19+ CEUs Available!

National Independent Living Conference

August 27-30, 2019 - Orlando, Florida

Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Independent Living
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome both returning and new participants to the 32nd Annual National Independent Living Conference hosted by the Daniel Memorial Institute in the magical city of Orlando, FL. Once again, we have gathered the most knowledgeable and compelling speakers and educators from around the country to make this a premier, value-added IL training event.

We have pulled out all the stops this year to provide the best conference to date. All conference workshops are designed to provide solutions to the most critical issues and challenges that directly affect the youth we serve.

Over the next few days, you will learn about a comprehensive variety of evidenced-based and promising practices that will help you promote improved outcomes for the teens in your independent living and group home milieus. I am confident that the networking opportunities to learn and grow from the expertise and experiences of others in the field will also be priceless.

Thank you for your participation in this very special annual event!

With Warm Regards,
Lesley Wells
Lesley Wells, President/CEO
Daniel Memorial, Inc.

**Do you need CEU’s for licensure/credentials?**

Make sure to pick up a CEU form from the conference registration desk and fill in each of your selected workshops. After attending each session, have facilitator or any conference staff sign off on the form. To receive credit for your attendance, follow the additional instructions provided to submit your completed CEU form.

**Continuing Education Units**

Daniel Memorial is approved for CEUs by the Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling and Certified Master Social Worker. Provider # 50-481, expires 03/31/21. Individuals needing CEU filing will be assessed an administrative fee of $15. It is your responsibility to contact your local licensing/certification board directly to determine CE eligibility and filing requirements in your state.

**Conference Hotel**

Hotel charges are not included in conference registration fee.

This year’s conference will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel (9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819). In addition to an array of recreation activities onsite, the hotel offers the perfect base to explore Orlando’s world-famous attractions—all within minutes.

Reservations can be made online or by calling the Rosen Centre Hotel directly at 800.204.7234. Reference Daniel Memorial when making reservations in order to secure the group rate. *See below for deposit and cancellation policy.

Discount Room Rate: $105.00 per night (single or double) – Reservations must be made by Monday, August 5, 2019 in order to guarantee the discounted group rate. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis at the discretion of the hotel.

*In order to confirm a room, the hotel requires a first night deposit in advance of the conference start date. Checks, cash and major credit cards are acceptable to establish prepayment.

**Parking:** Fees waived for conference attendees

**Conference Questions? Contact Information:**

Daniel Memorial Institute
Stephanie Waugerman, Associate Director of Conferences
4203 Southpoint Blvd. - Jacksonville, FL 32216
p: (904) 296-1055 x1013; f: (904) 353-3472
conferences@danielkids.org; www.danielkids.org

