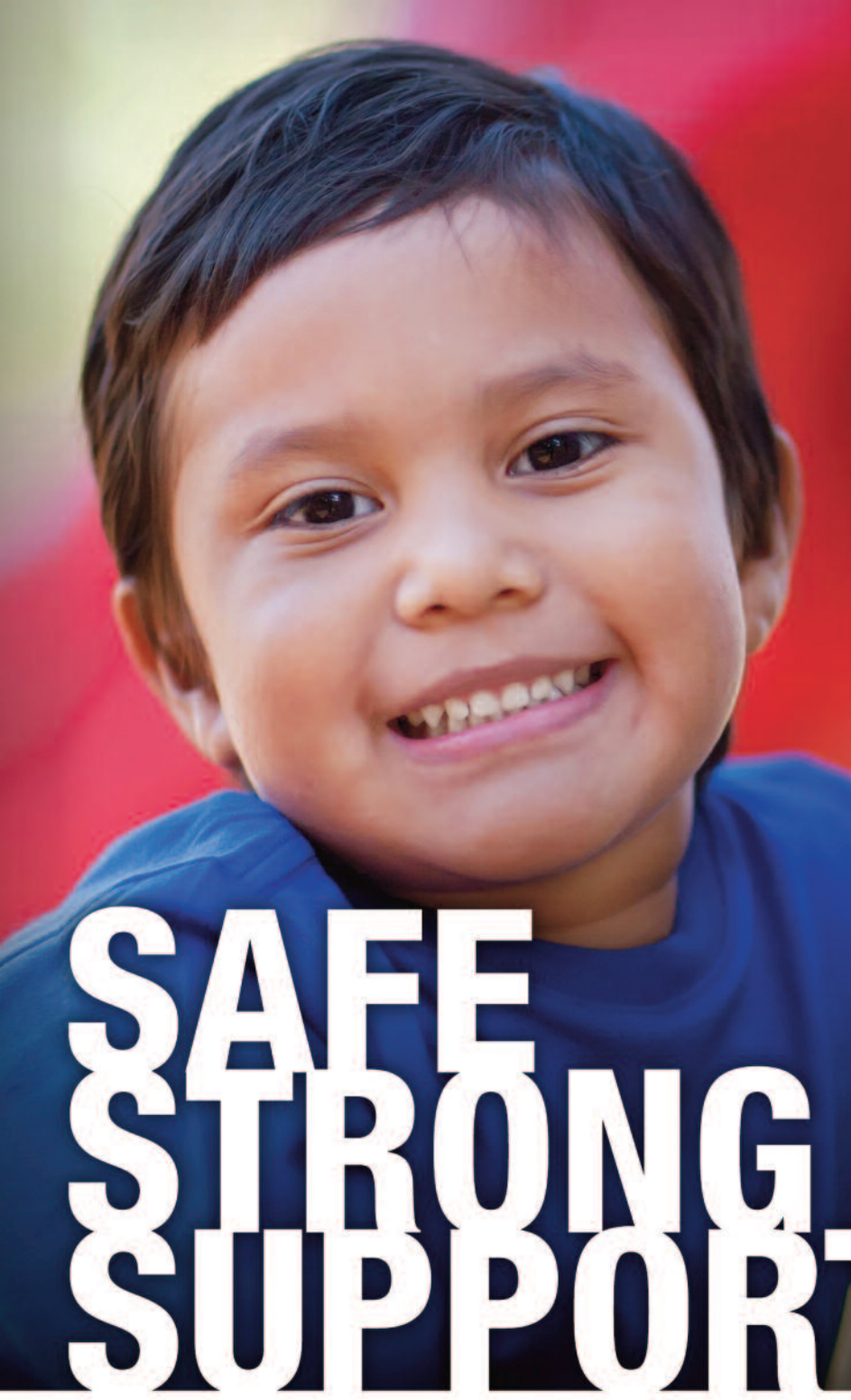




STRONGER TOGETHER:

Uniting to Advance Change

National
Conference
April 26-28, 2023



Safe Children

Strong Families

Supportive
Communities

Casey Family Programs is proud to support CWLA's 2023 National Conference, "Stronger Together: Uniting to Advance Change."

By investing in equity for families and listening to what they tell us they need, we can all come together to build Communities of Hope where children and families have support and abundant opportunities to thrive.

Learn how communities are working together to sustain hope for children and families at [casey.org](https://www.casey.org).

SAFE STRONG SUPPORTIVE

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Table of Contents

Welcome	4	Plenary & Lunch	26
Schedule at-a-Glance	5	Workshops and Roundtables E & F	26
Conference Schedule	7	Workshops and Roundtables G & H	37
Members-Only Pre-Conference Event	7	Closing Lunch Plenary	45
Opening Lunch Plenary	7	Post-Conference Training Institute	47
Connecting with Congress	8	Conference Sponsors	48
Workshops and Roundtables A & B	8	Exhibitors & Floorplan	49
Workshops C & D	17	Meeting Rooms Floorplan	50

ACCREDITATION MATTERS

CARF commends providers for their ongoing efforts to provide quality services for children/youth and families during times of change.

Key Points of CARF Accreditation:

- Child/Youth and family-centered standards
- Consultative peer-review process
- Transparent fee structure, non-revenue based
- Choice of programs/services to accredit
- Choice of timeframe for survey

Get started today! Email cys@carf.org

Guiding Principles of CARF Standards:

Child/Youth and family-driven services

Trauma informed

Strengths based

DEI focused

Promote resiliency

carf INTERNATIONAL

Scan the QR code or go to www.carf.org/programs/CYS to see all child and youth programs available for accreditation.





It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Washington, DC for the 2023 CWLA National Conference, *Stronger Together: Uniting to Advance Change*.

This year's conference aims to close the divide between public and private sectors of child welfare and related systems and the families and communities they serve. By coming together, we can harness our collective wisdom to develop and implement holistic services that support child and family well-being.

True collaboration allows space for everyone's voice to be heard, and we are honored to be joined at this conference by community partners who focus on housing, juvenile justice, mental health, and Head Start, as well as youth and parents with lived expertise.

As we strive to work more closely together, we also must remember the importance of centering kindness in our work—kindness toward the families we serve, toward one another, and toward ourselves.

We hope you will take full advantage of this opportunity to learn from and engage with your peers and colleagues from around the country! Welcome again to everyone—with a special welcome to new CWLA members and first-time conference attendees. We are glad you're with us. Enjoy the conference!

— CWLA National Conference Planning Committee

CWLA National Conference Planning Committee

A warm thank you to the following individuals for their contributions and assistance:

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Thanks also to the CWLA staff for their dedication and effort!

Schedule-at-a-Glance

Wednesday, April 26



Advocacy Day!

- 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration & CWLA Bookstore
- 9:30 am – 11:20 am Members-Only Pre-Conference Event
- 11:45 am – 1:15 pm Opening Plenary & Lunch
- 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm Connecting with Congress
- 1:35 pm – 2:50 pm Workshops A & Roundtables A
- 3:10 pm – 4:25 pm Workshops B & Roundtables B
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Advocacy Day Gathering
- 4:45 pm – 5:30 pm Roundtable Discussions: Kindness
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception in Exhibit Hall

Thursday, April 27

- 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration & CWLA Bookstore
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Coffee and Networking
- 9:20 am – 10:35 am Workshops C
- 10:55 am – 12:10 pm Workshops D

Thursday, April 27 cont.

- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Plenary & Lunch
- 2:20 pm – 3:35 pm Workshops E
- 3:55 pm – 5:10 pm Workshops F & Regional Roundtables
- 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception in Exhibit Hall

Friday, April 28

- 8:00 am – 2:30 pm Registration & CWLA Bookstore
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Coffee and Networking
- 9:15 am – 10:30 am Workshops G & Roundtables G
- 10:50 am – 12:05 pm Workshops H
- 12:25 pm – 1:55 pm Closing Plenary & Lunch
- 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm Post-Conference Training Institute


Saturday, April 29

- 9:00 am – 9:30 am Coffee and Networking
- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Post-Conference Training Institute

Conference Survey

Can you spare a few minutes to take our conference survey? Your insights on conference topics, speakers, and pathways to move the field forward will help CWLA shape its direction over the next year. There will also be an opportunity to share your thoughts on the paper *Creating a High-Quality, Humane, and Respectful Approach to Advance CWLA's Vision*. Responses are due by May 19.




30+
Years of
experience.



60K+
Trauma-informed
care trainings.

270K+
Children trusted
to our care.




21
States' children
served.

Expert training.
Expert specialists.
Expert care.



Centene Corporation is the top managed care organization in child welfare services. Serving more than 270,000 children in 21 states, we deliver excellent service with our Centene Families and Futures model. Our commitment to whole health with a focus on individual needs helps us provide for each person in our care.

Learn more at [CenteneFosterCare.com](https://www.CenteneFosterCare.com).

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, April 26

Registration and CWLA Bookstore

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Location: Ballroom Level

Members-Only Pre-Conference Event

9:30 am – 11:20 am

Location: Congressional A

With input from The CWLA National Commission for Policy and Practice, CWLA has put together a working paper, *Creating a High-Quality, Humane, and Respectful Approach to Advance CWLA's Vision*, which will be distributed to conference attendees, outlining recommendations on critical issues such as the impacts of poverty and other social indicators of health, leveraging the knowledge and resources of other systems, clarifying the mandated role of child welfare, and noting the importance of a community-wide approach to securing child safety and well-being. At this special members-only pre-conference session, Commission members will speak about the type of changes required to create and operate a child welfare system that focuses more intentionally on prevention, highlighting key concepts from the paper.

Presenters: Representatives from the National Commission, including Co-Chair Carnitra White

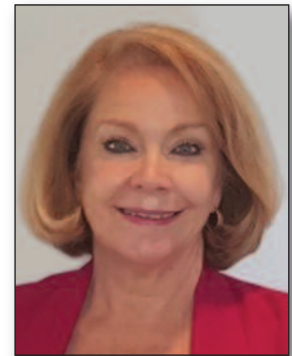
Opening Plenary and Lunch

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level



Christine James-Brown
CWLA President & CEO



Victoria Kelly
CWLA Board Chair



John Francis
Keynote Speaker

John Francis, PhD, is an activist known for his efforts to raise awareness for environmental justice through his country- and continent-spanning walks and for taking a vow of silence that lasted 17 years. He is also the author of an illustrated children's book, *Human Kindness: True Stories of Compassion and Generosity that Changed the World*.



Special thanks to Casey Family Programs
for their generous sponsorship!



To kick off Advocacy Day, Director of Public Policy, Kati Mapa, will introduce CWLA's Legislative Agenda and Hot Topics. This year's focus is specifically on child welfare legislation and funding, but the broader agenda notes the need to pursue change in all child- and family-serving systems to better address the drivers of child welfare, such as poverty, mental health, substance misuse, and access to early education.

Connecting with Congress

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Your voice is powerful!

The most important thing you can do while at the conference is promote child welfare priorities. The conference hotel is only a short distance away from Capitol Hill offices — making it easy for you to share the concerns of the children, families, and communities you serve, as well as the staff and employees of your organization.

Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity to connect directly with your members of Congress and their staff. Congressional staff members are valued advisors and can heavily influence decisions. Speak with a member of CWLA's policy team if you have questions about how to connect with your representatives.

Roundtable Discussions A

1:35 pm – 2:50 pm

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

Join your peers for intimate, facilitated roundtable discussions on pressing issues affecting the field of child welfare.

Workshops A

1:35 pm – 2:50 pm

A1 Your Voice, Your Future: Resetting to Move the Standards of Excellence Forward

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

At our last conference, we shared with you about what we were doing to update the Child Protective Services Standard of Excellence and creating a new Community-Based Prevention Services Standard of Excellence. To frame this work, CWLA and its Standards of Excellence (SOE) Committee used the CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare and articulated what a reframed child welfare system looks like. To ensure that a broad group of child- and family-serving experts have input in the design of the two Standards of Excellence, we offered an opportunity for attendees to provide input on the reframed child welfare system and CWLA's redesign of the child protective services SOE and the design of the community-based prevention services SOE. We invite attendees to this workshop to see how the input has informed the final version of the two volumes with special emphasis on equity and people with lived experience— two very critical aspects of the reframed child welfare, principles, and standards.

Presenters: Julie Collins, CWLA, Washington, DC; Pat Hunt, Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA), Columbia, MD; Brandynicole Brooks, DC Child and Family Services Agency, Washington, DC

A2 From Federal Law to State Policy: Delivering on the Promise of Qualified Residential Treatment Program Standard

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

The Maine Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) leveraged state and community partnerships to be the only state to embed the Family First Qualified Residential Treatment Program Standards into existing Medicaid and licensing rules, making these standards a requirement for all Children’s Residential Care Facilities (CRCF) in Maine. As a result, equity was created across the system so that all youth needing CRCF services, regardless of foster care status, receive the same newly adopted quality standards of care and treatment. OCFS will describe the steps taken toward statewide implementation of these new standards and how they were incorporated into state policy. Participants will also learn about strategies for leveraging state and community partnerships to successfully implement federal and state policy and about tools and resources created to support implementation.

Presenters: Christine Theriault & Todd Landry; Maine Office of Child and Family Services; Augusta; ME

A3 Foster Youth Voice Month: Framing Futures

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

Embedding the voices of youth with lived experience in the child welfare system is an adaptive challenge that requires a paradigm shift in the hearts and minds of professionals; we must value youth as organizational assets. Our presentation will examine this issue from all sides—hearing from youth with lived experience, reviewing the research on youth engagement and framing, and learning about innovative approaches that are being tested in the field. We will also share findings from research on re-framing youth who are transition-aged, discuss how the insight gained from this research led to the creation of Foster Youth Voice Month, and will share perspectives on the importance of the voices of youth.

Presenters: Elizabeth Wynter, Selfless Love Foundation, Tallahassee, FL; Marisa Gerstein Pineau, FrameWorks Institute, Washington, DC; Natalie Clark, Utah Department of Health and Human Services, Salt Lake City, UT

A4 Motivational Interviewing During Times of Crisis: Shifting from Blame to Change

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to the application of safety science in child welfare and how to incorporate concepts of this approach into critical incident reviews. Critical incident reviews, through the lens of safety science, allow participants a safe space to be part of the solution for organizational system change. Participants will learn to combine the heart of motivational interviewing and the foundations of psychological safety following the most tragic event in child welfare: the fatality of a child. Participants will learn to collaborate with front-line staff and executives, acknowledge staff’s expertise of what works best within their systems, how to meet staff with compassion, and how to provide the space for individuals to advocate for their needs.

