talk, Touch, and Listen"

Aditi Subramaniam, MSCP & Natasha Byars, MS, MSW, LICSW

This is an experiential session reflecting on the core elements of Dr. Marva Lewis' Talk, Touch, and Listen (TT&L) curriculum for hair combing interactions. The presenters will engage and highlight through this training the diverse aspects of identity, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, class, age, gender, and nationality, and will provide information about the impact of internalized oppression, including the impacts of colorism and texturism on young children and relationships. The presenters will share personal experiences cofacilitating a reflective TT&L group for professionals in Boston and will invite principles of infant mental health to promote positive attitudes during hair combing which leads to secure attachments between children and caregivers. The session will end with participants reflecting on how they can braid the personal, the professional, and liberation into their everyday roles.

BREAK

1:45 PM 15 Minute Break

301

2:00 PM The Intersection of Procedural Justice, Race Equity, and Resilience

Dr. Salih Alexander, JD

Session description TBA

302

2:00 PM

The Neurochemistry of Trauma & Evidence Based Models of Recovery

Thomas Mitchell, LPC, NCC

In this 90-minute workshop, Thomas Mitchell, Executive Director of Children's Advocacy Center - Hope House, provides insight related to the maladaptive effects of trauma on the central nervous system as well as the exploration of evidence-based therapeutic modalities to facilitate recovery of the at-risk child. Provided in an entertaining format, participants will acquire a basic understanding of the sympathetic nervous system's responses to trauma. The audience will obtain an appreciation for the role of respondent conditioning within the acquisition of PTSD. Lastly, the workshop will explore data-driven interventions utilized to restore healthy functioning and regulation of the at-risk child's neurochemistry. All content within the workshop has been derived from the latest research findings within the field of developmental psychology.

303

2:00 PM

Behavioral Health Services for Children under Louisiana Medicaid: Available Services and How to Access Them

Jennifer Hannon, LCSW, BACS & Dr. Dana Foster

In this presentation, representatives from Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health's Child Clinical Systems Team will share information about the spectrum of specialized behavioral-health services available to children in LA. In addition, they will help attendees understand how to locate the recommended/desired services and how to access them. Finally, the presenters will help attendees become acquainted with the structure and management of the Medicaid-funded behavioral health system in LA. This presentation is appropriate for all entities who come in contact with youth who have behavioral health needs, including: DCFS, OJJ and FINS employees; Judges; Mental Health Advocates, ADAs, and attorneys; community providers, school social workers; child-serving agencies; and families.

304

2:00 PM

The Growing Brain

Christine Neely, M.Ed.

As the research indicates, the early years of life are a critical period for brain development. There are opportunities for growth based upon the development of stable and secure relationships in the child's environment. Attend this session to learn more about evidence-based practices which support the understanding of how the brain develops and how to implement these practices to support healthy brain development.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, Nov 3

KEYNOTE 02

8:00 AM

Children's Bureau Strategies & Forecast Chief Justice John L. Weimer, Associate Commissioner Aysha Schomburg & Janis Brown

This session will provide attendees with an updates about the LA Supreme Court, Administration on Children and Families, Children's Bureau initiatives and future planned strategies.

BREAK

10:00 AM

15 Minute Break

401

10:15 AM

Out of Court Advocacy Meetings Representing the Child Client - Successful Strategies when Advocating for the Children

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD

Attend this session to learn how to implement strategies leading to successful advocacy for in and out of court while representing child clients.

402

10:15 AM

TBRI® Unleashed: How TBRI® Is Breaking Barriers to Reach the Underserved in Caddo Parish

Lucinda Miles

The TBRI® Program in Caddo Parish has been on the front lines of a trauma-informed revolution, working to change the story for kids from "hard places." The journey began five years ago with a vision of a Calming Studio for children at Caddo Parish Juvenile Court. It has since grown rapidly into a multifaceted program working to bring hope and healing to both children and families. The TBRI® program strives to bring evidence-based, trauma-informed care to children who have experienced complex trauma. Additionally, the Program empowers biological and foster parents, Caddo Correctional Center inmates, elementary school students, teachers, and Caddo Parish Head Start Centers with TBRI® Principles.

403

10:15 AM

Connect Our Kids

Yubi Ventura, MSW

Attend this session to learn more about how innovation is being used to find connections and create a sense of belonging for children in foster care.