**Travel Tip:**
Please bring a lightweight jacket or sweater for your comfort. Room temperatures vary greatly.

Like us on Facebook! DMIConference Twitter @DMIConference
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2019</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2019</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2019</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration/Information Booth Open</td>
<td>7:30 am - 4:00 pm Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open</td>
<td>8:00 am - 3:00 pm Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open</td>
<td>8:30 am - 12:00 pm Registration/Information Booth Open Exhibitor/Resource Fair Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 3:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Pre-Conference Institutes (<em>lunch on your own</em>)</td>
<td>9:00 am - 10:15 am Opening General Session</td>
<td>9:00 am - 10:15 am General Session II</td>
<td>9:00 am - 10:30 am (Concurrent Sessions) Session F Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Welcome Dessert Reception</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session A Adult Workshops Youth General Session</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session D Workshops</td>
<td>10:30 am - 12:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) General Session III <em>Brunch Served</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMPORTANT CONFERENCE INFORMATION</strong> Please read!</td>
<td>12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (<em>provided</em>)</td>
<td>12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch (<em>On your own</em>)</td>
<td>12:30 pm - 1:15 pm Bonus Session (<em>Adult</em>): Lunch ‘n Learn (ILS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop Locations</strong> Each workshop description includes the specific room location of that workshop. See meeting space map for details.</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 2:30 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session B Workshops</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session E Workshops</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 3:00 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session E Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult, Youth or Mixed Workshops</strong> Adult or Youth workshops are determined by the appropriate topics applicable (not necessarily by age). Adult workshops are geared to professionals working with youth in independent living and foster care programs whereas the youth workshops are geared to those needing to develop the skills necessary to transition into independent living. We also offer mixed workshops appropriate for both adult and youth audiences.</td>
<td>2:45 pm - 4:15 pm (Concurrent Sessions) Session C Workshops</td>
<td>3:15 pm - 4:45 pm Bonus Session: Housing</td>
<td>3:15 pm - 4:45 pm Bonus Session: Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference Attire</strong> For adults: business casual. Youth: acceptable casual wear is jeans, t-shirts, sundresses, appropriate shorts. Shorts, skirts, dresses, or skorts, should be at least mid-thigh. Undergarments should not be visible. No droopy pants or exposed midriffs.</td>
<td>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Bonus Session - Panel Discussion</td>
<td>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Party/Dance <em>Refreshments Provided</em></td>
<td>7:30 pm - 10:00 pm Party/Dance <em>Refreshments Provided</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meals</strong> Light breakfast and refreshments will be provided for attendees on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Selections will include bagels, muffins, croissants, danish, breakfast breads, coffee, tea and juice. <em>For alternate selections, please visit the nearby eateries.</em> Lunch will be provided on Wednesday. The dance/party will include light refreshments and snacks. Beverages will be available on Tuesday and Friday mornings and brunch will be served during the closing session on Friday. <em>Special dietary meal requirements must be arranged with the conference director at least 24 hours prior to the meal function. Requests made without sufficient notice may not be accommodated.</em></td>
<td>6:30 pm - 9:00pm Movie Night: Shazam!</td>
<td><strong>Evaluations</strong> To help us plan for future conferences, we ask you to complete the evaluation form as you go through each day (found in your conference packet) and return it to the registration desk at the end of the conference. This information is very helpful in planning future successful events. It is imperative that you include the workshop number in order to know how the feedback relates to which session.</td>
<td><strong>Certificate of Attendance</strong> Complimentary Certificates of Attendance will be available to all attendees at the Information Booth on Friday, after the closing session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recycling</strong> We happily reuse name badges! Before you leave to go home from the conference, drop your badge at the registration desk for recycling.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
George Duvall

George Duvall is a motivational speaker, Author of the book titled: Dead or in Prison; My Journey through Foster Care and an Entertainer who shares his positive message of success with colleges, schools and organizations across America. Since his first speech, Mr. Duvall has become one of the nation’s most entertaining and inspirational motivational speakers on youth issues.

George spent 15 years of his life in foster care and youth facilities. Now he speaks to audiences about the importance of education, fun, family and fatherhood using humor and his own unique journey from struggle to success. In addition to speaking, George is also a skilled training professional who expertly facilitates trainings for youth and adults. Training topics include Self-Empowerment and Leadership, The Father Factor: “They call me Daddy!” and Independent Living: Teaching Youth to Think Independently, while Living Interdependently. During these and other trainings, you will be moved and educated by his knowledge, sincerity, courage, humor and straight talk about his experiences growing up in America’s foster care system.

An important component of George’s life and work is humor. He has combined his upbringing and life in foster care, college and personal experiences into a forum all people can understand… Laughter! George’s comedic pursuit originated on the stage of Comedy Off Broadway in Lexington, Kentucky as a way to propose to his wife. His first experience on the comedy stage taught him how to create his own comedy show.

Mark Crandall, LMSW, LCDC

Mark’s is a story of uncommon adversity and triumph. At age three, Mark was taken from his biological mother by the Department of Youth and Families and placed in the foster care system. He lacked the tools and supports to manage both his grief and his new reality in society’s margins. From the pieces he conjured stories about his own worth. At around age 12 Mark began contemplating whether or not to just give up. He began to self-medicate with substances; thus began his spiral into painful, chaotic addiction. Mark found himself in and out of youth detention centers and other correctional facilities. He lashed out at those who would protect and support him. Though, even in his lowest moments, Mark recognized what others saw: There was greatness in even him.

Mark has re-written the story of his life and has dedicated his life to empowering others to accomplish the same. Mark learned with help from a long line of coaches that his past did not have to define his future. Mentors taught him how to break through real and imagined barriers and access greatness that lies within each living person. Mark considers his greatest assets to be his learned and organic abilities to bring out the potential within all of his clients and to guide them as they achieve their dreams.

MelissaRoshan “MelRo” Potter

As unique as her name, (MelRo) is an uncommon talent who has modeled internationally for over 15 years. Her work has been seen on more than five magazine covers, billboards, print ads, national commercials, and runways. But what this respected model is most proud of, is owning the title of SurTHRIVER.