Presenter: Lauren Zylla-Whetstone, Indiana Department of Child Services, Indianapolis, IN

A5 Collaborative Approaches to Supporting and Affirming Children and Youth Who Are LGBTQIA+ and in Child Welfare

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

This presentation will cover the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families’ comprehensive approach to strengthening policies, programs, and services that protect, support, and affirm children and youth served by the Department who are LGBTQIA+. Presenters will highlight successful approaches for data collection, policy development, and increasing partnership and collaboration with advocates and those with lived expertise. This presentation will also highlight the Department’s new Gender Affirming Medication Consent Policy and best practices for developing champions for LGBTQIA+ practice within an organization.

Presenters: Dimple Patel, Sasha Heggie-Jackson, and Linda Sagor, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Boston, MA

A6 Building and Implementing a Family First CQI Framework: Accomplishments and Lessons Learned

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

This session will highlight the Kentucky Department of Community Based Services' (DCBS) experience measuring and monitoring the initial and ongoing implementation of its Family First Prevention Services plan. Participants will learn about DCBS' accomplishments and lessons learned building an infrastructure to collect the evidence needed to fuel a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process that engages a broad array of stakeholders in solution-finding. Participants will also hear how data and evidence from the Family First CQI process is being integrated into the agency's broader CQI system to inform Child and Family Services Review preparations. Key components of Chapin Hall's prevention services measurement framework will be shared, and participants will have an opportunity to explore where they are on their own prevention services CQI journey.

Presenters: Yolanda Green-Rogers, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Jennifer Thornhill, Kentucky Department for Community Based Services, Frankfort, KY; Tiffany Mullis, Kentucky Department of Community Based Services, Independence, KY

A7 The Trauma C.A.R.E. Model: A Relational Approach for Parents in Recovery

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

The Trauma C.A.R.E. Model provides a relational approach in service of families affected by early adverse experiences (and substance use disorder). This model outlines the core components for trauma-responsive care for parent-child systems and includes the core components of a replicable framework, applicable across a full continuum of care. Through discussion, storytelling, and engaging, reflective activities, participants will explore the process of creating a culture of safety and nurturance, discuss the role of parallel process and co-regulation, and develop a menu of

evidence-based dyadic interventions that can be implemented by both front line and clinical staff. Participants will create a plan to include client choice and voice in treatment planning and develop a template for measurement-informed care at their agencies.

Presenters: Gina Del Jones, The Center for Great Expectations, Somerset, NJ; Emily Bosk, Rutgers University School of Social Work, New Brunswick, NJ; Jennifer Unger & Carolyn Flynn, The Center for Great Expectations, Somerset, NJ

A8 Navigating the Child Welfare System and the Critical Need for Culturally Responsive Service

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

The Sacramento County Cultural Broker (SCCB) Program is specifically designed to address issues of African American disparities and disproportionality in the child welfare system by providing culturally responsive advocacy and liaison services for families referred to and/or involved with the child welfare system. This presentation will demonstrate how the SCCB model can reduce entry rates, increase kinship placements, and reduce length of time in care. Additionally, this presentation will highlight that when child welfare works alongside community, stronger safety nets are built, there is an increase in the engagement of fathers, and linkages to culturally responsive services can take place. We will demonstrate how the model amplifies and lifts up the need for equity in services for families who are African American – including in the prevention of foster care entries.

Presenters: Kim Pearson & Tiffany Glass, Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services, Sacramento, CA; LaDonna Lee, Better Life Children's Services, Sacramento, CA

A9 Show Me Solutions: Thinking Outside the Box During the Capacity Crisis

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

Human Services is facing an unprecedented capacity crisis in which there is not only more work than can be kept up with, but also an all-time high vacancy rate

for people to do the work. Child welfare, in particular, has seen increased complexity in casework, an increase in requirements for compliance, and excessive turnover rates never seen before. The old adage of "we just need more people" is no longer feasible and, in most cases, no longer rings true. To regain a proactive approach to casework, offer relief and benefits to staff, and provide better outcomes for children and families, the narrative needs to change. In this workshop, you'll hear Missouri's initiative to approach the work differently, find capacity in unlikely areas, and, ultimately, serve citizens in a more holistic, comprehensive way through process redesign.

Presenters: Joanie Rogers, Sara Smith, and Teri Armistead, Missouri Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, MO

A10 Protecting the Indian Child Welfare Act at the State Level

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a United States Federal law that applies to Native American children involved in child custody proceedings, including foster care, guardianship, and adoption. It was passed in response to the alarmingly high number of Native American children that were being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies. Across the country, several states have enacted bills to create state level Indian Child Welfare Acts. These state level acts are designed to augment the federal act to further the intent of the act and to ensure that the principles of the Federal law will be upheld regardless of what happens to the federal ICWA, which is being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court. At this workshop you will hear about the continued importance of advancing the principles of ICWA, state efforts to protect Indian children and families, and the legal challenge to ICWA. You will also have the opportunity to share challenges and opportunities related to advancing the principles of ICWA.

Presenters: Lucille Echohawk, Denver Indian Family Resource Center and CWLA Senior Fellow, Denver, CO; Aprille Flint-Gerner, Oregon Department of Human Services, Salem, OR; Jack Trope, Casey Family Programs, Denver, CO; Angela Connor, Choctaw Nation, Durant, OK

**Share Strategies · Exchange Ideas
Make Connections · Learn What Works**

CWLA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Roundtable Discussions B

3:10 pm – 4:25 pm

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

Join your peers for intimate, facilitated roundtable discussions on pressing issues affecting the field of child welfare.

Developing a Truly Collegial and Effective Infrastructure Amongst Families, Providers, and Jurisdictions

Facilitator: Alan Vietze, CWLA Senior Fellow and Chair, CWLA Mental Health Advisory Board

Coaching Supervisors: Project Based Coaching vs. Leadership Development

Facilitator: Gary Taylor, CWLA Senior Fellow

Reimagining Child Welfare Workforce Recruitment: Exploring Challenges and Tactics to Recruiting a Skilled and Diverse Workforce

Facilitators: CWLA's Emerging Leaders Committee

Ensuring the Receipt of Services: Federal Benefits, Children's Rights, and State Systems

Facilitator: Sharon McCartney, AAICAMA

Workshops B

3:10 pm – 4:25 pm

B1 A Mixed-Methods Analysis of State Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

Through a partnership between child welfare researchers at the University of Georgia (School of Social Work), Georgia State University (Andrew Young School of Policy Studies), and the Child Welfare League of America, this empirical mixed-methods qualitative study analyzed state Title IV-E Prevention Program five-year plans and interviewed key leaders in a select number of public child welfare agencies to ascertain the extent to which FFPSA is meeting its intended objectives.

Presenters: Harold Briggs, University of Georgia, Athens, GA; Julie Collins, CWLA, Annapolis, MD

B2 Adapting an Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) to Meet the Diverse Needs of Youth in Oregon's Child Welfare System: The KEEP Model

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

This workshop will focus on the Oregon implementation of KEEP, an evidence-based, 16-week peer support and skill enhancement program for families (resource and kinship). The presenters represent three key partners and perspectives on implementation: the Oregon Child Welfare System, the KEEP model development team, and Oregon's resource families. Since KEEP expanded statewide in 2019, the program has enrolled more than 2,500 families from every Oregon county. We will discuss adapting an EBP to meet the diverse needs of families, with an emphasis on ways that KEEP is tailored to support youth who are LGBTQIA+ and youth in transcultural placements. We will share strategies for partnerships between state agencies, an EBP that improves services

without overburdening an already overburdened workforce, and approaches for establishing a bilateral flow of data between an EBP and state agency leadership to enhance service delivery by both organizations.

Presenters: Katie Bennett, Oregon Social Learning Center Developments, Inc., Eugene, OR; Catherine Lewis-Anthony, Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare, Salem, OR; LaShaun Brooks, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

B3 Effective Engagement and Service Delivery to Fathers Involved with Child Welfare Agencies

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

This presentation will focus on effective engagement and service delivery to fathers. The benefits of father engagement are well-documented, as are the challenges when fathers are disengaged. In many cases, the absence of a father contributes to increased risk of child maltreatment. Unfortunately, the interventions of child welfare agencies mostly have been ineffective at strengthening family protective factors due to the lack of ongoing father inclusion efforts, and limited access to gender responsive support services. Our agency is currently exploring how we partner with divisions across the Department of Family Services to enhance service delivery to all men, not just fathers, who need or seek social services.

Presenters: Oriane Eriksen & Bennie Herron & Mercedes Alonzo, Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Fairfax, VA

B4 Enabling Policy Context to Prevent Child Welfare Involvement Through Economic & Concrete Supports

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

Jurisdictions across the country are reorienting child welfare upstream toward prevention and including the provision of economic and concrete supports (ECS) as

part of a comprehensive service array. New efforts are emerging to partner across systems to create an enabling policy context that expands availability of macroeconomic policies, increases innovation with available resources, and reduces restrictive policies and administrative barriers. This session will describe an enabling macro-level policy context for prevention, provide examples of states engaged in policy change via a learning community to further primary prevention through ECS, and explore an evidence-based policy-making tool (State Options to Increase Access to ECS as a Child Welfare Prevention Strategy) that can be used to assess the policy context in their own states.

Presenters: *Yasmin Grewal-Kok, Jennifer Gaul-Stout, and Leanne Heaton, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Meg Dygert, The American Public Human Services Association, Arlington, VA; Suzanne Miles-Gustave, New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Rensselaer, NY*

B5 Foster Care Done Differently: Shifting from Support to Supervision within an Indigenous Framework

Location: *Grand Teton – 2nd Floor*

This presentation will expound the program development and implementation of a new and unique trauma-informed wraparound Therapeutic Foster Care program in Alberta, Canada for youth aged 13-17. The foundation of the program is an Indigenous practice framework developed with Elders in ceremony. Indigenous stages of child development (the Turtle Lodge teachings) create the basis for caregivers' understanding of the youth in their care. Through innovative recruitment and by treating caregivers as practitioners (the primary change agent) and providing them with robust onboarding, training, and clinical supervision, we can dramatically change the experiences of youth living in foster care and their families.

Presenters: *Natalie Crawford Cox, The Family Centre of Northern Alberta, Edmonton, AB; Meredith Greig, The Family Centre of Northern Alberta, Edmonton, AB*

B6 CQI, Data, and Authentic Inclusion: A Five-Year Journey to Improve Permanency Outcomes

Location: *Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level*

The Capacity Building Center for States was contracted to provide implementation technical assistance (TA) to the Strengthening Child Welfare Systems. These grantees were awarded funds in 2018, through the Children's Bureau, to implement strategies that demonstrate an impact on permanency outcomes related to the Child and Family Services Reviews process over a five-year period. These strategies range from legal representation to coaching models, increasing worker retention, family-centered practice models, and focusing on permanency from day one. TA providers, select grantee representatives, and a person with lived expertise will share their journeys through strategies being developed and implemented, the authentic inclusion of people with lived expertise, and the use of continuous quality improvement.

Presenters: *Heather Hendley & Tori Russell, ICF, Capacity Building Center for States, Everett, MA; Ann Lindsey-Mowery, Embrace Families, Orlando, FL; Stefanie Harmon, Washington Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Olympia, WA; Meghan Chambers, Orlando, FL*

CWLA Membership

At CWLA, we know that collaboration is key to improving the lives of children and families. That's why we foster and connect a diverse coalition of child-serving professionals who partner with us to fulfill our mission of advancing policies, strategies, and best practices that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families.

CWLA invites YOU to join us and create change that matters for those who need it most. Conference attendees can take advantage of a special membership sale: **30% off all new organizational memberships through the end of May!** Speak with CWLA staff or board to learn more about membership benefits,

B7 Promoting a Culture of Shared Learning: New England Regional Advocacy Creates Systemic Change

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

Learn how a culture of shared learning contributed to the success of youth advocacy efforts in the New England states. Hear from Youth Advocates who effectively promoted system-wide change by leveraging youth/adult partnerships, designing and implementing research efforts, synthesizing data, and creating recommendations to advance advocacy efforts at the state level.

Presenters: Grey Hilliard-Koshinsky, New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors, Boston, MA; Youth Advocate, New England Youth Coalition, Boston, MA

B8 Sustainably Funded: Medicaid Waivers and Wraparound Success

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

Magellan Health in Louisiana has successfully administered the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) based on the wraparound framework and principles for youth and families with the most complex behavioral health needs. This presentation will look at sustaining wraparound through Medicaid waivers, quality measurement, and a drive to outcomes that matter. The goal of this presentation is to inform system of care stakeholders of effective and sustainable practices based on a model CSoC program in Louisiana. Participants will (a) evaluate strategies for an effective statewide implementation of a CSoC based on a wrap-around model; (b) identify factors that enhance sustainability of a Medicaid wraparound program as a children's behavioral health specialty program; and (c) discuss the utilization of Child and Adolescent Strengths and Needs to meet waiver requirements and monitor outcomes.

Presenters: Barbara Ann Dunn and Syralja Griffin, Magellan Health of Louisiana, Shreveport, LA

B9 The Impact of Enhanced Kinship Navigation on Caregivers and their Children

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

This presentation will provide an overview of the impact of an enhanced Kinship Navigator program on kinship caregivers and the children in their care. Presenters will share the essential components of the enhanced model and will provide an overview of both quantitative and qualitative outcomes that children and caregivers in the pilot sites experienced. Attendees will be invited to reflect on opportunities to enhance Kinship Navigator programs in their own communities.



Presenters: Rosalyn Alber, Washington Department of Social and Health Services, Lacey, WA; Geene Delaplaine, Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families, Olympia, WA; Angelique Day, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

B10 Creating a Gender Inclusive Environment in Child Welfare Systems

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

Learn about the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's All Children—All Families Program's promising practices for creating a gender inclusive environment in child welfare systems. Come explore foundational concepts for supporting clients with diverse gender identities and expressions and learn steps you can take today to improve gender inclusion at your organization. Together, we'll cover common barriers and identify ways to go beyond being welcoming and affirming.

