



17th Annual Conference

Together We Can!

Making a Difference for Children Who Have Been Abused and/or Neglected

November 12-14, 2019 | Lafayette, LA

2019 Registration & Conference Schedule

For more information: www.latwc.com or call 985-624-3514

Coordination of TWC is provided by Team Dynamics LLC



17th Annual Conference

Together We Can!

Conference Basics

What is Together We Can? Who Attends Together We Can?

This is an annual multi-disciplinary conference that focuses on the children who have experienced abuse or neglect. These children may be in foster care, residential care, kinship care or have been reunited with their birth family. The Together We Can (TWC) conference will offer in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns. We provide educational sessions for professionals featuring both national and local experts.

The TWC conference is geared toward social workers, attorneys, judges, court staff, CASA volunteers and staff, foster parents, children's advocacy centers, law enforcement, educators, faith-based leaders and child welfare stakeholders—all working to make a difference in the lives of Louisiana's abused and neglected children. An awards evening will be held on Wednesday to honor those who have demonstrated commitment above and beyond on behalf of children.

Schedule Overview

Tuesday, November 12

9:00 am—5:00 pm	Registration Desk open
9:00 am—11:45 am	CASA Pre-Conference
12:00 pm	Welcome, Luncheon and Opening Plenary Session 1
1:45 pm	100 Series Breakout Sessions
1:45 pm	Institutes (3 hours)
3:30 pm	200 Series Breakout Sessions

Wednesday, November 13

7:30 am—5:00pm	Registration Desk open
8:30 am	Plenary Session 2
10:15 am	300 Series Breakout Sessions
12:00 pm	Luncheon and Plenary Session 3
1:45 pm	400 Series Breakout Sessions
3:30 pm	500 Series Breakout Sessions
6:30—9:00 pm	Annual Awards Night at Vermilionville

Thursday, November 14

7:30 am—2:00 pm	Registration Desk open
8:30 am	Plenary Session 4
10:15 am	600 Series Breakout Sessions
12:00—2:00 pm	Luncheon and Closing Plenary 5

We are happy to share this listing of the conference sessions and activities that are planned for the 17th annual event in Lafayette. We will have 5 plenary sessions and over 50 breakouts available. The conference will be held at the Cajundome. The conference is sponsored by a coalition of organizations that work to shape public policy, research and practice in child maltreatment and child welfare. We are welcoming many nationally recognized speakers this year to our faculty! We hope that you will join us to learn from them.



17th Annual Conference

Together We Can!

Annual Awards



In 2007, the legal and social work fields lost two people who were incredibly strong advocates for children. We have chosen to honor Catherine Lafleur and Linda Christmas with awards within their areas of service each year. Both embodied the love, the passion and determination needed to be a very special advocate for children. We hope you will consider nominating someone special for the 2019 awards. The form and guidelines for nominations are on the conference website.

Deadline for nominations: October 1, 2019

[Click Here to Nominate Someone](#)

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities



You are invited to join the conference as a sponsor and/or exhibitor for our 17th anniversary event. There are a variety of options available and the earlier you confirm your participation, the earlier you will have your information listed and active.

We are pleased to announce that we will have a conference app this year and exhibitors/sponsors will be featured on the app, along with your contact information. Go to the conference website to download the exhibitor/sponsor brochure.

Exhibitor Links:

[Exhibitor/Sponsor Brochure](#)



17th Annual Conference

Together We Can!

Registration

Conference Registration is Online.

Everyone Must Pre-Register! NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION!



You will select your breakout choices during registration. We will print out your individual schedule for you and include it in your check-in packet. Your registration fee includes materials, up to three luncheons, the evening reception and morning/afternoon refreshments. Morning refreshments on Nov. 13 & 14 only.