From the days of her tumultuous childhood spent in the foster care system, MelRo knew she was meant for more than the abuse she faced sometimes on a daily basis. She aged-out of care, and became a teen parent. Vowing to overcome, she not only later embarked on her own journey toward healing, but also became committed to encouraging others rise from their painful pasts.

Today she continues to model, but being a fierce advocate for children who’ve lived through trauma, and are now in foster care is her main focus. MelRo is an ambassador for Children’s Rights - a federal agency that uses the law to protect abused, and neglected children. She teaches workshops on Trauma Informed Care, Trauma Informed Parenting, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and she is now a full time foster-parent trainer/keynote speaker. Her, "voice" has been seen on/in TED Talks, T.D. Jakes Show, Harvard.com, The OWN Network, CNN, NBC, Cosmo Girl, The Today Show, Hollywood TV, and more. MelRo is the proud mother of two children, and a published author of her memoir, "A Beautiful Freedom". In 2018, she became the founder/director of MelRo's Foundation which built a school/orphanage in the central region of Ghana for homeless youth. MelRo’s Girl’s School will reach it’s one year anniversary in September.

www.danielkids.org
P1 (Adult)
Location: Salon 13
Developing A Comprehensive Transition System Of Care For Older Youth
Spend a day with one of the highly respected veterans in the field of independent living. Learn how to develop a continuum of successful independent living services from pre-independent living preparation for foster youth to a variety of living arrangement options for teens going out on their own. Mark Kroner has been passionately involved in the Independent and Transitional Living fields for over 30 years as a 21 year program director, life skills trainer, national advocate, researcher and consultant. He has trained thousands of professionals nationwide and will share his ideas on training, housing, funding, permanency outcomes and getting the whole system involved. If you are starting an independent living program or are looking for ways to enhance your existing program, then this institute is for you. Presented by: Mark Kroner

P2 (Adult)
Location: Salon 16
The Cost Of Caring-Secondary Trauma And Burnout
Parenting and working with children/youth with trauma histories is rewarding, difficult and demanding all at the same time. Foster Care, Kinship and Adoption bring new experiences and challenges which may affect the child/youth in care, the entire family system as well as those tasked with providing high quality trauma informed services and support. This training will address the Cost of Caring and how to effectively manage secondary trauma in order to protect ourselves from burnout. Come practice how to keep other people’s chaos from becoming your own chaos! Presented by: Denise Rice

P3 (Adult)
Location: Salon 14
Circles Of Safety: Integrating Sexual Abuse Prevention Into Professional Care
Substitute care professionals who provide safety to children who have experienced trauma are trained in crisis management, including how to respond to children and youth’s sexually reactive and at-risk behaviors. What is often overlooked is the need for training in key strategies to prevent new sexual abuse, and to support healthy and normative sexual development. Stop It Now! provides professional care and treatment providers with training and support to practice prevention tasks, while shifting their organization to a culture of prevention through the Circles of Safety training. This workshop will demonstrate how sexual abuse prevention training can build the confidence and knowledge necessary to take protective steps before sexual abuse happens. Presented by: Jenny Coleman

P4 (Adult)
Location: Salon 15
Leaders Rise UP! The Vital Edge Of Leadership
Increased complexity and decreasing resources demand improved capabilities. We need courageous leaders who navigate through today’s challenges, foster innovation and build trauma sensitive organizations through which both client and staff thrive. Research shows that the measurable and learnable skills of Emotional Intelligence, EQ, in leaders produce increased effectiveness, retention, organizational climate and bottom line. Organizations change when their people change. A good leader knows how to help everyone feel that they make a tangible difference to the success of the organization. Presented by: Juli Alvarado

P5 (Youth)
Location: Salon 17
“Picture” This!
Join other members of a team as you “scavenge” through life’s many adventures, exploring a whole new world. This experience will promote teamwork and bonding as you find interesting things and capture memories by using a camera. Facilitated by: Stacia Burlingame, Doris Edelmann and Jessica Lyons

KEY TO WORKSHOP NUMBERING:
P: The letter indicates the session (P = Pre-conference, A = A sessions, B = B sessions, etc)
3: The number represents the sequential session number
(Audience): The parenthesis indicates the intended audience (Adult, Youth or Mixed)
See page 3 for more information on workshop categories.