Presenter: Phii Regis, Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Washington, DC



Evidence-Based Program for Birth to Five Prevents Foster Care Placement for Infants and Toddlers

AFFORDABLE

SUSTAINABLE

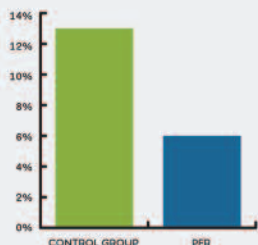
SCALABLE



Brief:
10 week program



93% retention
in our Child Protective
Services study



2.5 times lower rate
of foster care placement

Promoting First Relationships® is Evidence Based:

- ▶ Eligible for MIECHV funding
- ▶ Level II on California Clearing House
- ▶ Under review for Family First Prevention Services Act

OUTCOMES:

- Increased placement stability
- Increased caregiver sensitive and responsive care (observed)
- Improved child behavioral and emotional health
- Improved child stress physiology

APPROACH:

- Strengths based
- Relationship based video feedback
- Individualized and culturally adaptable
- Prevention for children aged 0-5
- Available in English, Spanish, and Somali



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Advocacy Day Gathering

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: Capitol Hill, SVC Room 212-10

CWLA's National Conference offers the best opportunity for members to engage with their Senators and Representatives, providing information, materials, and support during our annual Advocacy Day. This year, advocates are invited to cap off their Advocacy Day experience by joining members of Congress, Capitol Hill staff, and the CWLA Public Policy team at an Advocacy Day gathering on the Hill. This event, sponsored by and planned in partnership with Youth Villages, will feature the presentation of the CWLA Congressional Advocate of the Year Awards, remarks from members of Congress, and refreshments and networking opportunities. Please note that all attendees will need a valid photo ID to enter the building.



Representative Don Bacon

CWLA Congressional Advocates of the Year

Representative Don Bacon was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2016, representing Nebraska's Second Congressional District. He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Political Science degree in 1984. Prior to serving in Congress, Bacon served for nearly 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, ultimately retiring as a Brigadier General. He is a co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth.

Senator Debbie Stabenow made history in 2000 when



Senator Debbie Stabenow

she became the first woman from Michigan elected to the United States Senate. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University and worked with youth in the public schools before running for public office. Prior to serving in the United States Senate, Stabenow served on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, the Michigan House of Representatives and the State Senate, and Michigan's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Roundtable Discussions: Kindness

4:45 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

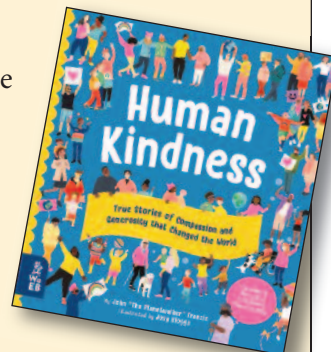
Join your peers in the Ballroom to discuss strategies for integrating the practice of kindness into our work—with the children and families we serve, with our colleagues and partners, and with ourselves.

Book Signing with John Francis

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Location: Bookstore – Ballroom Level

Enjoyed John Francis's message on the importance of kindness and compassion? Pick up a copy of his picture book *Human Kindness: True Stories of Compassion and Generosity that Changed the World!* The joyous and awe-inspiring stories in this book will encourage young readers to be kind to others.



Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: Columbia ABC – Ballroom Level

Come meet our vendors in the conference exhibit hall. Play Booth Bingo by getting your card stamped for a chance to win prizes. A great opportunity to browse, snack, and network with your colleagues from across the country!

Registration and CWLA Bookstore

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Location: Ballroom Level

Coffee & Networking in Exhibit Hall

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Location: Columbia ABC – Ballroom Level

Workshops C

9:20 am – 10:35 am

C1 Participatory Action Research (PAR) as a Method of Transforming Research Related to Child and Family Well-Being

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

Transforming the modern landscape of research and practice related to child and family well-being requires innovative, meaningful partnerships between researchers and communities. This workshop will provide expertise related to designing and carrying out high-quality participatory action research (PAR) studies. Participants will understand the benefits of PAR as a method for transforming research and interventions while promoting child, family, and community well-being. Participants will also learn about the various elements of PAR and the Positive Human Development (PHD) approach necessary for success. The context for this content will be provided by funders and lived experience experts from the 21st Century Research Agenda for Child and Family Well-Being.

Presenters: Kim DuMont, William T. Grant Foundation, NY; Cynthia Weaver, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD; Norma Hatfield, Generations United, Elizabethtown, KY; Kim Flores, Hello Insight, Atlanta, GA

C2 Five Year Anniversary of the Family First Prevention Services Act: Policy Perspective from the Hill

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

The Family First Prevention Services Act was enacted in 2018 to reorient the child welfare service system toward upstream prevention. This workshop will feature key Hill staff from the authorizing committees. Presenters will discuss the impact of the Family First Prevention Services Act, focusing on how this pivotal piece of legislation changed child welfare policy and the opportunities to build upon it (and other child welfare legislation) in the new Congress. This workshop is closed to the press and the discussion is off the record.

Presenters: Kati Mapa, CWLA, Washington, DC; Rebecca Nathanson, Office of Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR); Charlotte Kaye Rock, Office of Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID); Congressional Staff from House Ways and Means Committee.

C3 Using Effective Communication to Advance Systems Transform ation and Build Partnerships

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

Child welfare professionals support families and make positive daily impacts, but child welfare work is often only visible to community members when tragedy occurs. This is a problem because one entity cannot solve all of a community's issues. Instead, it requires concerted, collective efforts among all stakeholders to build family support and community-based child protection systems. Join us for a highly interactive workshop where we will discuss the impacts of improved communication, how to frame the narrative to collectively move toward an aspirational worldview, and tips on crafting and sharing your messages. We will focus on strategies that aim to build public support, strengthen the workforce, improve partnerships, and increase community collaboration for systems change.

Presenters: Sharon Kollar & Michelle Clinch, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, Portland, OR

C4 Field Insights Applied to a Toolkit to Enhance Identification of Children with Prenatal Substance Exposures

Location: Bryce – 2nd Floor

Prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs can have detrimental lifelong effects. Children with such exposures in the child welfare system are often not identified and there are missed opportunities to provide supportive care. This session outlines a comprehensive toolkit that will assist child welfare agencies and professionals in enhancing practices to identify and provide resources for children with prenatal substance exposures and their families. Panelists, including project team members, individuals with lived expertise, and child welfare professionals, will describe key contributions and share insights regarding the toolkit, which is aimed at improving outcomes and preserving families of origin.

Presenters: Erin Ingoldsby, James Bell Associates, Arlington, VA; Sharon Newburg-Rinn; Children's Bureau, ACF, HHS, Washington, DC; Jacquelyn Bertrand, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; LaToya Whitfield, Proof Alliance, Minneapolis, MN; Nancy Young, Children and Family Futures, Lake Forest, CA

C5 Collaborative Intervention within Rural Tribal Communities

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

This presentation will focus on evidence based Indigenous Parenting Programs specific to Tribal families. The presentation will also focus on the public child welfare sector and the importance of cultural competency when working with Tribal families. These cultural competencies are specific to tribes, and need to be understood in great detail when caseworkers are trying to work collaboratively with Tribal families. This includes understanding cultural parenting practices, how the parents were parented, and Tribe-specific historical trauma. This understanding will help caseworkers better approach the needs of Tribal families.

Presenters: Michelle Bradach and Tasha Schaff, Oregon Department of Human Services, Burns, OR

C6 Transforming a Child Welfare System into a Child and Family Well-Being System

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

The ability to leverage relationships with public, private, and nonprofit partners is critical to achieving true systems change. Drawing from the Washington, DC Child and Family Services Agency's experiences over the past two years as a Thriving Families, Safer Children (TFSC) Round 2 Jurisdiction, this presentation provides an empirical guide for how to get started and move to action to transform a child welfare system into a child and family well-being system. Presenters will show how to meaningfully engage people with lived expertise, provide examples of working with university and community partners to develop leadership certifications and promote healing, and outline how DC is using the social-ecological model as a framework for system vision setting, implementation, and evaluation.

Presenters: Natalie Craver & Sharafdeen Ibraheem, DC Child and Family Service Agency, Washington, DC

C7 Empowering and Preserving Families Across Systems with Permanency Mediation

Location: Glacier – 2nd Floor

Our Permanency Mediation model, developed in collaboration with the Juvenile Court and the Department of Children and Families, uses the principles of mediation and permanency interventions as alternatives to contested court proceedings for children in foster care. Our work unites parents, families, social workers, attorneys, and service providers in a non-adversarial process to resolve case-related issues and concerns. We address unique issues involved in care and protection, guardianship, and termination of parental rights proceedings. The model uses an independent third party to mediate a child-centered approach to permanency planning and ensures that parents drive the development of

plans for their child’s future—empowering and pre-serving families.

Presenters: Julia Pearson & Susan Glatki, Plummer Youth Promise, Salem, MA; Jaime Caron, Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, Northampton, MA

C8 Journey to Zero: Community Partnerships to Strengthen Families and Prevent Entry to Care

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

Journey to Zero (JtoZ) is a three-year, \$7.3 million, evidence-based, community/child welfare partnership (2019-2022) for children in care or at high risk for entry. JtoZ offers four rapid response, community services to strengthen families’ capacity to protect their children, expand support networks, and prevent entry to care so children remain safe within their family/culture/community. In this workshop, we will review the outcomes that have been measured: increased child safety (decreased re-opening rate post-closure); improved child stability (prevented entry to care); advanced child permanency (90% remained with family/kin); child kept within their community/culture (85%); cost savings analysis (year 2 data found that JtoZ cost \$4.3 million and saved \$40 million). Presenters will discuss the implications of these findings and share lessons learned.

Presenters: Deborah Goodman & Sharon Cabrera, Children’s Aid Society of Toronto, ON; Zohra Rahman, YouthLink, Toronto, ON

C9 A Journey with Youth at the Center: An Approach to Caring for Youth

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

Supporting youth who experience some of the most significant unmet needs in our systems requires making authentic connections, addressing systemic barriers, and shifting our beliefs about what is possible. This workshop provides an overview of a graphic and

conceptual model that guides the Catalyst Center’s approach to uplifting youth-centered care. This model, which can be described as a journey with youth at the center, includes a focus on identity, relational supports, contextual considerations, and phases for supporting youth connection and growth. Participants will learn strategies for engaging youth and aligning their team approach by applying this model to their personal and professional practices, including as a tool for guiding youth/caregiver or youth/care-provider conversation or as a facilitation strategy within care team collaborations.

Presenters: Cornelle Jenkins and Kelsie Tatum Martinez, California Alliance of Child and Family Services/Catalyst Center, Camarillo, CA; James Freeman, Training Grounds LLC, Simi Valley, CA



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C10 Housing Youth & Families Who Have Been Involved with Foster Care and Child Welfare

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

Housing is a basic need for everyone. Youth who have been in foster care, and families in the process of adoption, reunification, and prevention face even more barriers to securing stable and adequate housing. Collaboration between traditional child welfare partners (i.e., Departments of Children and Families and Guardians ad Litem) as well as housing partners (i.e., local public housing authorities, Homeless Trust), and other local partners, can reduce instances of homelessness. Moreover, achieving housing stability can prevent reentry into “the system.” This presentation will showcase how collaboration among various entities can assist in the prevention of homelessness and demonstrate how agencies can access resources to develop housing and related supportive services in their areas.

Presenters: Gianfranco Patuzzo, Citrus Family Care Network, Miami, FL; Carlos Laso, Miami Dade County Homeless Trust, Miami, FL; Jason Ruiz, Hialeah Housing Authority, Miami, FL

C11 Going Upstream: Cultural Networking with a Community to Serve the Health Needs of Families Who Are Black

Location: Congressional B – Lobby Level

This workshop details an innovative, community-based initiative, originally established to thwart the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic among families across the African Diaspora. This network of 60 cross-sector partners evolved into an effective, equity-driven, one-stop health program that connects families who are Black with healthcare providers who understand the significance of culture in providing health care while adapting to meet family needs within their respective community context, and demonstrating

commitment to timely, quality, and responsive care. The presenters will highlight dynamic approaches to mobilizing community partners to invest in a tailored health engagement model that: increases the utilization of medical and mental health services; links families to essential resources where families live, work, and socialize; stabilizes families vulnerable to child welfare intervention; supports families at high risk for adverse health outcomes; and advances evidence-based public policies across institutions which empower the holistic well-being of families who are Black.

Presenters: Jasilyn Morgan, Sheryl Brissett Chapman, Ralph Belk and Krystal Holland, National Center for Children and Families, Bethesda, MD



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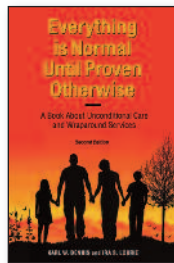
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C12 Unconditional Care vs. Wraparound

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

This presentation will compare current thinking about Unconditional Care and Wraparound services. Learning objectives include: the primacy of Unconditional Care in the provision of services for families with children and adolescents with unique emotional needs; the importance of Family Voice and Choice in the provision of these services; examples of non-Wraparound Unconditional Care programs. Presenters will offer their expertise and recommendations for moving forward.

Presenters: *Ira Lourie, San Mar Family and Community Services, Hagerstown, MD; Sue Smith, Georgia Parent Support Network, Atlanta, GA*



The second edition of *Everything is Normal Until Proven Otherwise* will be available after the workshop. Don't miss out! Pickup a copy and have it signed by author, Ira Lourie!

C13 Leaning into the Engagement of Fathers

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

In this workshop, we will examine the ways in which child protective service practice is currently limited in its approach to engaging with family members in non-custodial roles, and acknowledge that a large segment of this population are fathers. We will acknowledge the importance of applying an equitable level of diligent efforts to search for and engage with paternal and maternal sides of families. We will discuss strategies for identification of additional engagement opportunities for the paternal side of the family as well as opportunities to involve them in support and solutions. Additionally, we will examine opportunities to include parents in non-custodial roles at various points throughout the service episode.

Presenters: *Rick Dencer, Kinnect Ohio, Cleveland, OH*

C14 Applying an Equity Lens to Collaborative Practice when Implementing Plans of Safe Care

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

This session invites public and private sectors of child welfare and related systems to consider strategies for applying an equity lens when developing and implementing Plans of Safe Care. Child welfare, public health, courts, substance use and mental disorder treatment staff, and other community partners desire to provide quality care and services to families facing substance use issues. This session will delineate actionable strategies for partners who acknowledge the presence of disproportionality and disparities throughout their systems and want to mitigate the effects of those disparities.