404

10:15 AM

NECMEC Overview to Preventing Online Exploitation of Youth

Debra Ortiz-Pardi

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is a non-profit whose mission is to help find missing children, reduce child sexual exploitation, and prevent child victimization. Since 1984, NCMEC has served as the national clearinghouse and resource center for families, victims, private organizations, law enforcement, and the public on issues relating to missing and sexually exploited children. NCMEC also offers a variety of free, age-appropriate online safety materials for families and educators, including NetSmartz. Virtual training opportunities for child-serving professionals are also available via our online learning platform, NCMEC CONNECT. This workshop will provide an overview of the organization and the organization's mission. Will share information about the services NCMEC offers to families, victims, private organizations, law enforcement, and the public. We will also share free resources that can be used in your community to access our services and to prevent child victimization.

405

10:15 AM

Building Parental Capacity Through Protective Factors

Cynthia Peterson

Communities actively providing prevention services and supports are our best hope for preventing child abuse and neglect and improving the lives of children and families. For years researchers and practitioners have documented and emphasized that successful interventions must both reduce risk factors (external and internal barriers) and promote protective factors to ensure the well-being of children and families. Protective factors can serve as a helpful framework for supporting stressed and vulnerable families. Many life events bring stress and risk into a family's life. When we all work together to strengthen families by building protective factors, families are better able to create a safe and stable home that allows them to respond more effectively to issues that cause stress. This workshop will help participants better understand the importance of protective factors in building parental capacities and will offer vital resources that help service providers engage caregivers in personalized conversations about the protective factors.

406

10:15 AM

Tools and Techniques to Encourage Family Engagement

Tonyalea Elam, MSW, LCSW

This session will explore strategies that engage clients in a partnership relationship. As Social Workers, we are faced with the challenge of getting sufficient information and assessment from clients who interface with our agencies. In order to effectively assist them, we must methodically apply skills that forge a partnership that is more likely to result in positive outcomes. Because involuntary clients are the most difficult to navigate, this session will explore strategies that mitigate behaviors, actions, and attitudes that limit the progress needed to effectively assist/help the client with their presenting problem. It is hoped that you leave the session with at least one tool or technique that will result in a successful engaging relationship.

407

10:15 AM

Equitable Inclusion in the Workforce

Amy Garner, MMS, Secretary Marketa Walters & Mark Harris, JD

It is important to build a diverse and inclusive workplace to promote positive, effective child welfare services and supports. Attend this session to learn more about how an organizational culture that embraces equity contributes to the development of a stronger workforce.

LUNCH

11:45 AM

30 Minute Break

501

12:15 PM

Racial Disparity in Child Welfare in Louisiana: American Bar Association

Prudence Beidler Carr, JD, Brenda Robinson, JD, & Nadia Seeratan, JD

Racial disparity happens at every decision point on the child welfare continuum. As research indicates Black families are overrepresented in reports abuse and neglect to child welfare services system. More than half of all Black children in America will experience a child welfare investigation by age 18.4 which results in Black children being at greater risk of being separated from their families during an investigation. Attend this session to learn more about American Bar Association initiatives to address the concerns outlined in Resolution 606 to address issues related to racial disparity.

502

12:15 PM

Burnout & Ethical Self Care for Social Work Practitioners Part 1

Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW

This seminar will provide information regarding what is commonly called 'burnout' in the field of social work. Participants will gain information about the definition of burnout and how it differs from vicarious trauma, secondary trauma, and compassion fatigue. Participants will learn what signs to be aware of in themselves as well as colleagues. Burnout will be examined in terms of Social Work Code of Ethics.

503

12:15 PM

Building Resilience in Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care

Ruth White

Supporting the development of and building resiliency skills for youth transitioning out of foster care is critical for the advancement to independent living. Attend this session to learn more about effective strategies for supporting the development of resilience for youth in the child welfare system of care.

504

12:15 PM

Legal Rights of Foster / Kinship Caregivers

Kathy Coleman, Bret Whitehead, LMSW & Ninotochika Jackson

What is the purpose of Kinship? What are the bases of Kinship? Attend this session to learn more about foster/kinship care and the effects of community outreach and therapeutic services in Kinship Care-Placements. These Kinship Collaborative Services have been inspired by meeting the needs of the children as well as the caregivers. The implementation of these two components uses needs and emotions as a medium for self-discovery, self-acceptance and growth for our kinship caregivers to sustain child placements!