REGISTRATION RATES

Register At: www.latwc.org

EARLY BIRD RATE

Register by October 5th at 11:59pm

Full Conference	\$225
Tuesday/Wednesday	\$195
Wednesday/Thursday	\$195
Tuesday only (Nov. 12)	\$105
Wednesday only (Nov. 13)	\$125
Thursday only (Nov. 14)	\$105

REGULAR RATE

Between October 6 and October 31

Full Conference	\$275
Tuesday/Wednesday	\$250
Wednesday/Thursday	\$250
Tuesday only (Nov. 12)	\$115
Wednesday only (Nov. 13)	\$150
Thursday only (Nov. 14)	\$115

REGISTER EARLY! Breakout sessions often fill quickly.

Registration will close on October 31, 2019.

Early Bird Rates expire on October 5, 2019.

Last Minute Rates Available only in emergency. Call us! 985.624.3514



Tuesday, November 12th

The CASA Pre-Conference Sessions are offered only for the Directors and Administrators of the CASA programs.

CASA Pre-Conference | 9:00 am–10:15 am

Volunteer Recruitment in Rural Communities

Dennise Jackson

Peer Coordinator Model of Program Management

Maria Gnecco

Transition Planning: CASA's role with older youth

Joy Bruce

National CASA Flex Learning vs Traditional Pre-service Curriculum

Alicia 'Ali' Darden, MEd

CASA Pre-Conference | 10:30am–11:45am

Volunteer Recruitment in Rural Communities

Dennise Jackson

Peer Coordinator Model of Program Management

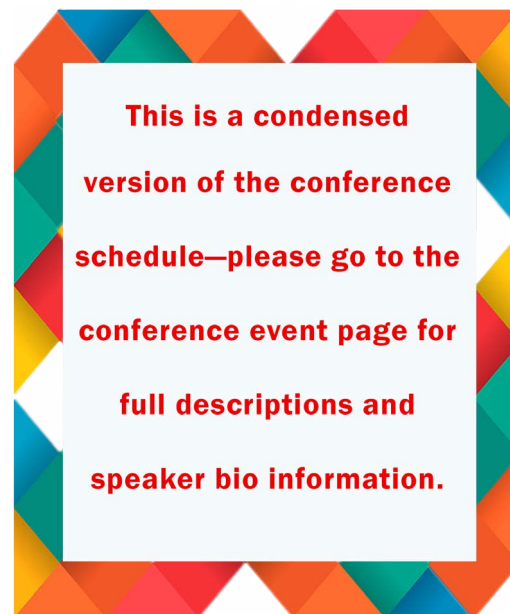
Maria Gnecco

Transition Planning: CASA's role with older youth

Joy Bruce

National CASA Flex Learning vs Traditional Pre-service Curriculum

Alicia 'Ali' Darden, MEd



This is a condensed version of the conference schedule—please go to the conference event page for full descriptions and speaker bio information.



Tuesday, November 12th



Luncheon | 12:00 pm–1:30pm

**Trauma Informed Courtrooms:
The Hows and Whys**

presented by Judge David Matlock, JD, Caddo Juvenile Court

Tuesday Breakout Sessions 100 Series | 1:45pm-3:15pm

- 101 How to Give Effective Courtroom Testimony
Judge Ernestine Gray, JD, Orleans Juvenile Court and Nzinga Hill, JD , Orleans Public Defender's Office
- 102 Child Welfare Stakeholder Roles
Trisha Casey, JD and Lacey Bodley, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services
- 103 Intermediate Level Usage of Optima
Robert Hahn, Optima
- 104 CASA You're Up
Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., JD, Louisiana Supreme Court
- 105 Serving Students with Disabilities in Foster Care System
Debra Weinberg, JD, The Advocacy Center
- 106 Resources for Professionals Who Serve Children & Families:
Child Welfare Information Gateway
Angelique (Angie) Brown, LCSW and Kari Kryda, Child Welfare Information Gateway
- 107 Family Engagement in the Mosaic: Culturally Responsive
Evidence-Based Practice
Ellen Souder, LPCC-S and John Burek, MSCJ, Parenting with Love and Limits