Welcome Dessert Network Reception
7:00-8:00p
Location: Signature 1
Join other conference attendees to reacquaint with old friends and make new ones during this great networking opportunity.
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

7:30a-4:00p
Location: Registration Desk 2
Registration/Information Booth Open
Exhibit Area Open

Opening General Session by George Duvall
Location: Executive Ballroom
Success Is A Journey
As a child, George Duvall’s own family told him he would be dead or in prison by the time he was 13. By the time he was six, he was a thief, frequently truant from school, and involved with gangs. Then he spent 15 years in foster care and in boy’s facilities. Often when children have experiences like these, they continue to struggle long after they reach adulthood. Some even meet the fates George’s family predicted: incarceration and untimely death. But not George Duvall. Today he is a college graduate, a nationally recognized motivational speaker, comedian, and trainer. He is a devoted father and husband. His message is Family, Fun, Unity, Education and to keep LIVING FORWARD!

10:30a-12:00p

A1 (Adult)
Location: Salon 19
Is IL Really Working? I Sure Am!
Are you an agency executive or program director? This popular open-forum, roundtable discussion will be a chance for those in the field to share thoughts and ideas on the challenges and successes of their independent living programs. Join in to learn about other approaches as well as to share your own. Presented by: Mark Kroner

A2 (Adult)
Location: Salon 18
Brains, Behavior And Regulation - Understanding Trauma Through A New Lens
Our experiences and relationships have all laid a foundation to how we react and respond to a variety of situations and experiences. When trauma is woven into these experiences and interactions, our behaviors may become inappropriate or "maladaptive." Parenting and working with others who have been traumatized is stressful enough, but when you add a child or youth to the mix with a trauma history, the day to day life can be downright exhausting. This session will take a more in depth look at the trauma behind the behaviors, uncover the function of these behaviors (there is a function to every behavior!) and how caregivers and professionals can begin the process of responding to our children from a trauma sensitive perspective! Presented by: Denise Rice

A3 (Adult)
Location: Salon 10
Gang Sex Trafficking: What You Need To Know!
Gangs conduct criminal activity in all 50 states. Although most gang activity is concentrated in major urban areas, gangs also are proliferating in rural and suburban areas as gang members flee increasing law enforcement pressure in urban areas. During this session attendees will learn to recognize signs of gang involvement including gang tattoo’s, terminology, graffiti and using hand signals. Attendees will also be able to recognize the warning signs and risk factors of youth gang recruitment. This session will also discuss the female’s role in gangs. Presented by: Marina Anderson

A4 (Adult)
Location: Salon 9
Leadership In Developing A Transition Program For Youth Aging Out Of Residential And Foster Care
This workshop will provide an overview of one agency’s approach to developing a continuum of care to meet the needs of young adults who are transitioning from care and into the community. Participants will be provided with rationale for the program and insight into the need for developing programs to meet the specific needs of each young adult. Program areas discussed will include advanced education, aftercare and independent living. Strategies used for helping young adults be successful will be discussed and areas of growth and outcome measurement will also be addressed. Presented by: Jeff Creel

KEY TO WORKSHOP NUMBERING:
P: The letter indicates the session (P = Pre-conference, A = A sessions, B = B sessions, etc)
3: The number represents the sequential session number
(Audience) The parenthesis indicates the intended audience (Adult, Youth or Mixed). See page 3 for more information on workshop categories.
**A5** (Adult)
Location: Salon 15
**Building Capacity For Foster Youth Through Enhancing Cultural Humility**
Assisting kin and non-kin families to be welcoming and supporting to all foster youth and assisting organizations to recruit a diverse group of caregivers, within youth's communities of origin, is key in expanding capacity. This workshop will explore the importance of providing outreach and training to staff and carers utilizing youth voice to build awareness and understanding to be supportive of diverse cultures, including LGBTQ youth. Various ways this information can be utilized to develop your agencies cultural competency plan will be discussed. *Presented by: Sue Evans and Mary Frame*

**A6** (Adult)
Location: Salon 20
**The Neuroscience Of Teaching Teens: What’s Hot And What’s Not**
The first half of the session explores the neuroscience of learning. We’ll discuss the “3 brains,” the unique neuroscience of adolescence, how we are biologically programmed to resist behavior change and learn new things, and tips for how to overcome it. In the second half, we’ll look at teaching tools and techniques to see what stands the test of time, what needs to go, and new approaches and tools to explore. *Presented by: Stephanie Savely*