505

12:15 PM

Investigations Involving Serious Injuries & Death of Infants and Children: The Role of the Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Team

Det. Jennifer Hillgoth

In this session, there will be discussion about some of the most difficult challenges to investigating death and serious injury to children. When victims are unable to tell their story, the importance of adequate investigation is paramount. The presenter will explain how a collaborative MDT is key and discuss scene reconstruction and investigation, distinguishing types of inflicted trauma and identifying/interviewing alleged perpetrators.

506

12:15 PM

Pressing Pause: Refresh, Recharge, & Thrive

Patsy Wilkerson, MA & Jan Byland, LMSW, JD, CPA

Why is it important to press pause? Taking time to recharge is especially important. If you do not take time for yourself, you will not be able to take care of others. Learn more about strategies to help you refresh, recharge, and thrive.

507

12:15 PM

Crossover Youth: Children in both Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare Systems

Curtis Nelson, JD, Dr. Stephen Phillippi & Judge Gail Grover

Youth involved in both child welfare and juvenile justice services are especially vulnerable. The supports and services for crossover youth should be designed to meet their needs related to unresolved trauma, behavior concerns, and ongoing education.

BREAK

1:45 PM

15 Minute Break

601

2:00 PM

Perspectives from the Bench

Mark Harris, JD, Judge Thomas Duplantier, Judge Desiree Cook-Calvin, & Judge David Matlock

This panel will touch on trends for those who aren't involved in CINC cases everyday including TBRI Court options, use of benchcards, and the impact of new laws.

602

2:00 PM

Burnout & Ethical Self Care for Social Work Practitioners Part 2

Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW

This seminar will provide information regarding what is commonly called 'burnout' in the field of social work. Participants will gain information about the definition of burnout and how it differs from vicarious trauma, secondary trauma, and compassion fatigue. Participants will learn what signs to be aware of in themselves as well as colleagues. Burnout will be examined in terms of Social Work Code of Ethics.

603

2:00 PM

Best Practices for Supporting Children with Parents Experiencing Incarceration

Jessica Strange & Ann D. Zanders

Representatives from the Reentry Alliance of Louisiana will provide information about best practices for supporting children and their parents experiencing incarceration. Representatives from the Reentry Alliance of Louisiana will provide information about best practices for supporting children and their parents experiencing incarceration.

604

2:00 PM

Community Resources to Support Foster Families

Teri Hrabovsky & Kim Bigler

Attend this session to learn about Louisiana-based community organizations aimed at helping foster families to succeed and build resiliency by providing age-appropriate essentials and guidance.

605

2:00 PM

Adolescent Brain Development

Dr. Stephen Phillippi

The brain of an adolescent experiences significant changes which impact cognition and behaviors. The changes happening in the brain during adolescence contribute to impulsive decision making and demonstrations of strong emotional outbursts. Attend this session to learn effective strategies for supporting adolescents to take healthy risks, express emotions in creative ways, and teaching methods for decision making.

606

2:00 PM

Prevention & Self-Generated Content: Effective Messages for Children & Teenagers

Alejandra Monroy, MS

One of the most challenging aspects of child online exploitation is when these crimes involve self-generated content. At the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children we see reports that include this type of content depicting children of all ages. Investigating these types of cases is hard enough, but how can we prevent a crime when the victim is the one creating the images used to exploit them? This workshop will include an interactive discussion to better understand these behaviors in children and adolescents using a developmental perspective. We will then discuss how to apply trauma-informed approach to tailoring prevention messages to specific age groups about self-generated imagery. We will also share free resources that can be used in your community to address issues of self-generated content with children from kindergarten to twelfth grade.

607

2:00 PM

What Placement Stability Really Means: Voices from Behind the Scenes

Aliyah Zeien, Shelby Baird, Roshine Allen & Karen Austin, LCSW-BACS

The vision of the Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force (LEAF) is a world/community where every child has the right to safety, a loving home, permanency, and overall well-being providing stability, so they can build a successful future. The mission that guides their work is to Advocate, Change, and Empower. Please join us for a virtual and interactive workshop which includes stories from youth voices behind the scenes highlighting the barriers within the state to achieving permanency and placement stability for youth in foster care. This information will be presented by Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff members, former foster youth, foster parent training specialists, and other practitioners. In addition, youth voices from behind the scenes will offer valuable strategies for overcoming obstacles to stability, permanency, and building supports for youth in foster care to achieve successful outcomes in their futures. This training is designed for the following target audiences all judges, legal and child welfare stakeholders including foster families, child welfare attorneys, CASA Workers, DCFS employees, child welfare stakeholders/practitioners.

SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov 4

701

8:30 AM

Avoiding Ethical Risks in a Hybrid Work Environment in CINC Cases

Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD

Child welfare professionals face situations daily that involve ethical decision making especially when handling CINC cases in the new hybrid work environment. Attend this session to learn about effective strategies to avoid ethically risky decisions.

702

8:30 AM

Family First Prevention & Services Act: DCFS Response

Jacqueline Brown, MC, Eliska Brooks, LCSW & Wanda Cage, MCJ

Attend this session to learn more about the DCFS response to the Family First Prevention and Services Act including the implementation of Child First and Intercept prevention models.

703

8:30 AM

Owning What's Yours to Own as a CASA

Lisa Drake

Owning What's Yours to Own as a CASA is the topic Lisa Drake, life coach and former Executive Director of CASA of DuPage County, will cover. The nature of CASA work presents numerous avenues to get involved in your case. However, it can be easy sometimes to overstep boundaries or take on responsibilities that aren't yours, all in the spirit of service. Using the concepts and tools Lisa taught in the 8-week Mindset Training, along with insight from the coaching sessions she's had with CASAs since then, Lisa will take a look at setting and enforcing boundaries, how to stay in your own lane, offer tips for saying "no" as well as ways to start collaborative conversations. After this webinar, it'll be even easier to Own What's Yours to Own as a CASA.

704

8:30 AM

Internet Safety! Online Safety for Adults & Teens

LaTasha Watts

It is important to understand the risks associated with the internet so you can develop a internet safety and social media plan with your family. Learn more about the risks and how to discuss safety issues with teens.

705

8:30 AM

LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care: Current Issues in Care

Dr. Gerald Mallon

Attend this session to more about current issues in care for foster youth that identify as LGBTQ+.

706

8:30 AM

Safe Babies Court Team (Zero to Three)

Dr. Joy Osofsky

Attend this session to learn more about the Safe Babies Court Team and the impact upon child welfare services.

BREAK

10:00 AM

15 Minute Break

801

10:15 AM

Children's Codes Updates

Richard Pittman, JD, CWLS & Kathy Lynn Cook, JD, CWLS

Attend this session to learn about updates to Louisiana's Children's Codes and the impact on child welfare.

802

10:15 AM

Indicated Prevention Strategies for Teens Who Show Signs of Substance Use

Dr. Joyce Bracey

Practical strategies for caregivers, teachers, caseworkers, and other professionals to use with adolescents who have already begun to use alcohol and other drugs to reduce the negative impacts and the likelihood of developing addiction.

803

10:15 AM

Trauma-Informed Practices to Navigate Placement Moves & Disruptions

Amy Dickson, PhD & Melissa Smith, MA

Attend this session to learn more about the tools needed to mediate the trauma children experience during removal and placement.

804

10:15 AM

Minor Injuries with Major Significance: Sentinel Injuries of Child Physical Abuse

Neha H. Mehta, MD

Recognizing sentinel injuries in infants and children can increase the accuracy of physical abuse diagnosis and may help mitigate existing bias in the identification and work-up of child abuse.

805

10:15 AM

Brave Girl, SPEAK: How Advocates Can Foster Resilience

Kendall Wolz, MA, LPC

In this workshop, the presenter, a child sexual abuse survivor, shares her experience of sexual abuse from the beginning of the grooming process to disclosure and navigating the legal process to finding healing and hope. Attendees will learn how each person who interacts with a victim of childhood sexual abuse has the opportunity to foster resilience and positively influence the healing process, promoting post-traumatic growth. This session will explore actions that are most beneficial for the survivor and have both immediate and long-term impacts. A strong emphasis will be placed on proactive interventions that can help children and families develop resiliency before trauma occurs. This presentation will utilize a case study, experiential activities, and a review of scientific literature.