Tuesday, November 12th

Tuesday Institute Sessions | 1:45pm-5:00pm

- INS 1** Street Drugs: New Trends in Substance Abuse You Need to Know About
Lynn Reimer, ACT on Drugs
- INS 2** Undoing Racism/Community Organizing Introduction
Kimberley Richards, MEd and Ron Chisom, People's Institute
- INS 3** Handle with Care
Andrea Darr, W. Virginia Center for Children's Justice

Tuesday Breakout Sessions 200 Series | 3:30pm-5:00pm

- 201** TPRs and Appeals – The Preparation of Pleadings and Evidence for Attorneys and Laypeople
Kathy Lynn Cook, JD and Rebecca May Ricks, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services
- 202** Assessing Child Safety Throughout Child Welfare
Etrena Gerard, MCJ and Heidi Bourgeois, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS
- 203** How to Properly Document Volunteer Advocate Supervision Using Optima Features: Wellbeing, To-Do's, and Contact Entry Logs
Robert Hahn, Optima
- 204** Just the Facts Ma'am – Gathering Fact Based Information and Writing Fact Based Case Notes and Court Reports
David Duplechain, Family & Youth Counseling Agency
- 205** Our Girls, Our Communities: The Experience of Black Girls and Adolescents in Foster Care
Jemerika Haynes, Former Foster Youth, Clever Jam Communications
- 206** The Effects of Addiction on the Family
Stacy Eppers, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Northwest Louisiana
- 207** Families First: Keeping Focus in the New Normal
Ellen Souder, LPC and John Burek, MSCJ, Parenting with Love and Limits



Wednesday, November 13th



Wednesday General Session

8:30am-10:00am

Welcome - Together We Can Steering Committee Members

Native Discovery

Presented by D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 300 Series | 10:15am–11:45am

- 301 Crossing Borders
Kathleen Gasparian, JD, Gasperian Spivey Immigration
- 302 What's New with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)? So Much!
Judge Anne Simon, JD, Retired, Karen Matthews, LCSW, Chitimacha Tribe and Margaret Burt, JD
- 303 Extended Foster Care: Transition Planning for Older Youth (Part 1)
Joy Bruce, New Orleans CASA, Christy Tate, LMSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS
- 304 Family First Act
Michelle Gros, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families; Richard Pittman, JD, Louisiana Public Defender Board, Kim McCain, LMSW, DCFS and Jacqueline Brown, DCFS
- 305 Successful Integration of Foster Youth into New Placements
Sonya Brown, LMSW, Project 18
- 306 Avoiding Burnout: Exhibiting Ethical Self Care
Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW, Mercy Family Center
- 307 Initiatives Addressing Sex Trafficking in Louisiana
Dana Hunter, PhD, Louisiana Children's Cabinet, Governor's Office
- 308 Bullying: Impact on Children
Jeff Arseneaux
- 309 Warrior Spirit in Leadership (Session Repeats)
D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery
- 310 Immunity for Social Workers
Otha "Curtis" Nelson, Jr., JD, Louisiana Supreme Court