Presenters: *Latonya Adjei-Tabi and Teri Kook, National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, Lake Forest, CA*

Workshops D

10:55 am – 12:10 pm

D1 The 4 C's of Workforce Development: Culture, Competency, Capacity, and Community

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

For 70 years, CWLA's Standards of Excellence (SOEs) have played a unique role in shaping quality child welfare practice. This workshop will highlight strategies aligned with the following two workforce-related principles addressed in two new volumes of SOEs that will be released this year: the workforce is diverse, well resourced, appropriately compensated, prepared, and responsive; the organizational culture is safe, supportive, trauma-informed, values ongoing learning, and is rooted in equity, inclusion, and belonging. The presenters will provide meaningful action steps agencies can take to incorporate the SOEs into new and existing strategies to support employee wellness, professional development, and community partnerships to promote workforce wellness and positive outcomes for families connected to child welfare agencies.

Presenters: *Julie Collins, CWLA, Washington, DC; Alycia Blackwell, Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Fairfax, VA; Terrell Thomas, Stanford Sierra Youth and Families, Sacramento, CA; Bacall Hinks, Wellsprings Child and Family Counseling, Salt Lake City, UT*

D2 Rural Substance Use Prevention: Keeping Families at Home

Location: Glacier – 2nd Floor

When substance use leads to neglect or abuse, children tend to be removed from their homes. This presentation will discuss creative ways that substance use programs can focus on treatment for families while keeping children safe at home. Rural communities, in particular, should focus on assisting families with basic living and safety concerns, trauma factors, and developing new relationships. Issues with provider shortages and limited inpatient resources have affected families in rural areas even more than in urban ones. Rural communities can pair counselors, recovery coaches, and peer mentors with families to help keep children home.

Presenter: Susan Montague, Saint Francis Ministries, Salina, KS



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D3 Overuse of Psychiatric Medication in the Child Welfare System: Judicial, Legal, and Psychiatric Perspectives

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

Multiple studies have concluded that youth in the child welfare system are prescribed psychiatric medication at a rate significantly higher than other populations of children. Many if not most of them have experienced trauma or adverse life events. Instead of providing trauma-based interventions, medications—often prescribed off-label with little proven benefit but significant risk—are used to control behavior and anger. Compounding the problem is the lack of true informed consent. In addition, when parents refuse to consent, even if their objection is reasonable, the medications are often administered over their objections. It is therefore important for judges, lawyers, advocates, caseworkers, child welfare administrators, therapists and others who interface with children in the child welfare system to understand the causes of overmedication, the “red flags” that can help them recognize situations where the child’s treatment with psychiatric medications may be problematic, and possible solutions from the judicial, legal, and psychiatric perspectives.

Presenters: Martin Irwin, NYU Grossman School on Medicine, NY; Ernestine Gray, Retired Juvenile Court Judge, LA

D4 SBCT meets START: An Adapted Relational Model for Children 0-3 in the Child Welfare System

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

This interactive presentation offers a new framework for working with children ages 0-3 who are involved in the child welfare system. Through case-based learning and reflective activities, participants will gain tools to support caregiving relationships that promote normative development of children living between biological and foster/kinship homes. In this workshop, we will: define a relationship-based model that supports evidence-based therapeutic interventions for recognizing

and responding to trauma-related behaviors in children with attachment disruption; practice techniques to reduce stigma related to parents involved in the child welfare system and increase participation by all caregivers in family team meetings and court appearances; and review educational materials to decrease stigma and increase understanding of trauma for families and family court judges.

Presenters: Carolyn Flynn, *The Center for Great Expectations, Somerset, NJ; Davetta Ford & Erica Fischer-Kaslander, New Jersey Safe Babies Court Team, Wayne, NJ*

D5 Filling in the Cracks: Building a Coordinated Community Response to Children Experiencing Domestic Violence

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

Domestic violence (DV) cases in the child welfare system can be complex and challenging. This presentation highlights the importance of coordinated community responses to address issues of children exposed to DV and the critical role child welfare practitioners play in intervention. Presenters will describe how a local Department of Family Services created a coordinated community response to children experiencing DV, the best practices it utilizes, and the importance of strong relationships between child welfare and DV agencies. Presenters will provide examples of collaborative ways to strengthen the response to families experiencing DV to ensure that the safety of adult survivors is connected to the safety of child survivors using a trauma-informed approach. Attendees are encouraged to attend the workshop with a multidisciplinary colleague from their jurisdiction.

Presenters: Brittany Vera & Kevin Ochs, *Fairfax County Division of Children, Youth, and Families, Fairfax, VA*

D6 Reconsidering Resilience: Applying Safety Science to Improve Child Welfare

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

Safety science is a multidisciplinary field of research and practice concerned with creating and sustaining

safety in high-risk industries where professionals make high-impact decisions, like child welfare. Safety science informs a “safety culture” or how an organization’s values, attitudes, and behaviors support safe, effective, reliable care. In a safety culture, organizations seek to promote learning, even after poor outcomes, using a non-punitive, systems-focused approach that emphasizes shared accountability and leads to actionable change. The principles of safety science challenge us to understand resilience as a property of the system, as opposed to the individual. We focus on how team-based practices and perspectives—such as building psychological safety, mindful organizing, and workplace connectedness—can help to build resilience at the system level.

Presenters: Michael Cull and Elizabeth Riley, *Center for Innovation in Population Health, Lexington, KY*

D7 Installing a Community Pathway to Family First Prevention Services: Initial Implementation Strategies

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

Recognizing the challenges of working within the child welfare paradigm, numerous jurisdictions have included innovative community pathways to prevention services as a key strategy within their Title IV-E Prevention Program Plans. Connecticut will share its experiences and lessons learned as it navigated the installation and initial implementation stages of its Family First prevention services. Presenters will share strategies for developing the Request for Proposals that guided the selection of the state’s Care Management Entity (CME), and the specific considerations that were applied to ensure that the successful bidder could fulfill Connecticut’s vision for the CME while adhering to Federal requirements. The workshop will include information about initial efforts to stand up the CME, including capacity building strategies and roadblocks experienced.

Presenters: Sharon Davis, *Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Hartford, CT; Olivia Wilks and Krista Thomas, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Minneapolis, MN*

D8 Primary Prevention to Reduce the Negative Impacts of Social Determinants of Health in Child Welfare

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

Imagine a Child Well-Being System wherein 90% of children remain with their biological families. Since much of our well-being is associated with social and economic factors, it is reasonable to focus our efforts on addressing the negative impacts of Social Determinants of Health, or the conditions in the environment that impact our ability to live, laugh, love, learn, and labor. The Family First Prevention Services Act provides some insight on what we can do to address Social Determinants of Health through a primary prevention lens. Examples of primary prevention will be discussed, and participants will have the opportunity to create an example of a policy and/or program that could be implemented.

Presenter: Gary Pate, Centene, Chicago, IL

D9 Resilient Communities: Shifting from Individual Responsibility to Shared Strategies

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

Resilient Communities shifts the responsibility for primary prevention away from individual responsibility and toward shared strategies, and helps communities raise awareness of and leverage their existing strengths to increase collective capacity to support families and enhance child well-being. Working together, siloed programs and organizations can better change norms, environments, and behaviors to foster trauma- and healing-informed communities. Participants will learn about how this evidence-informed, community-led process looks in South Dakota, and leave with concrete ideas for how to build upon existing leadership capabilities and social networks to engage all sectors in meaningful child abuse prevention within their own communities.

Presenters: Darla Biel, Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, Sioux Falls, SD; Nikki Eining, Avera Behavioral Health of Brookings, Brookings, SD

D10 Involving Fathers in their Children's Lives

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

This presentation will give participants information to: help improve policies and practice in child welfare by providing tools to engage fathers in their children's lives; strengthen and preserve families by restoring fathers to family life; and reduce the need for foster care and adoptive homes by including the father and his extended family as a placement resource. Participants will partake in a group activity in which they will identify their position on issues regarding father involvement. Next, the presenters will examine the roles and importance of fathers in their children's lives. Presenters will then recognize barriers to father involvement, followed by offering strategies to overcome these barriers and support fathers with their children.



Presenters: Michelle Reines, National Family Preservation Network, Asheville, NC; Todd Hickman, Health Connect America, Inc., Memphis, TN

D11 Revisioning Therapeutic Foster Care: Transformation of the Connecticut System with Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Location: Bryce – 2nd Floor

Let's face it: Evidence-based family therapy models are complex and difficult to implement, particularly on a large scale. Or are they? In this session, we will discuss the successful implementation of FFT statewide in foster care and the needed ingredients for success. FFT in Foster Care is a family-focused and trauma-informed treatment model specifically designed to be used in the foster care system. The model is a comprehensive,

systematic approach to helping families overcome individual and relational trauma to promote stable foster care placements and reunification. We will provide a brief overview of the model and share experiences from the perspective of the state and the FFT training organization, demonstrating why this project continues to excel despite numerous challenges along the way.

Presenters: *Tom Sexton & Marta Anderson, FFT Partners, New York, NY; Nicole McKelvey-Walsh, Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Hartford, CT*

D12 A Training Lifeline for Caregivers: A Collaboration between Centene and the National Foster Parent Association

Location: *Everglades – 2nd Floor*

The National Foster Parent Association (NFPA) recognizes that well-trained, respected and appropriately supported families (foster, kinship, and adoptive) achieve greater success with the children entrusted into their care. Due to the strong commitment of the NFPA Board of Directors, and with the support of Centene, the NFPA Training Institute was launched in 2020 to provide quality educational and training workshops/webinars to parents seeking help in parenting. This accessible, evidence-based training is available free of charge 24/7, 365 days a year, thanks to a unique partnership between an managed care organization and a caregiver-led organization.

Presenters: *Karen Poteet & Arnold Eby, National Foster Parent Association, Hagerstown, MD; Cheryl Fisher, Centene Corporation, Houston, TX*

D13 Serving Youth Who Are LGBTQIA+, Birth to Twenty

Location: *Concord – Ballroom Level*

Although much progress has been made with the acknowledgment, acceptance, and (when needed) mental health treatment of youth who are LGBTQIA+, there remain many misconceptions and deficits for

this population. One Hope United has taken a unique approach to meeting the needs of the students in our early learning program through the youth and young adults in our congregate care programs. This workshop will explore the critical role early childhood educators play in setting the foundation to safely explore gender through the creation of gender-neutral programs and discuss how our residential services meet the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community within a congregate care setting. Some topics that will be addressed include partnering with parents, use of literacy in programs, comorbidity with trauma (best practice treatment), addressing fear and ignorance, and much more!

Presenters: *Melissa Webster, Kenneth Shackelford, and Juliana Harms, One Hope United, Chicago, IL*

D14 Authentic Child and Youth Engagement in Program Development: How to Practice What We Preach

Location: *Congressional B – Lobby Level*

This presentation provides an overview of how the voices of people with lived expertise were embedded throughout the planning and implementation of the Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY). The QIC-EY is charged with advancing child welfare programs and practice to ensure that they are authentically engaging and empowering children and youth, especially in relation to permanency decisions. The QIC-EY is expected to change the mindsets of child welfare professionals and court personnel in 6-8 pilot sites, leading youth to be recognized as competent, knowledgeable parties who deserve input and decision-making power about their lives. Presenters will share lessons learned and facilitate discussion on ways agencies can partner with people with lived expertise in meaningful and respectful ways to produce systems change.

Presenters: *Angelique Day, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; Phoenix Santiago, New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors, East Hartford, CT; Tawanna Brown, National Youth Engagement Advisory Council, South Orange, NJ*

Lunch Plenary

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

Bias and Respect: Social Services & Legal Responsibilities to Get it Right in Child Welfare



Moderator:
Prudence Barr
American Bar Association



Panelist:
Ron Richter
JCCA



Panelist:
Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding
Sacramento State University



Panelist:
Shalonda Curtis-Hackett
NDS-Harlem/JMAC for Families

This plenary session will examine what it means to root out bias and prioritize respect in the way that parents, children, kin, and other family members experience child welfare in both social services and the legal system. The panelists will specifically highlight issues of racism that are deeply rooted in social work and the legal system that have influenced how bias and respect are experienced. Panelists will provide the audience with specific examples of bias to look for and address in a courtroom or social services setting and will highlight key models for demonstrating respect for every party in our daily practice. The plenary will also offer an opportunity to reflect on what these words mean to each of us and will help shape ideas for individual growth.

Workshops E

2:20 pm – 3:35 pm

E1 Forming and Sustaining Meaningful Partnerships Between Researchers, Funders, and Lived Experience Experts in 21st Century Child Welfare Research

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

Drawing from the extensive work to develop and disseminate The National Research Agenda for a 21st Century Child and Family Well-Being System, a team of lived experience experts and researchers (with support from two major foundations) have crafted a brief on how funders can support meaningful partnerships between researchers and those with lived experience. This brief will be debuted in its published form—along with a one-page Funders Checklist—at this workshop. Workshop participants will have a chance to hear from the authors and funders of the brief and Research Agenda leadership, as well as learn about more in-depth examples of unique opportunities and challenges related to partnerships between funders, researchers, lived experience experts, and other key stakeholders. Participants will leave with the brief and related materials.

Presenters: *Peter Pecora, Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA; Kim DuMont, William T. Grant Foundation, NY; George Gabel, GCubed Consulting, Washington, DC; Norma Hatfield, Generations United, Elizabethtown, KY*

E2 InstruMENTAL: Recognizing the Importance of the Male Role in Child Welfare

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

For years, CWLA has been asking males within child welfare why many men in the field often feel overlooked and under-utilized. With feedback from resource and kinship dads, direct staff, managers, supervisors, and community members, we have developed an

initiative designed to make intentional efforts to ensure all members of our professional team are valued and included. Five areas of focus have been identified that individuals, agencies, and community providers can utilize to maximize the assets that men in child welfare bring to the table. Ensuring that males feel included and heard can impact resource parent recruitment, staff retention, and overall organizational culture. Please join us at this lively session, where we will rely on networking and shared experiences to further this nationwide effort.

Presenter: *Marcus Stallworth, CWLA, Washington DC*

E3 **Creating a Kin-First Agency Culture Requires a Kin-First Court Culture**

Location: *Congressional B – Lobby Level*

Learn from the perspective of a kin caregiver, a judge, an attorney, and an agency leader about how to enhance the use of kin caregiving in individual cases and throughout the community. Effective efforts to prioritize kin caregiving cannot be done through casework alone. Courts and legal partners must also be engaged and committed to implementing laws around kin finding, priority placements, licensing, and supporting normal and prudent parenting in practice.