806

10:15 AM

Support Strategies for Moms During Removal Process

Judge Ernestine Gray (ret.), Samantha Morrison, & Tiffany Carroll

Moms experience many issues and obstacles in their lives which lead to the ultimate removal decision by child welfare professionals resulting in the loss of their children. This creates additional unresolved trauma contributing to the downward spiral which often includes depression, substance and alcohol use/dependence, etc. In addition to the conditions leading to the removal decision, these new obstacles are added which creates the need for the development of unique supports for moms experiencing stress, depression, grief. Attend this session to learn from folks with lived experience about strategies which would help moms in their recovery process so that families can achieve reunification.

LUNCH

11:45 AM

30 Minute Break

901

12:15 PM

Legal Professionalism

Rebecca E. May-Ricks, JD, CWLS and Alice Montestruc, JD, CWLS

This session will provide attorneys and Judges with a discussion on the importance of professionalism in the relationship with each other, clients, and the public with review of professional court room behavior in the emotional court room situations of child welfare.

902

12:15 PM

I AM Talking to You... Interpreting & Responding to Children with Difficult Behaviors

Dr. Sharon Delvisco & Dr. Corie Hebert

Children involved in child welfare system come from trauma-based situations and environments and are often referred to as kids from difficult places. This session will provide information about how to interpret and respond to difficult behaviors.

903

12:15 PM

Substance Abused Newborns in Foster Care

Dr. Raymond Poliquit

.Review of the effects of prenatal substance and current trends in treatment. Learning objectives:

- Identify how we address the needs of a child whose health has been compromised before birth.
- Review the issues that kinship providers and foster parents and child welfare workers need to be aware of
 - substance-exposed babies.
 - Identify the critical health issues.
 - Emphasize nonpharmacologic treatment of babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome.

904

12:15 PM

Family Search and Engagement

Judge Ernestine Gray & Samantha Morrison

Attend this session to learn more about options for children in child welfare system that lead to permanency. Key principles about exploring family search and engagement possibilities will be discussed.

905

12:15 PM

Navigating Mental Health Law

Kathy Lynn Cook, JD, CWLS

Attend this session to learn about the mental health law in Louisiana.

Mark Harris, JD, Michelle Gros, JD, Anna Palmer & Judge Adam Haney

Attend this session to learn about the TBRI Court initiative in Louisiana. Learn more about how you could request this valuable training to courts in your area. The goal of the TBRI Court training is to help professionals in the judicial system understand the impact of trauma and how they can use TBRI to help disarm fear and meet the needs of families and children who appear in court.

DJ "Eagle Bear" Vanas & Secretary Marketta Walters

State of the State by Secretary Walters prior to the keynote message.

We all want to be brave. We all want to deliver when it matters... and in this session, you'll be inspired to do both. We've endured unprecedented uncertainty and change - and with it comes fearful doubt which can affect our focus, wellness and the way we serve others. In this session, D.J. shares a unique, powerful perspective from Native American culture on what the warrior role is (and isn't) about and how we can emulate the principles of that role to stay strong, clear, motivated and moving forward -- and understand that the role of warriors can make us warriors in our roles! He is a former Air Force officer and enrolled member of the Ottawa Tribe, featured on the PBS film *The Warrior Tradition*, and hosted his own PBS special *Discovering Your Warrior Spirit*. He'll share with you, in a straightforward and entertaining way, how to navigate change with confidence, continue serving well, maintain clarity, health (and a sense of humor) and prevent overwhelm and burnout -- even in the face of chaos. Now is the time for warriors to stand up, be strong and lead by example - are you ready?



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- **Raven Siguire** - The Extra Mile
- **Ayn Stehr** - NASW Louisiana Chapter
- **Aliyah Zeien** - Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force/DCFS

Conference Host Organizations

- **Pelican Center for Children & Families** focuses on providing educational opportunities for professionals and volunteers in the child welfare fields and coordinates the Court Improvement Program in collaboration with the LA Supreme Court.
- **Louisiana's Department of Child and Family Services - Children's Justice Act** - has many programs that impact children and families.
- **Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy** - providing educational opportunities for DCFS staff, university students and foster parents.
- **Louisiana CASA Association** - Louisiana CASA is an association of CASA organizations across Louisiana and offers training and support for CASA volunteers.
- **Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association** - an association of education and support for foster youth caregivers.
- **Louisiana Children's Trust Fund** - a prevention focused organization dedicated to educating people about child abuse and neglect.
- **NASW- Louisiana Chapter** is an active leader in social work training and a supporting organization for TWC.
- **Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program** focuses on issues that will positively impact the Child In Need of Care, FINS, CASA and other child and family issues that are court related.