**A7** (Adult)
Location: Salon 14
**Resiliency: It’s Not Just For Our Families (Supporting Employees As They Support Others)**
This engaging and interactive workshop will explore the topic of workforce resilience and why it matters. The facilitators will guide participants through leadership styles to support child welfare employee resilience and provide techniques to share with employees. *Presented by: Lynne Whittington and Angie Alberda*

**A8** (Adult)
Location: Salon 21
**Innovation In Supervised IL: The Victory Lap!**
The Victory Lap is a groundbreaking collaboration among the TN Department of Children's Services, Partnership FCA and a retirement community. Learn how and why retirement communities are a natural fit for youth in Supervised Independent Living and how it can help your agency get out of the real estate business and focus on what you do best...all while providing safe, affordable housing, a job, and a community of caring adults to the youth you serve. *Presented by: Rosemary Ramsey and Stephanie Bosson*

**A9** (Adult)
Location: Salon 13
**Implications Of Attachment Issues: Childhood Through Adult**
We have all heard the words "attachment issues", "attachment disorders" and "reactive attachment disorder". While all of these diagnoses have a significant impact on one's ability to have healthy relationships, it is important to take a look at how, when not addressed in childhood, an adult will navigate the world when the stakes are much higher. *Presented by: Roxanne Thompson*

**A10** (Youth General Session)
Location: Grand Ballroom D
Join, “MelRo” as she shares her powerful journey of triumphing over overwhelming odds, her difficult path toward forgiveness, the importance of giving back, and living a LIT (Live Intentionally Today) life.

**12:00p-1:00p**

Location: Executive ballroom
**Lunch Provided**
Please enjoy this time to relax, network with other attendees and share your ideas and successes with your colleagues.
Location: Salon 19
Permanency Isn't Always Permanent: The Role Of The IL Field In The Permanency Process
Persistent permanency efforts around the country have made an impact on connecting many child welfare children and youth with hopefully lifelong connections. However there are still close to 20,000 youth aging out of foster care to life on their own, not far off from the number aging out when the field was created in 1986. Who are these young adults and how can Independent Living Services help them achieve the best possible outcomes as they leave care. 
Presented by: Mark Kroner

Location: Salon 18
Trauma 101
The Trauma 101 training focuses on understanding how trauma impacts the body and the brain, how people adapt to trauma and what we can do as providers, parents and community members to support recovery and resiliency. The Trauma 101 training is not a training on a specific type of intervention. It is focused on how we can use a better understanding of trauma to be trauma-informed. Trauma informed care is an approach to engaging people with histories of trauma that recognizes the presence of trauma symptoms. 
Presented by: Denise Rice

Location: Salon 14
Unpacking The No: Developing The Relationship (Part 1 of 2)
You believe in and are committed to permanency for all children regardless of age; yet still you struggle to make this happen for older youth. What are older youth really saying when they say “No” to permanency? What is required in a relationship with older youth and the professional team to develop the trust needed to have them believe permanency is possible? This workshop will provide foster parents and professionals with information and insight into developing a successful relationship with youth and helping them look beyond their initial fears. 
Presented by: Rachel Paashaus

Location: Salon 15
“Stop That Or Else!” Responding Therapeutically To Challenging Behavior (Part 1 of 2)
“If your only tool’s a hammer, everything looks like a nail,” Abraham Maslow once observed. When frustrated foster parents and caretakers are confronted with manipulation, disrespect, and defiance, it may be easy to rely on punitive consequences, hoping to ‘pound’ misbehavior into compliance. However, behaviors exhibited by foster children and others in care seldom have simple sources or solutions. Furthermore, punishment can sometimes backfire, causing even more trauma. This practical workshop first introduces a powerful model for therapeutic decision making, then offers specific behavioral and trauma-informed strategies to calm crises. 
Presented by: Steve Parese and John Mark Toomey

Location: Salon 20
Breaking Through The No!
For workers hearing “NO! I don’t need a family!” can happen regularly and can be disheartening when working with a youth in care. As adults we know the importance of relationships. Breaking Through the No! Offers workers tips on different conversation styles that can support youth to open up about their family members and the relationships in their lives. Through interactive exercises such as evaluating worker’s interaction. 
Presented by: Brezan Gowie and Willie Avery