Presenters: *Heidi Redlich Epstein, ABA Center on Children and the Law, Washington, DC; Kevin Devonish and Seth Lyon, Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon City, OR; Colleen Gilmartin, Clackamas County Juvenile Court, Oregon City, OR; Catherine Terwilliger, Oregon Department of Justice, Oregon City, OR; Rebecca Schaleger, Lead Attorney for Children/Parents, Oregon City, OR; Genia Newkirk, Kinship Caregiver, Willard, NC*



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E4 Supports for Families Affected by Substance Misuse: The Project Connect Model

Location: Bryce – 2nd Floor

Informed by an empirical evaluation, this workshop will describe an intensive, home-based program model that works with families who are high-risk, affected by parental substance misuse, and involved in the child welfare system. The presenters will describe the program model and the practice approaches that have been found to be most effective when engaging with families on substance misuse and addiction, mental and physical health needs, parenting in recovery, child and family safety, reunification and permanency, and strengthening positive family dynamics. The presenters will also reflect on lessons learned related to optimizing positive child and family outcomes.

Presenters: Valentina Laprade, Rachel Cooper, and Jessica Beaupre, Children's Friend, Providence, RI

E5 Keeping Families Together: Uniting Child Welfare, Supportive Housing, and Families to Advance Change

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

The Keeping Families Together approach supports transformation and partnership across child welfare and housing systems, providing a framework to align affordable housing with wraparound services that significantly improve family unification, housing stability, strengths, and quality of life. We will describe what these approaches look like in action, challenges and successes in planning and implementation, and how to intentionally work with parents to address challenges related to accessing housing resources. We will explore how the Keeping Families Together Training Academy, co-created with consultants with lived expertise, has successfully guided planning and implementation in local sites.

Presenters: Leah Lindstrom Rhea, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Minneapolis, MN; Kim Prinsen, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN; Amiyoko Shabazz, Consultant, Los Angeles, CA; LaRae Cantley, Social Justice Activist, Los Angeles, CA; Dawn Kinder, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, Spokane, WA

E6 Supporting the Migrant Child: Pursuing Immigration Relief and Strengthening Families

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

Families who are immigrants have already experienced one displacement from their country of origin, making relational connectedness to kin and family in the United States even more important for children in care. This presentation will explore both legal and social work strategies to secure permanency for children who are immigrants—including children who are unaccompanied and youth at risk of aging out. Panelists will review and discuss forms of immigration relief, including SIJS, U and T nonimmigrant status, VAWA, and asylum; the implications of specific forms for both children and their families; and related effects on permanency and reunification. We will recommend trauma-informed and culturally humble strategies for practitioners to engage with children and families early on in the case management process and make appropriate referrals for legal services. Facilitated discussion with legal and social work practitioners will focus on issue spotting, family-finding tools, and countering practices that create and perpetuate disparity in outcomes in the child welfare system.

Presenters: Rachel Konrad & David Marquez & Amy Thompson, Casey Family Programs, Austin, TX

E7 Trauma-Informed Support for Employee Recruitment and Retention

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

Improving employee recruitment and retention is challenging in the current environment. Social service professionals are often affected by vicarious trauma, with differential impacts related to their personal histories, roles at work, and other factors. This workshop will provide concrete tools for developing vicarious resilience and recognizing compassion satisfaction. Handouts will include information about the impact of trauma on social service work, tools for developing personal wellness plans, low-cost ideas to implement in agencies, and methods for working with leadership to implement positive changes. These supportive

workforce practices can be created and maintained to attract committed social service staff and retain the excellent employees on your teams.

Presenter: Kelli McKnight, Options Counseling and Family Services, Eugene, OR

E8 Designing an Effective and Sustainable Family and Youth Partnership Model

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families' Chief of Equity and Partnership and Strategic Initiative Officer will discuss how the organization developed and expanded its Family Youth Partnership Team from a team of three to a nationally recognized program model with over 30 professionals partnering with youth and families in county child welfare systems. In this session, attendees will learn: key program components of effective family and youth partnership models; best practices for engaging youth and families from individuals with lived expertise; and successful strategies to address disproportionality, promote equity, cultural humility, and strong racial, cultural, and ethnic identity with family and youth partnership.

Presenters: Ebony Chambers McClinton & Terrell Thomas, Stanford Sierra Youth and Families, Sacramento, CA



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E9 The Practice of Mattering: Honoring the Dignity and Worth of Persons and Families in Marginalized Status

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

Marginalization can leave a person feeling lost and disconnected from who they are, struggling with mattering or feeling a sense of dignity and worth. According to relational personhood, one's personhood is constructed and maintained in a social environment, rooted in relationships with others. Support from and a caring relationship with frontline workers can provide transformative experiences that can help persons and families reconceptualize who they are and reconnect to a sense of mattering, dignity, and worth. In this workshop, participants will learn about personhood and the person-centered approach, identifying strategies they can utilize to create experiences of mattering for persons and families in marginalized status.

Presenter: Tawanda Hubbard, Rutgers University School of Social Work, New Brunswick, NJ

E10 Private Collaboration to Implement Evidence-Based Programming

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

This session will demonstrate how the Arkansas Division of Children & Family Services (DCFS), the Public Consulting Group (PCG), and the Family Centered Treatment Foundation (FCTF) communicate and share information to improve programming, assist local providers to improve service delivery, help case-workers adhere to prevention policy requirements (FFPSA), and measure the extent to which families achieve positive results. Arkansas DCFS is implementing Family Centered Treatment (FCT) across the state as one of its in-home parent-skill-building FFPSA programs. DCFS' contracted evaluator, PCG, works closely with DCFS, FCT providers, and the FCT Foundation to ensure the program is implemented to fidelity, from both the agency and Foundation's

perspectives. The parties' active collaboration demonstrates how the trauma-focused program supports family resiliency and improves family well-being.

Presenters: Tim Wood & Laura Boyd, Family Centered Treatment Foundation, Norman, OK; Patti Hibbs, Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services, Little Rock, AR; Karen Hallenbeck, Public Consulting Group, Troy, NY

E11 Building and Integrating Benefits Coordination into a Kinship Navigator Program

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

This workshop will examine the innovative design and comprehensive integration of benefits coordination throughout the OhioKAN Kinship and Adoption Navigator program. The presenters will discuss the outcomes data and impact on benefits support with families engaged in kinship care, and will provide guidance to kinship navigator programs specifically, and family-serving programs broadly, about how and why to integrate benefits coordination support.

Presenters: Samantha Steinmetz, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Amber Robinson, OhioKAN Kinship & Adoption Navigator Program, Cleveland, OH

E12 Experts in the Field: How Alumni of Foster Care are Changing the Face of Case Management

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

The Community Connections Youth Project (CCYP) and its staff work with youth who are currently or formerly in foster care, ages 17-26. All the staff in our program are alumni of foster care or have lived experience that a youth in care would have experienced. In this presentation, we will discuss how staff are able to provide case-management services while having lived experience themselves and why having lived experience matters. We will cover topics such as coping with vicarious trauma,

engaging and building rapport with our clients, how to avoid “trauma dumping,” what lived experience means, and how that transfers to the work we do.

Presenters: *Jessica Funk and Anthony LaBellarte, FosterAdopt Connect, Springfield, MO*

E13 A Partnership to Expand Evidence-Based, Trauma-Informed Systems in Rural Central Maine

Location: *Sequoia – 2nd Floor*

The Central Maine Youth Trauma Initiative (CMYTI) is leading the charge to create a sustainable continuum of behavioral healthcare for children from birth to 18. Learn how the MaineGeneral Medical Center’s Edmund N. Ervin Pediatric Center (EEPC) formed CMYTI and partnered with Kennebec Behavioral Health and half a dozen agency partners to provide clinician training for four evidence-based, trauma-focused therapies, and how they are working to build capacity for trauma- and resilience-informed skills and organizational structures in cross-sector, child-serving systems.

Presenters: *Kim Magoon, Public Consulting Group LLC, South Portland, ME; Liam Shaw, Edmund N. Ervin Pediatric Center, Augusta, ME; Pat McKenzie, Kennebec Behavioral Health, Augusta, ME*

E14 Collaborating to Support Early Childhood Education Participation for Children in Foster Care

Location: *Glacier – 2nd Floor*

Early childhood education (ECE) participation has significant benefits for children and families. ECE participation of children in foster care remains low, despite federal efforts to prioritize enrollment. In this workshop we will present key learnings from University of Minnesota research, centering the voices and experiences of families (foster and biological), child welfare workers, ECE providers, and state agency

staff. By attending this workshop, attendees will learn about potential barriers and facilitators to ECE participation for children in foster care and the benefits and challenges of cross-systems collaboration, using Minnesota as a case study. Attendees will be encouraged to apply workshop learnings to their own work and policy environments.

Presenters: *Kristine Piescher, Traci LaLiberte, and Amy Dorman, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN*

Regional Roundtable Discussions

3:55 pm – 5:10 pm

Location: *Regency ABC – Ballroom Level*

Join your peers from your geographic region to discuss issues that are critical to your area and help plan the continuation of these dialogues beyond the conference. CWLA’s Member Equity Committee is committed to helping create regional in-person gatherings to encourage closer collaboration between organizations. Peer learning and sharing is crucial to moving the field forward. The focus of this session will be establishing common issues of interest for your region and discussing next steps for establishing regular regional meetings!



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Workshops F

3:55 pm – 5:10 pm

F1 Advocacy in Child Welfare: From 60,000 Feet to Desk Level—How You Can Influence Child Outcomes

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

The session will explain the “Why, the Who, and the How” of advocacy. Advocacy takes many shapes—from federal, legislative initiatives on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, to state legislative bodies, state agencies, and the desks of child welfare professionals. Key staff and partners from CWLA and AAICAMA will guide attendees through current federal initiatives to affect improvements in child welfare outcomes, who can participate (everyone!), and how they can participate. The session is especially applicable to supervisors and local staff who emphasizes how state child welfare staff can educate federal and state lawmakers, advocate internally for state policies and services, and, most importantly, train resource parents to become self-advocating on behalf of their children.

Presenters: *Tim Briceland-Betts, CWLA, Washington, DC; Todd Landry, Maine Office of Child and Family Services; Augusta, ME; Judith Schagrin, NASW-MD Legislative Committee, MD; Sharon McCartney, AAICAMA, Washington, DC; Kati Mapa, CWLA, Washington, DC*

F2 PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information Development and Education) Model of Practice

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

This action lab, based on a CWLA Signature Curriculum, will share how the PRIDE Model of Practice provides agencies with the opportunity to ensure that staff and resource families commit to

your agency’s vision, mission, and values; have complementary competency-based roles; use strengths-based language; implement culturally responsive best practices; and work to achieve outcomes that support safety, well-being, and permanency for the children in your care.

Presenter: *Marcus Stallworth, CWLA, Washington, DC*

F3 Connectedness in Child Welfare: Building a Strategic Infrastructure to Better Serve our Families

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

To understand a system is to look toward those who make the structure operate. Through this presentation, we will explain the development of the Indiana

Safe Systems program during the outbreak of COVID-19,

and detail the evolution-

ary process of Safety Science with the investment of a psychologically safe environment after a critical incident occurs.

We will also introduce how we pioneered a project to find solutions toward

building connectedness and embedding safe envi-

ronments for the purpose of improving child welfare outcomes

within local offices. We will end the presentation by reiterating the importance of implementing a team of individuals willing to provide support to staff through an evidence-based curriculum during an unfortunate event.

Presenters: *Rachel Parrett, Keith Luebcke, and Ashley Kaelin, Indiana Department of Child Services, Indianapolis, IN*



F4 Going Beyond the Rhetoric of Family Engagement

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

There is a great deal of conversation about bringing families into the child welfare arena. However, many agency leaders and managers struggle with how to actually accomplish this. The presenters for this workshop have deep and broad experiences working in, and alongside, community residents and families as part of a broader strategy for family support. This workshop was designed in response to the many agency leaders who struggle with what it means to actually engage with families. The workshop will focus on specific, common-sense approaches to community organizing and family engagement as a component of education, support, and prevention.

Presenters: Paul DiLorenzo, CWLA, Bala Cynwyd, PA; Pebbles Edelman, Partnership for Strong Families, Gainesville, FL; Jada Hunter, Family Support Services, Jacksonville, FL

F5 Using an Equity Lens to Improve Child Welfare Decision-Making Tools

Location: Congressional B – Lobby Level

Child welfare decisions result in families being kept together or children being removed from their homes. As a result, workers and supervisors rely on decision-making tools to guide safety and case planning. These tools are part of systemic structures that can advance equity or perpetuate disparities for families that have been historically underserved by child welfare agencies. So how can child welfare agencies and staff know whether their tools advance equity? During this workshop, we will outline critical analysis strategies for attendees to utilize on their own tools, including equity-focused review criteria and recommendations for improvement. The criteria and recommendations center a diverse collection of families' worldviews, include principles of social justice and multicultural validity, and assess whether there are opportunities to increase families' decision-making power.

Presenters: Jaymie Lorthridge, Kaye Implementation & Evaluation, Atlanta, GA; Todd Holder, Action 4 Child Protection, Jarales, NM

F6 Addressing Critical Challenges Providers Face in Implementing Sustainable Evidence Based Intervention (EBI) Programs in Family First

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

The Illinois DCFS developed a Family First plan to prevent foster care placement by increasing the availability of evidence-based mental health and therapeutic parenting interventions. After one year, over one-third of service providers decided not to renew contracts. Evaluators and DCFS implementation support managers will describe how reductions in capacity varied by location, highlight reasons providers discontinued contracts, and identify strategies to support providers—including changes in financing, referral, and client engagement processes. We illustrate how an Implementation Support Team is a meta strategy for building public-private partnerships with providers and enhancing EBI implementation.

Presenters: Stephen Budde & Christy Cashman, Juvenile Protective Association, Chicago, IL; David Ansong & Sarah Hammond, University of North Carolina School of Social Work, Chapel Hill, NC; Stacy Craft, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, IL; Jennifer Marett, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

F7 Engagement and Safety Decision-Making in Substance Use Disorder Cases

Location: Glacier – 2nd Floor

Substance use disorders are prevalent in families involved in the child welfare system. This session explores the importance of understanding how stigma and language affect engagement and safety decision making for families. Successful family engagement supports a comprehensive assessment of parental protective capacities vital for safety planning. The presenters will highlight the importance of culturally competent collaborative decision-making with community partners to ensure the safety and well-being of children and families.