Wednesday, November 13th



Wednesday Luncheon and General Session

12:00pm–1:30pm

Updates - Together We Can Steering Committee Members

Implications of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

Rhenda Hodnett, PhD, Louisiana DCFS

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 400 Series | 1:45pm-3:15pm

- 401 Legal Ethics for Child Welfare Attorneys: Oh the Cases We See!
Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Acadiana Legal Services Corp. and Margaret Burt, JD
- 402 Overcoming Victim Obstacles in Forensic Interviews of Special Needs Children: A Case Study
Danielle Williams, PhD, Center for Youth and Families and Kevin Tieman, MB, Torrington Police Department
- 403 How to Build and Generate Ad Hoc Reports in Optima
Robert Hahn, Optima
- 404 Grief: A Special Kind of Sorrow
Corie Hebert, PhD, Southeastern Louisiana University
- 405 Extended Foster Care: Transition Planning for Older Youth (Part 2)
Joy Bruce, New Orleans CASA, Christy Tate, LMSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS
- 406 Working with Youth on Autism Spectrum
Lisa Donze Jacob, LCSW, Mercy Family Center
- 407 Civil Rights Protections for Parents in Recovery from an Opioid Addiction
Carla Carter, US Department of Health and Human Services & David Roman, US Department of Health and Human Services OCR
- 408 Unaccompanied Immigrant Children: Their Goals and Our Roles
Bethany Linville, MA, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and Andrea Garcia, Jewish Family Services
- 409 Warrior Spirit in Leadership (Repeated)
D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas, Native Discovery

Session 410 is on the next page



Wednesday, November 13th

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 400 Series | 1:45pm-5:00pm

- 410 Social Work Ethics
Tonyalea Elam, MSW, LCSW, Southeastern Louisiana University

Wednesday Breakout Sessions 500 Series | 3:30pm-5:00pm

- 501 Legal Professionalism for the Child Welfare Legal Field
Rebecca May Ricks, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Services and Margaret Burt, JD
- 502 Safe Babies Court Team: Champions for Children, Parents and Community Engagement
Amy Dickson, PsyD, LSU HSC School of Psychiatry/Psychology and Darneshia Bell, National Infant Toddler Court Program
- 503 How to Use Optima Reports as an Internal Control: Exception Reports
Robert Hahn, Optima
- 504 Permanency Matters
Kären Hallstrom, JD, Louisiana DCFS and Thailund Porter-Green, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families
- 505 Open Table and Kinship Navigator
Christy Tate, LMSW, Louisiana DCFS and Lauren Brocksmith, Louisiana DCFS
- 506 Civil Rights Spotlight: Ensuring Language Access to Limited Proficient Court Users
Dylan de Kervor, JD, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of DOJ Civil Rights Division and Kimberley Silas, JD, Louisiana Supreme Court Office of Language Access
- 507 What is CSEC?
Rob Carlisle, Child Advocacy Services
- 508 Strategies for Effective Family Engagement
Corie Hebert, PhD, Southeastern Louisiana University
- 509 Caretaker Protective Capacities: Assessing for Safety in Child Welfare
Linda Carter, LCSW (Retired Louisiana DCFS) and Lisa Welch, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS

Awards Night at Vermilionville

Wednesday, 6:30-9:00 pm

You must be pre-registered to attend the Awards Night at Vermilionville.



The Annual Awards Night at Vermilionville will be filled with music, food and dancing. We will honor the Together We Can Award recipients at the evening event. This is a fun night of networking, relaxation and sharing each other's company. The band will be Terry and the Zydeco Bad Boys. Enjoy the food! Spend some time with friends! Dance a few steps!

A map with directions to Vermilionville is available at the conference registration desk.

The address is: 300 Fishers Road Lafayette, Louisiana

Past TWC Award Recipients

Catherine Lafleur Legal Advocacy for Children and Families Award

- 2008 Diane Winston, Former State Representative
- 2009 Andrew Shealy, Assistant District Attorney
- 2010 Clay Walker, Public Defender's Office
- 2011 Judge Charles Porter, 16th Judicial District
- 2012 Joy Peacock, Deputy Judicial Administrator, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court
- 2013 Judge Anne Simon, Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program Fellow
- 2014 Candice S. LeBlanc, Louisiana DCFS Bureau of General Counsel
- 2015 Leslie Lacy, Mental Health Advocacy Services
- 2016 Nzinga Hill, Orleans Parish Public Defenders Office
- 2017 Franchesca Hamilton Aker, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation
- 2018 Richard Pittman, JD, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Linda Christmas Service to Children and Families Award