Presenters: Kim Bishop & Elizabeth Bullock, National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, Lake Forest, CA

F8 Research in Muddy Waters: Using Research to Advance System Change When Findings Are Nuanced

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

In 2018, five organizations were awarded federal grants to Strengthen Child Welfare Systems through collaborative efforts to improve permanency outcomes for children involved in the child welfare system. In this workshop, the presenters will describe the research activities that were used to understand the short- and long-term impact of these grants, highlighting the wide range of data collection methods used to measure dosage, fidelity, client, and workforce perspectives, and short-term, long-term, and CFSR outcomes. Attendees will then engage in a discussion about: how rigorous evaluation can help understand implementation fidelity and long-term impact; how leadership can use research to understand statewide system change initiatives when research findings are complicated; how program and research teams can partner on CQI to understand implementation; and how nuanced lessons learned can inform future initiatives.

Presenters: Nicole Miller, James Bell Associates, Portland, OR; Alicia Summers, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, NV; Monica Faulkner, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX; Heather Allan, Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect, Aurora, CO

F9 It Takes a Village: Using a Wrap-around Paradigm for Healing, Reunification, and Permanency

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

We know there are high emotional, physical, fiscal, and social consequences with out-of-home placements. The impact of the trauma lasts years and even through generations. Using wraparound services both as preventative and reunification interventions can reduce child welfare involvement and out-of-home placements while strengthening family skills, empowerment, and independence. Wraparound services are holistic, culturally

relevant, and logistically convenient for families and include the whole family. Wraparound services help families build teams of resources and collaborators, and develop efficacy and success in managing their own lives. All families can use wraparound and be more successful in ensuring permanency for children and youth.

Presenter: Anne Cornell, CHRIS 180, Atlanta, GA

F10 Lift Every Voice: Effective Approaches to Support System-Impacted Youth Leaders on Advisory Boards

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

This workshop will share the journey of a county child welfare agency toward incorporating youth voices into its programs and policies, and the challenges, successes, and lessons learned along the way. The presenters will share why incorporating youth voice is important and the impact on youth as well as on child welfare practices and policies. They will present how the Foster Youth Advisory Board fits a child welfare agency's goals and mission, including what the board has been able to accomplish. The presenters will share research-based, practical strategies for engaging youth from the areas of authentic co-design, positive youth development, and trauma-informed care. Attendees will learn concrete strategies and examples of how staff can support youth to voice their thoughts and convert them into action.

Presenters: Connie Chung, Foster America, Los Angeles, CA; Sandy Barba, San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Belmont, CA; Anjru Jaeson, California Youth Connection, Burlingame, CA; John Fong, San Mateo County Human Services Agency, Belmont, CA

F11 Trauma, Race, and Resilience: Promoting Child Well-being Policies, Programs, and Practices

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

The Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma is on a mission to increase the ability of Massachusetts organizations

to be trauma-responsive and anti-racist. This workshop will include an overview of the framework and tools needed to build out similar work in your own state and community, and organizational domains for focus to become more racially equitable in child-serving work. Participants will also receive strategies and resources to increase the trauma responsiveness of community organizations in their areas.

Presenters: *Audrey Smolkin & Melinda Kneeland, Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma, Worcester, MA; Melissa Threadgill, Office of the Child Advocate, Boston, MA*



F12 Early Adolescent Attachment: The Second-Most Critical Attachment Period and an Opportunity for Permanency

Location: *Bryce – 2nd Floor*

Child welfare initiatives typically focus on two polar initiatives: infant/toddler mental health (the most critical attachment period) and adolescents getting ready to emancipate as adults. However, early adolescence (ages 10-14 years) is the second-most critical attachment period with specific and unique needs relative to lasting permanency post-placement. In this workshop, we will discuss the results of a recent study on early adolescent attachment, which resulted in new information for the field, why this should be a new area of focus, and what factors child welfare professionals should consider when making permanency decisions for this population.

Presenter: *Adrienne Miller, Heartland for Children, Bartow, FL*

F13 Achieving Permanency for Youth Who Are LGBTQ+ and in Foster Care: Strategies for Child Welfare Professionals

Location: *Sequoia – 2nd Floor*

This interactive workshop will provide participants with opportunities to engage in thoughtful discussions

around diverse sexual orientations and gender identity expressions (SOGIE); participate in exercises to improve skills; develop strategies to support youth who are LGBTQ+ and in foster care; understand how current practices and policies can limit youth’s permanency outcomes; and hear from youth with lived experience. The workshop will provide participants with the language and understanding of diverse SOGIE; examples of policy and protocols for safe identification; how to ask questions to safely identify youth who are LGBTQ+; and family-finding and chosen family strategies and tools to create and ensure permanency through youth centered meetings that can be implemented in child welfare practice.

Presenters: *Shannon Deinhart, Sheila Corrigan, and Heather Jamison, Kinnect, Cleveland, OH*

F14 Fundamentals in Addressing the Needs of Children and Youth with Challenging Emotions and Behavior within their Communities

Location: *Lexington – Ballroom Level*

We need to consider challenges that youth face at the highest level within a Family and Youth focused vision. Wisdom indicates that communities must develop services for all youth in order to have responses tailored to manifest needs, thus affording the opportunity to divert youth from going out of home for care and to provide transitional/aftercare interventions when they have “completed” their episodes of out of home care. Obviously, the goal is permanency and for youth to remain in their own home, meaning that we need to provide parallel care in the community. But the work requires, as stated above, a clear vision and qualified leadership within a distinct infrastructure using relevant data and analytics. This discussion will address some of these fundamentals and how child welfare might collaborate with other pertinent disciplines.

Presenter: *Alan Vietze, CWLA Senior Fellow, Vallejo, CA*

Reception in Exhibit Hall

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: Columbia ABC – Ballroom Level

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Networking Session:

Supporting Partnerships Between Researchers and Community Leaders

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

Establishing trust and forming partnerships between researchers and community partners is perhaps the most important task when conducting community-centered research that can shape policy and practice. This unique session—the first of its kind at CWLA—

will provide space and scaffolding (and refreshments!) for researchers and community members to meet, discuss potential collaborations, and participate in guided discussions to identify and troubleshoot common barriers to successful partnerships. Discussions will be guided by leaders from the 21st Century Research Agenda for Child and Family Well-Being initiative, funded by Casey Family Programs, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the William T. Grant Foundation. Participants will leave with a set of resources related to the Research Agenda, as well as with new potential partners for future community-research collaborations.



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Registration and CWLA Bookstore

8:00 am – 2:30 pm

Location: Ballroom Level

Coffee & Networking in Exhibit Hall

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Location: Columbia ABC – Ballroom Level

Coffee & Connection

8:00 am – 9:00 am

*Location: Columbia Foyer
Ballroom Level*

Join CWLA's Emerging Leaders Committee and fellow emerging child welfare leaders for an opportunity to connect & network over coffee.



Roundtable Discussions G

9:15 am – 10:30 am

Location: Regency ABC – Ballroom Level

Innovative Ideas for Including Fathers in Service Delivery Models

Facilitator: Rufus Lynch, CWLA Senior Fellow

How Community Leaders Can Work Collaboratively to Envision and Plant Seeds for the Future!

*Facilitators: Yaridis Garcia & Kelly Roy,
Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County*

Child Neglect and Child Poverty: Rethinking Policy and Practice

*Facilitators: Lenette Azzi-Lessing, CWLA Senior Fellow;
Christine James-Brown, CWLA President & CEO*

Workshops G

9:15 am – 10:30 am

G1 Reimagining the Role of Child Support for Families with Child Welfare Involvement

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

In 2022, the Administration for Children and Families updated the federal child welfare policy manual to allow states flexibility to more narrowly define under what circumstances they pursue child support collection for child welfare involved families. Join CWLA and the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) to learn more about this important opportunity for child support engagement services and child welfare agencies to collaboratively create a system that better serves whole families and promotes family well-being and stability.

*Presenters: Meg Dygert, APHSA, Washington, DC;
Kati Mapa, CWLA, Washington, DC*

G2 School-Based Mental Health: The Why, The How, and The Best Practices

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

This presentation will present data surrounding the importance of making school-based mental health services more readily available to academic communities. We will explore how organizations can secure funding from a variety of entities, create a diversified partnership landscape, utilize best practices for service delivery, and implement trauma-informed training into the school-based mental health model. We will seek to gain a deeper understanding of what school-based mental health can and should look like, specifically addressing post-pandemic effects on children. Attendees can expect to learn about best practices around service delivery in nontraditional settings as well as how implementing training and support opportunities for school staff can help create more trauma-informed school environments.

Presenter: Brittney Walters, CHRIS 180, Atlanta, GA

G3 Whatever It Takes: Prevention Power

Location: Lexington – Ballroom Level

Child welfare and juvenile justice systems across our nation are being challenged to alter how families are responded to, both before they are referred as a result of suspected abuse or neglect, and throughout their experience with the system. The earlier that innovative interventions and services can be offered to families, the more capacity they will have to respond in ways that are conducive to healing and growth. In this workshop, we will examine: how poverty impacts the basic needs of those served and how addressing this in a meaningful and sustainable way alters futures; the opportunities afforded by Family First to impact prevention, early intervention, and sustainability; and perspectives gained from unlikely partnerships and flexible/creative models of systems of care.

Presenter: Angela Lytle, JusticeWorks Colorado, Denver, CO

G4 SOUL Family: A Youth-Led Proposal to Expand Permanency Options for Teens in Foster Care

Location: Congressional B – Lobby Level

The proposed SOUL Family permanency option would create a circle of adults who provide support, opportunity, unity, and legal relationships for youth aged 16 and older as they move from foster care to adulthood. These youth need the anchor of nurturing, lifelong relationships. The co-presenters are young advocates with foster care experience, who helped develop the proposal with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The SOUL Family proposal offers a flexible alternative that expands pathways to legal permanency on the same continuum as adoption, guardianship, and reunification with families of birth.

Presenters: Patricia Chin, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD; Sonia Emerson, Child Focus, Putnam, CT

G5 Best Practices in Engaging Fathers Involved in Child Welfare

Location: Yosemite – 2nd Floor

This interactive workshop will highlight new resources and best practices for successfully engaging, recruiting, and serving fathers. We believe that intentionally supporting fathers to address their personal and family needs in a holistic, nurturing format enables fathers to succeed as parents. These new practices and strategies come from the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, which is a federally funded resource under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that focuses on serving fathers, families, and practitioners. Participants attending this session will develop a greater understanding of how to effectively engage fathers in their work, why fatherhood/male involvement is so important to children, and how the National Responsible Clearinghouse can help with local/regional fatherhood programs.

Presenters: James Worthy & Eugene Schneeber, National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, Reston, VA

G6 Rewiring for Collaboration: Leveraging Neuroscience and Change Management to Build Trust, Teams, & Better Partnerships

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

The demand for collaboration forces us to simultaneously shift the way we think and work internally while aligning across partner organizations to ensure that we define and meet our common goals. The bad news: our brains are hardwired to avoid change and the vulnerability that comes with building trust. The good news: by understanding how our brains work in the context of change, we can start deliberately and consistently creating new pathways to move us in the right direction. After this workshop, attendees will be able to: explain the six brains and how they impede change; discuss six steps to rewiring change into our organizations; understand the art of strategic communication to accelerate acceptance; and apply a change management toolkit in their organizations to ensure a solid foundation and continuous alignment.

Presenter: Stephanie Savely, LYFT Learning/Life Skills Reimagined, Sparta, TN

G7 The Link Between Cultural Resilience and the Prevention of Child Maltreatment in Tribal Communities

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

In an effort to demonstrate the connection between cultural resilience and the prevention of child maltreatment in Tribal communities, the Center for Native Child and Family Resilience will present information on the collaborative efforts of five community projects focused on the prevention and intervention of child maltreatment. This workshop will emphasize the connection between cultural resilience factors and cultural strengths over an array of community-based strategies. Participants will learn how the Center accessed the time and expertise of cultural experts to guide program development, refinement, and evaluation using Indigenous Ways of Knowing as the framework for collaboration and relationship building.

Presenters: Joseph Walker & Sonja Ulrich, Center for Native Child and Family Resilience, Olympia, WA

G8 Innovative Ways to Restructure the Child Welfare System

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

The Texas Permanency Outcomes Project (TXPOP) develops sustainable best practices for child welfare agencies across Texas to keep children connected to their families of birth, regardless of their permanency outcome. TXPOP refocuses practice, strengthens the workforce, and transforms how systems treat families within foster care. Helping families build support networks is essential to creating stability and safety for families. To achieve this, caregivers (foster and kinship) must become a part of that support network for the family. Children thrive when surrounded by a community of caring people who work together to always place them at the center. TXPOP has a variety of tools and strategies to help with the collaboration between caregivers and families. Services alone do not equal safety for families. Instead, that safety happens through building support networks around families

and focusing plans around behavioral changes instead of service completion.

Presenters: Brenda Keller, Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services, Austin, TX; Samantha Zuniga Thompson, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

G9 Children Uniting Communities: Using Technology to Protect Our Most Vulnerable

Location: Bryce – 2nd Floor

In this session you will learn how you can use the CarePortal platform to meet the real-time needs of children and families in distress in your community. Presenters will show you how CarePortal works as we input a need for a family in distress. As a group, we will peruse needs from CPS, schools, police departments, and non-profit organizations that are currently in the system. Together, we will determine which need to meet, we will meet the need, and then watch the funds be transferred directly to a local church leader near the need.

Presenters: Rebekah Weigle & Ember Ngur & Joe Knittig, CarePortal, Kansas City, MO

G10 Understanding the Hurdles in Implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act: A Case Study

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

This workshop will present a comparative case study of how evidence-based practice requirements have affected the Family First Prevention Services Act implementation in Nebraska and Colorado. This qualitative research centered around the experiences of state and private agency leaders as they planned and began the implementation of the new law. Utilizing the Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, and Sustainment (E.P.I.S.) Framework, this session will provide context and key takeaways to assist leaders in their FFPSA planning process.