- 2008 Nancy Miller, Louisiana Office of Community Services
- 2009 Linda Starns, New Horizons Youth Services Bureau
- 2010 Robert Couvillon, Louisiana Office of Community Services
- 2011 Myra Magee, Foster Parent/Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
- 2012 Carrie Hicks, Foster Parents/Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association
- 2013 Helen Buttitta, Louisiana DCFS Children's Justice Act Fellow
- 2014 Dr. Pamela Saulsberry, University of Louisiana at Monroe
- 2015 Elijah Evans, Former Foster Child and Founder of No Use for Abuse
- 2016 Sonya Brown, Former Foster Child and Founder of Project 18
- 2017 Joy Bruce, CASA New Orleans
- 2018 Kim Winston Bigler, Founder of James Samaritan (formerly James Storehouse)



Thursday, November 14th

Thursday General Session | 8:30am-10:00am

Welcome: Together We Can Steering Committee Members

Using Evidenced Based Methods to Support Families to Keep Children at Home:

Panel discussion facilitated by Rhenda Hodnett, PhD, Louisiana DCFS

A mini-resource fair will be held Thursday morning. If you would like your agency to participate with a small display or sharing of brochures, please contact the conference office: jennifer@teamdynamicsweb.com.

Thursday Breakout Sessions 600 Series | 10:15am–11:45am

- 601 Intergenerational Impact of Louisiana's Opioid Crisis
Monteic Sizer, PhD, Northeast Delta Human Services Authority
- 602 Engaging with Clients on Front End
Margaret Burt, JD
- 603 Calming Studio: A Model for Replication
Lucinda Miles, Volunteers for Youth Justice
- 604 Relationship Building: Better and Stronger Connections Between CASA and DCFS
Cala Burgos, Louisiana CASA and Rodney Hastings, JD, DCFS
- 605 Fostering 101
Jessica Simpson Masters, BSW, Louisiana DCFS and Peggy Kirby, Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parent Association
- 606 Family Preservation Program: Foundation Steps for Systemic Change
Marcia Arseneaux, JD, PhD, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
- 607 Planful Transitions
Rhenda Hodnett, LCSW, PhD, Louisiana DCFS and Charles Zeanah, MD, Tulane University
- 608 Engaging Fathers in Child Welfare: What are the Benefits?
Tracy Hoggatt, LCSW, Louisiana DCFS and Fertaeshia Broussard, MS, Louisiana DCFS

Thursday, November 14th



Thursday Breakout Sessions 600 Series | 10:15am–11:45am

- 609 Understanding and Applying HIPAA Compliance Guidelines for Child Welfare Cases
Tiffany Boveland, MS, JD, LCMC Health
- 610 Child in Need of Care (CINC) 101
Thailund Porter-Green, JD, Pelican Center for Children and Families and Guy Lain, JD

Thursday Luncheon and Closing General Session | 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Welcome:

Together We Can Steering Committee Members



**Braver, Smarter and Stronger
than You Think or I Believe:
Former Foster Youth will Share
Their Experiences.**

Panel Presentation of Former Foster Youth
Facilitated by Tonyalea Elam, LCSW, Southeast
Louisiana University

Closing Comments by Judge Ernestine Gray, JD,
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court



CLE and CEU Credits

CLE and CEU (NASW-LA) credit applications will be filed for approval. Participants who attend all conference sessions can earn continuing education credits. There will be opportunities for credits in both legal and social work ethics and legal professionalism. Forms for legal professionals will be available at the registration desk. CEU certificates reflecting general, clinical and ethics hours earned are emailed within 30 days after the conference. CLE credits are filed electronically within 30 days after the event.

You must turn in your documentation before leaving the conference for your hours to be filed for CLE or for the CEU certificate to be emailed to you. CLE teaching credit forms will be available for legal speakers at the registration desk.



17th Annual Conference

Together We Can!

Conference Location



Lafayette Cajundome, located at 444 Cajundome Blvd., Lafayette, Louisiana.

Conference Accommodations:

Refer to the conference website for a listing of all the hotel room blocks available with discounted rooms.



QUESTIONS? Call Team Dynamics

985.624.3514

Or send an email to susan@teamdynamicsweb.com.