Presenter: Charity Carmody, Northeastern University, Anchorage, AK

G11 Creating Systems that Empower Women and Families

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

This presentation will detail the effective collaboration between Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Children and Families, and private non-profits in creating a continuum of care to support women who are pregnant or parenting and struggling with substance use disorders. Movements through the continuum include residential substance abuse treatment (with children residing at program), step down residential programs, and community-based scatter-sited housing services. This presentation will focus on how these collaborative services can reduce child removal and increase parent/child bonding, all while mothers receive the treatment they need to parent safely.

Presenters: *Kathleen Savino & Alison Friar, The Connection, Middletown, CT; Rebecca Peterson, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Middletown, CT*

G12 Attuned to the Rhythm! The Roots of Rhythm, Regulation, and Connection

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

We are all connected, and rhythm is a thread that holds us and the world together. This workshop will explore the power of rhythm as a tool for healing and regulation, especially regarding the trauma response. Rhythm is deep within our human capacity and is an incredible biological gift. We can tap into that gift, first by being reminded that it is there—everywhere—and then by engaging in simple activities that are rhythmic and patterned as a form of regulation and connection. This workshop will offer simple and easily accessible activities that not only help ourselves and those we serve get regulated or “back in balance,” but also help facilitate healing and connection.

Presenter: *Donna Marie Lucero, All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center, Albuquerque, NM*

G13 Kinnections Project: on the Road to Becoming an Evidence-Based Practice

Location: Glacier – 2nd Floor

Kinship care can provide a safe, stable, and loving alternative for children who are unable to remain safely at home. Wayfinder Family Services, in partnership with Child Trends, will present on the evaluation of the Wayfinder Kinnections Kinship Navigation Program (funded by the Administration for Children and Families) with the goal of attaining a rating as a promising practice by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. During the presentation, attendees will learn about the Kinnections Program's goals and practice model, the evaluation design, research questions, and challenges facilitators encountered in implementation and evaluation thus far.

Presenters: *Jasmine Nutt, Wayfinder Family Services, Sacramento, CA; Berenice Rushovich, Child Trends, Bethesda, MD*

G14 Child and Family Well-Being System Development: The Centrality of Community Leadership

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

This session will highlight a system, community, and family partnership effort to transform the primary prevention system in Northern Kentucky into a comprehensive child and family well-being system. Participants will learn how the project is being co-designed with parents and systems representatives in partnership with Brighton Center, the Family Nurturing Center, the Kentucky Department of Community-Based Services, and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. The project aims to co-create a robust primary prevention system focused on child and family well-being in partnership with families, communities, and system representatives. Participants will learn about the strategies and frameworks being used in this partnership.

Presenters: *Janese Evans, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Melissa Sommer & Angela Anderson, Brighton Center, Newport, KY*

Workshops H

10:50 am – 12:05 pm

H1 Learning to Thrive Together: Tools for Co-Learning and Co- Assessing Life Skills with Youth

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

This presentation will focus on providing a landscape analysis of all Independent Life Skill assessments that are currently being used nationally. We will provide insights on how these assessments are incorporating a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens and centering youth. We will then provide an in-depth explanation of the new Casey Life Skills assessment and how it was developed in partnership with youth and other stakeholders in the child welfare system. Examples will be shared of how this assessment can be implemented using a co-design framework to ensure that youth are fully engaged in the process. Lastly, we will provide strategies on youth participation and other 21st-century learning strategies.

Presenters: Aakanksha Sinha, Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA; Connie Chung, Foster America, Los Angeles, CA; Teresa Vollert, Edgewood Center for Children and Families, Millbrae, CA

H2 How to Build Effective Partnerships for Advancing Systems Change Agendas

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

In Washington State, the child welfare system, the education system, and community-based organizations are at the table together in a shared effort to advance educational parity for children and youth experiencing foster care and/or homelessness. Together, we are partnering to align policy, improve practice, and secure needed funding to achieve our shared goals. In this workshop, attendees will learn how to build trust, leverage the strengths of each sector, and partner to maximize progress on a shared systems change agenda.

Presenters: Dawn Rains, Treehouse, Seattle, WA; Ross Hunter, Washington State Department of Children, Youth, & Families, Olympia, WA

H3 Building the Table Together: Engaging Parents as Collaborative Partners

Location: Regency Foyer – Ballroom Level

This presentation will focus on parent leadership as a strength-based approach grounded in the belief that parents are the most knowledgeable about their families and communities. The parent/practitioner co-facilitators will discuss the vital role of parents as partners and provide practical guidance and resources on assessing program readiness to engage in parent/practitioner collaboration while also exploring the roles and benefits of parent leaders in programs and community activities. Participants will be introduced to information, strategies, and tools important to developing successful models of parent leadership and parent/practitioner collaboration at state, local, and program levels.

Presenters: Carolyn Abdullah & MaryJo Alimena Caruso & Elizabeth Reddick, FRIENDS National Center for CBCAP, Washington, DC



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H4 The Necessity of Collaboration: How Systemic Partnerships Overcome Barriers for FFPSA Service Implementation

Location: Bryce – Ballroom Level

The primary focus of Family Centered Treatment (FCT) for over 30 years has been to find simple, practical, and holistic solutions for families faced with disruption due to external and/or internal stressors, circumstances, or forced removal of children from the home due to delinquent behaviors from youth or harmful behaviors from parents. The focus is to either strengthen and preserve children within their home or to bridge through successful reunification back into the home. FFPSA's initiatives to increase the number of children who can remain safely at home with their families are a perfect synergy with FCT. Presenters will share information about FCT's expansion across the nation with an increasing focus on reunification and preservation and an additional pilot of FCT-Recovery, which focuses on incorporating substance treatment best practices.

Presenters: Stephanie Glickman, Tim Wood, and Lindsey Morgan, Family Centered Treatment Foundation, Charlotte, NC

H5 Equitable Solutions to Keep Children Safe in Their Homes and Support Families

Location: Congressional B – Lobby Level

This workshop will share equitable solutions to better support families identified through Child Safety Forward, a four-year, federal demonstration initiative to develop multidisciplinary strategies and responses to address serious or near-death injuries as a result of child abuse or neglect and to reduce the number of child fatalities. The initiative is funded by the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, and Social Current serves as the national technical assistance provider to sites in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. This public health approach re-balances power, credits multiple types of data, and centers learning. Our objectives in this presentation are to share new approaches to addressing serious injuries

and fatalities from maltreatment and to introduce new strategies for reframing childhood adversity as a public, preventable, and solvable issue.

Presenters: Amy Templeman & Romero Davis, Social Current, Washington, DC; Patrick Nickoletti, University of Saint Joseph, Hartford, CT

H6 Put Me In, Coach! Strengthening the Frontline Through the Caseworker Field Coach Program

Location: Everglades – 2nd Floor

This presentation provides information about the field coach program, its inception, and its benefits. Based on the philosophy that skilled, experienced, and knowledgeable child welfare caseworkers foster an environment that is ripe for retention, the field coach program helps to enrich caseworkers' critical thinking, reflective practice, and other soft skills via the creation of Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound (SMART) goals. This presentation will explore how the field coach program benefits caseworkers individually, and agencies as a whole, via individual sessions in the field with the field coach, self-assessment exercises, coaching questions, group work, and more. Presenters will provide information about solution-focused and reflective practices that are encouraged in the program and how these practices can support caseworkers' professional development in addition to traditional supervision methods.

Presenters: Amanda Wagner and Sean Lazarus, JusticeWorks YouthCare, Gettysburg, PA

H7 Centering Social Justice and Equity in Fatherhood Research: Addressing Systems, Context, and Development

Location: Yellowstone – 2nd Floor

Positive father involvement is associated with developmental benefits for children, beginning in the prenatal period and continuing throughout the children's lives. Nevertheless, the developmental trajectory of fatherhood,

transitioning to fatherhood, and the contributions of fathers to child and family outcomes still remain understudied in child development. Moreover, fatherhood research has centered White, married, heterosexual fathers to the detriment of the diversity of fatherhood experiences and the contexts of fathers who are marginalized, their families, and communities. This workshop centers attention on fathers who are too often overlooked in research and stereotyped by child and family professionals—including fathers who are Black, young, don't reside with the family, have been incarcerated, or have low incomes—and elevates an appreciation of less visible fatherhood roles.

Presenters: *Alvin Thomas, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; Qiana Cryer-Coupet, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA; Justin Harty, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ*

H8 North Carolina Family Leadership Model: Building Meaningful, Authentic Collaboration with Families

Location: *Yosemite – 2nd Floor*

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) has developed a trauma-informed, innovative approach to engage persons with lived experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of state child welfare programs, policies, and plans. Based on the principle “nothing about us—without us,” the North Carolina Family Leadership Model is a framework to help organizations improve services and strengthen families. This model involves family and youth partners in service delivery, fosters a safe and supportive learning environment, and holds the state accountable for ongoing, meaningful, and authentic stakeholder engagement. The objectives of the session are to learn how to replicate NC's Model in one's own community, increase knowledge of family engagement strategies at the individual, peer, and system levels, and review tools to support implementation.

Presenters: *Kathy Stone, NC Division of Social Services, Raleigh, NC; Kelly Kirk, NC Child Welfare Family Advisory Council, Hamlet, NC; Deborah Day, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC*

H9 CRISIS: Connection to Recovery through Intervention, Support, & Initiating Services through 9-1-1

Location: *Glacier – 2nd Floor*

This presentation will discuss partnerships between police departments and community based behavioral health centers to promote safety for individuals in crisis, their families, police officers, and communities as a whole. Presenters will present a cross-system collaboration that attempts to divert individuals from incarceration or ongoing law enforcement involvement through immediate utilization of essential services. Participating Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers are certified in specialized first response crisis intervention to increase their knowledge and enhance their communication and de-escalation skills. Licensed qualified clinicians carry out law enforcement and clinical liaison duties while playing an active role in bridging community partnerships. This collaboration allows us to foster effective responses to individuals in crisis while mitigating gaps in equitable service delivery, one 9-1-1 call at a time.

Presenters: *Ashley Foster, United Services Inc., Dayville, CT; Jose Diaz, Plainfield Police Department, Plainfield, CT*

H10 Promising Practices to Strengthen Engagement with Youth with Lived Experience

Location: *Lexington – Ballroom Level*

Respecting youth with lived experience and regarding them as experts is a critical step toward improved child and family outcomes. This workshop will present results from a qualitative study in which 18 youth with lived expertise were asked about the best methods for recruiting, engaging, supporting, and retaining youth in child welfare monitoring efforts, such as the Child and Family Services Reviews. Promising practices for engaging youth will be discussed so attendees may apply lessons learned in their own work.

Presenters: *Maia Hyary, Susannah Moore, BrookeAnn Maroney, Logan Burge, and Katelyn Franke, JBS International, Inc, Westminster, CO; Elliot Hinkle, Unicorn Solutions LLC, Portland, OR*

H11 Skill Building for Professionals Who Work with Children and Families Where Child Sex Abuse is an Issue

Location: Grand Teton – 2nd Floor

Although child sex abuse does not make up a large percentage of families and children in the child welfare system, the impact of this abuse is pervasive and can last for generations. This session will feature the editors of two new CWLA Books: *Child Sexual Abuse Investigations & Assessments* & *Child Sexual Abuse: Practical Approaches to Prevention and Intervention*. The presenters will briefly share the key findings from their books that are relevant to the United States and Canada. Both books are designed to enhance the skill sets of professionals who work with children and their families where child sex abuse is an issue. Readers will also develop a further understanding of how to maximize the multi-disciplinary partnerships that are attached to these cases. In addition, the session will also feature a discussion of the role of the Children's Advocacy Center network as a critical partner for the U.S. child welfare system. The session is relevant for CPS and other frontline workers and their supervisors, child advocacy team members, researchers, and others in the U.S. and Canadian systems.

Presenters: *Andrew Koster, Former President of Child Welfare League of Canada, Brantford, ON; Gerry Walsh, Child and Family Services of Grand Erie, Brantford, ON; Paul DiLorenzo, CWLA, Bala Cynwyd, PA*

H12 Preventive Legal Advocacy: Family-Focused Advocacy to Reduce Child Welfare Involvement

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

Preventive Legal Advocacy (PLA) is part of the continuum of high-quality legal advocacy that seeks to strengthen and support family well-being by addressing upstream

civil legal issues that often lead to unnecessary child welfare involvement. This workshop will introduce attendees to the principals that drive PLA while exploring positive outcomes associated with existing PLA programs working to address social determinants of health through zealous legal representation. Attendees will be introduced to Standing with Our Neighbors (SWON), an Atlanta school-based preventive legal advocacy program. Presenters will share the SWON model and discuss some of the lessons the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Association has learned in representing families across nine Atlanta schools. Following the presentation, attendees will have an opportunity to work collaboratively to identify opportunities for preventive legal advocacy in their own communities.

Presenters: *Emilie Cook, Barton Child Law & Policy Center, Atlanta, GA; Ayanna Jones-Lightsy, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Association, Atlanta, GA*

H13 How Child Welfare and Head Start Systems Can Work Together to Better Serve Families

Location: Congressional A – Lobby Level

This workshop will highlight opportunities for Head Start and child welfare organizations to better collaborate at the local level on behalf of children and families. Presenters will identify barriers to the two systems working together and how they can be addressed, as well as examine partnership opportunities at the state and local levels. Discussion points will include: supporting kinship families; babies with exposure to drug and alcohol abuse; the intersection of poverty, neglect and child welfare involvement; economic support for families; workforce issues and more.

Presenters: *Donna Pressma, The Children's Home Society of New Jersey, Trenton, NJ; Keith Liederman, Clover, New Orleans, LA; Leaders from National Head Start*

H14 After passage of FFPSA and Emerging from COVID: What Now for Residential Treatment for Children?

Location: Sequoia – 2nd Floor

This session will explore the intersection of Medicaid and FFPSA for children and youth with multisystem



involvement and their families. The discussion will center around QRTP and PRTFs and the opportunities for alignment across placement types, revenue maximization and improved outcomes for children, youth, and their families and around the importance of systems integration across child welfare, behavioral health, and Medicaid.

Presenters: *Uma Ahluwalia, Health Management Associates, Washington, DC; Caprice Knapp Health Management Associates, Salt Lake City, UT*

Closing Lunch Plenary

12:25 pm – 1:55 pm

Location: *Regency ABC – Ballroom Level*

CWLA is honored to close our conference with January Contreras, Associate Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, who will speak about her vision for a social services system that focuses more intentionally on prevention.



January Contreras
*Administration for
Children and Families*



Rebecca Jones Gaston
*Commissioner,
Administration on
Children, Youth and Families*

CWLA will moderate a discussion in which panelists with lived expertise share their reactions to our working paper, *Creating a High-Quality, Humane, and Respectful Approach to Advance CWLA's Vision*, as well as recommendations, based off personal experience, for strengthening collaboration between systems.

Panelists: *Brandynicole Brooks, DC Child and Family Services Agency, Pat Hunt, Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA), Grey Hilliard-Koshinsky, New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors*

Training Institute Sessions

2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

*(“Premium” Full Conference
Registration Required)*

Inherent Strengths in Kinship Families: Training for Kinship Caregivers and Professionals

Location: *Congressional B – Lobby Level*

This training will provide an overview of a new video training series. The learning objectives are to: identify the strengths of families involved in kinship care and advantages to children residing in these families, when unable to remain with their families of birth; and describe how caregivers can use these strengths to provide safety, well-being, and permanency for the children in their care. Participants will leave with: the ability to recognize strengths inherent to families involved in kinship care; approaches caregivers can use to utilize their strengths; and strategies and approaches professionals can implement to support caregivers in utilizing their strengths. Participants will view clips of the training modules and engage in interactive activities from the material. The target audience includes trainers, frontline workers, supervisors, managers, and administrators; professionals with all levels of experience are invited to attend.

Facilitator: *Dr. Joseph Crumbley, LCSW; Angela Tobin, OTD*

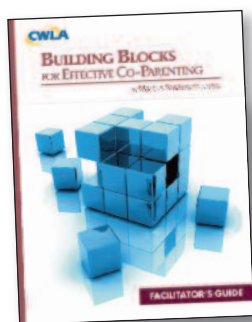
Dear Black Male

Location: *Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level*

This training will provide an overview of the history and culture of African Americans with a focus on recognizing cultural mistrust, issues faced, and perceptions of Black males. Through lecture and discussion, participants will identify how efforts to adequately provide for Black males can be linked to the fight for larger social justice goals for themselves and their communities. Participants in this training will: develop an understanding of the importance of the role of the historian in interpreting African American history;

expand their knowledge and awareness of the disproportionality of Black males who are institutionalized and the impact it has on communities; learn the most common mistakes professionals make when working with Black males and how to avoid them; and engage in dialogue to identify strengths-based practices and interventions that foster family health and resilience.

Facilitator: Anthony Gay, BA, *Welcome to Reality, LLC*



Building Blocks for Effective Co-Parenting

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

The purpose of this training is to provide an engaging, informative framework that highlights the importance of effective co-parenting. When done properly, effective

co-parenting can aid and assist in the overall growth and healthy development of children. We understand that parents become separated for a variety of reasons and this training provides an opportunity to: recognize reasons why some relationships end; learn how these actions can impact children's identity and self-esteem; and offer strength-based, solution-focused strategies and techniques to create consistency and support for all involved parties. Many of these core principles can be applied to all families—including birth, kin, foster, and adoptive. The purpose is to create a resource that can assist families who are separating, training specialists, community providers, court mediation staff, and others in learning how to work together with the common goal of putting the needs of the children first.

Facilitator: Marcus Stallworth, LMSW, CWLA Director of Training and Implementation

From Discussing to Doing*

Location: Columbia Foyer – Ballroom Level

This training is designed for Executive and Mid-Level Management leading Health and Human Service non-profit or government agencies who may be considering launching a Race Equity program within their organizations, or for leaders who are considering re-launching DEI programming which may have stalled. The training will focus on several areas that require leadership consideration pre-implementation of a DEI program such as political climate, data, leadership commitment, and, most importantly, will aid the leader with assessing their personal values and biases which might impact their efforts. The training will also provide participants with tools and resources such as resource libraries, implicit bias tests, and organizational assessments. These tools will assist leaders to host initial conversations internally, as well as with the community and implementation team, and to develop a plan. The overall objective is to provide the support needed to move leaders from discussing to doing.

Facilitator: Gary Taylor, CWLA Senior Fellow

*This training will end at 6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Relationships in Advancing Child & Family Well-being: Lessons from Rural Communities

June 20 and June 22
1:00pm – 4:30pm ET

CWLA invites urban and rural providers to join us for a **special summit** that will share strategies for community collaboration. Many rural child- and family-serving agencies have innovative approaches to partnering with community-based organizations to bring holistic services to families. This summit will provide an opportunity for urban providers to hear directly from national rural leaders about methods for working with local organizations, outside of child welfare, and how these lessons can be applied to their own communities. Each day will end with a dialogue session for shared learning with peers.

Coffee & Networking

9:00 am – 9:30 am

Location: Hall of Battles – Ballroom Level

Training Institute

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Supervising for Excellence and Success

Location: Bunker Hill – Ballroom Level

The quality of supervision is recognized as a significant factor in organizational capacity and ability to provide services that achieve organizational goals and desired outcomes for children, youth, and families, as well as staff retention and professional development. Supervising for Excellence and Success focuses on essential practice elements and functions of supervision. These supervisory functions (Leading, Planning, Organizing, Teaching, Supporting, and Evaluating) will be explored in discussion of literature, use of self-assessment tools, informative handouts, group exercises, and role play based on case and situational examples. Practice elements critical to supporting professional engagement, partnership, and team building

in supervision will be highlighted to align with research and best practices. Discussion will include the supporting theoretical concepts related to the supervisory role and related skills and competencies.

Facilitator: Dr. Jorge Velázquez, Wilmington University, DE

The 4 A's Approach to Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Location: Concord – Ballroom Level

In this training session, we will introduce and discuss the 4 A's Approach to Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This framework will encourage participants to reflect and evaluate how personal biases, societal norms, and agency culture can impact staff morale and the perceptions from children and families served. We will concentrate on the four following areas: Awareness, Acknowledgement, Action, and Accountability. This presentation is designed for peer interaction, shared learning, and strategy development. This session will utilize the core principles of adult learning by incorporating real experiences and scenarios for examination and assessment.

Facilitators: Marcus Stallworth, LMSW, CWLA Director of Training and Implementation; Deborah Wilson Gadsden, LSW, MSW, MHS, Voce



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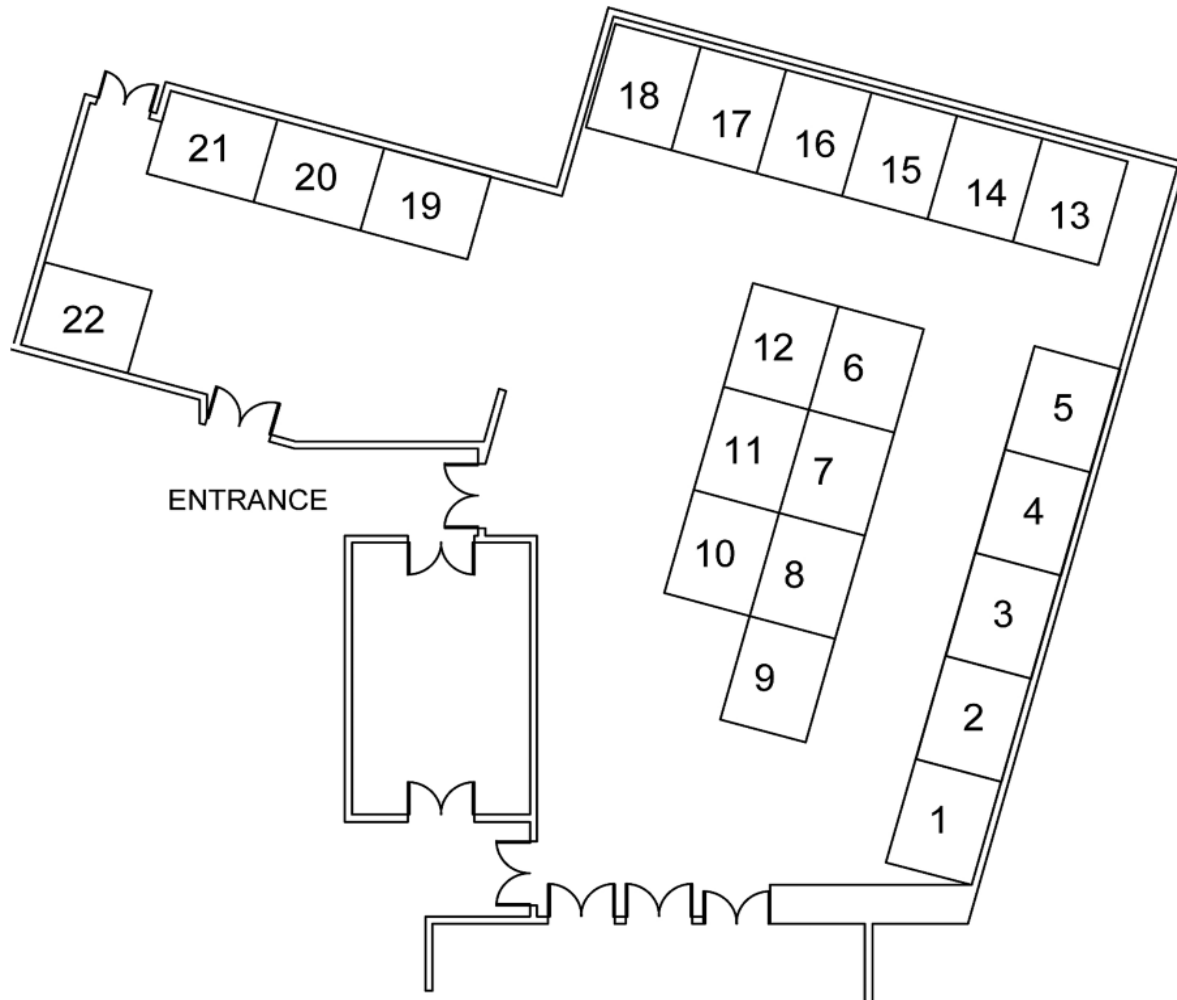
Conference Exhibitors & Floorplan

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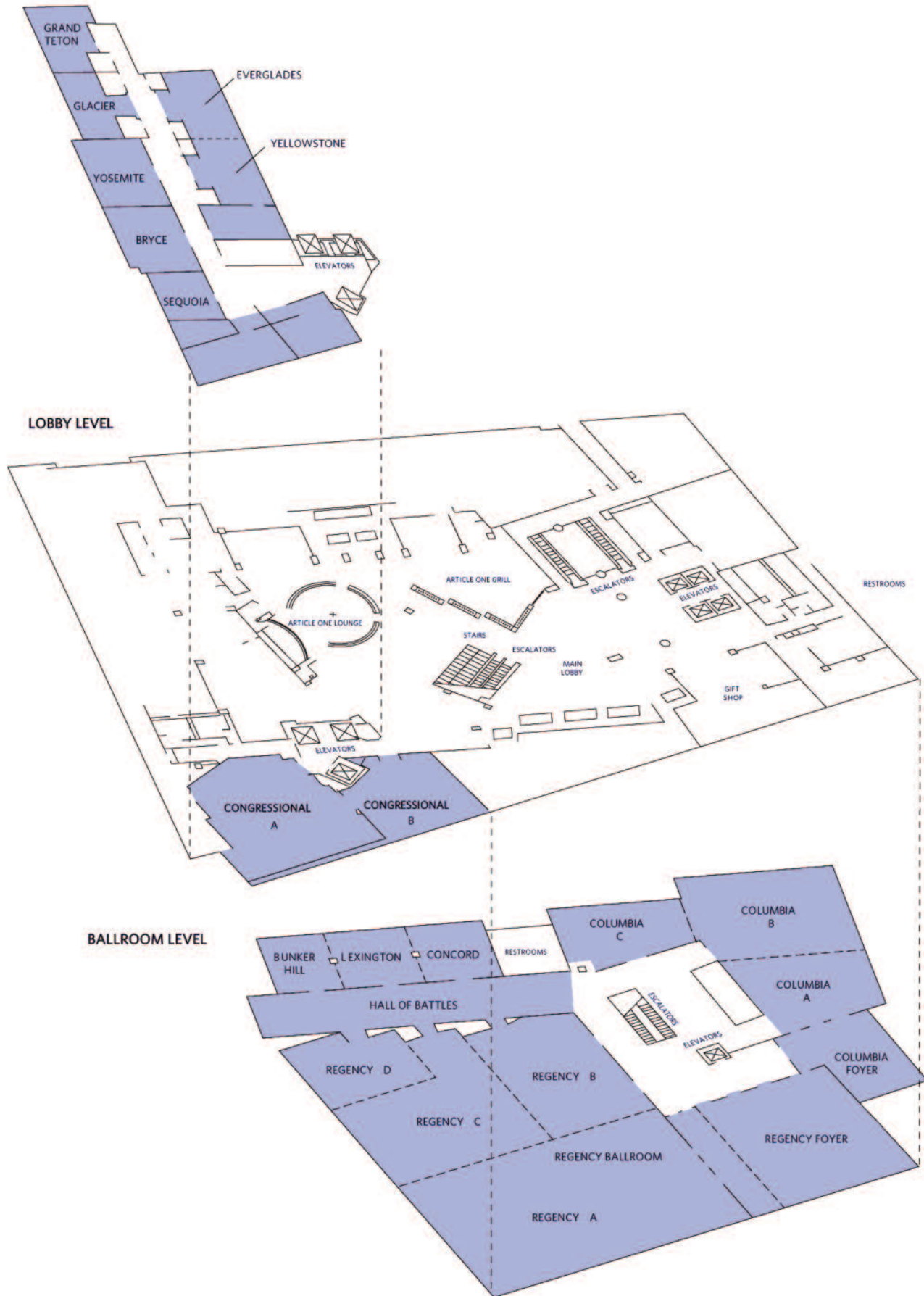
Exhibitor	Booth Number
Parenting with Love and Limits	20
Life Skills Reimagined	6
FFT Partners	8
CSG Government Solutions	13
Center for Adoption Support and Education	9
Binti	17
Social Current	4
BerryDunn	1
CARF International	15
EMPath	18
National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare	16

Exhibitor	Booth Number
CareSource	2
Lyssn	14
Augintel	10
Child Welfare Information Gateway	7
Safe Sleep Simulation	21
National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse	19
National Foster Parent Association	22
Alvarez and Marsal Public Sector Services	5
Amazon Web Services	3
Elevance Health	11
Centene	12

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