Location: Salon 21
La verdad sobre la primera impresión
La primera impresión es un fenómeno impresionante y cuando hablamos de encontrar un trabajo, es crítica. En este taller te ayudaremos con valiosos consejos de cómo prepararos para una entrevista de trabajo. Regalos para participantes. 
Presented by: Sandra Santiago-Conyers
Danger Warning! Understanding The Dynamics Of Social Media Human Trafficking

During this session attendees will learn to recognize signs of Social Media Recruitment and how traffickers lure their victims on the internet. Attendees will learn about the dangerous of popular social media sites and apps. This session will also discuss popular Emoji’s and their hidden meaning used to communicate sexual gesture when texting or communicating on internet sites and social media apps. Presented by: Marina Anderson

Increasing Self-Sufficiency In Youth Through Harm Reduction And Strengthening Informal Supports

The goal of self-sufficiency can be accomplished in many ways, including creating and maintaining permanent supportive relationships. Often, youth struggle to maintain concrete supports, which can lead to instability and threatens self-sufficiency. This workshop will address the importance of informal supports and strategies for service providers to support youth in strengthening their individual informal support systems. Presented by: April Carthorn

Navigating The Post-Secondary Education Pathway For Foster Youth

This workshop will help attendees understand the unique challenges that face youth who age out of foster care as they traverse through the post-secondary education process. The presentation will underscore the importance of aftercare service providers and post-secondary institutions creating partnerships to assist youth aging out of foster care realize their educational goals. In addition, the presentation will highlight the resources available to current and former foster youth as they pursue post-secondary education. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the potential barriers and solutions. Presented by: Brandi Purswell

Transitional Youth From Surviving To Thriving In Adulthood

Connections to Independence (C2i) works with youth in and aging out of the foster care system ages 15-24. Come learn how C2i incorporates five basic core components to achieve amazing outcomes: 98% of youth graduate high school and or receive their GED, 60% of youth go on to post-secondary programs, 69% have maintained employment and 89% have stable housing. Staff and youth participants will share with you how the programming and services of C2i are able to achieve outcomes that are creating bright futures for this population of youth whose futures seem bleak by national statistics. There will be a youth panel in another session to learn more in depth information directly from C2i youth. Presented by: Jessica Osburn, Andrew Lemmie, Talicia Jackson and C2i Youth Leaders & Alumni

Killer Confidence: Six Minute To Success

Often times, foster care graduates lack confidence. This course will give you simple and easy ways to quickly build your confidence and not only put you back in the game, but put you ahead of the competition in ways you never thought possible. Confidence may not come naturally for everyone, these tools and tricks will make you look like a natural. Presented by: Dr. Tracy Riley

Do you remember the first secret you ever kept? Do you remember the first time someone you trusted betrayed your confidence? This session examines the four different types of secrets and the role each plays in creating or undermining positive relationships. The session will also examine the challenges associated with “opening” secrets that we do not own. Participants will identify ways to discuss secrets and privacy in ways that are safe and respectful to ourselves and those around us. Presented by: Tammy Hopper and Elizabeth Smith Miller

Helping Youth Thrive Through Social Connections

We live our lives in connection with other people, depending on others to provide guidance, love, support, and assistance in making major life decisions. Making and maintaining these connections is sometimes more difficult for youth in foster care. Faced with multiple placements, disrupted attachments, and toxic or exploitative relationships, youth-in-care face greater challenges than most of us. Join us as we explore ways to improve communication and trust between youth and caring adults to assist youth in developing important, lifelong connections. Presented by: Robbie Wheet and Laura Osburn
C2 (Adult)
Location: Salon 17
Living In The System
Living in the system is an interactive workshop between the presenter and the audience. You will hear it straight from a youth on what it is like to be taken out of their home and placed in the child welfare system. The Presenter will explain the anger and trauma a youth goes through when taken away from their family, but at the same time loving their family despite all obstacles. The Presenter will help Workers in the field on how to reach difficult youth and provide support to them. Presented by: Howard F. Wingard, Shaquin Ingram and Manijah Sherin

C3 (Adult)
Location: Salon 13
Facing Your F.E.A.R.s
Facing Your FEARs: Balancing Feelings, Expectations, Aptitudes, and Reality in Work with Youth. This session will be an interactive opportunity for participants to examine how their beliefs about the work they do impact their abilities to withstand the challenges that come with doing the work. Vicarious trauma, secondary stress, compassion fatigue may all be the result of a “caring crisis”. Knowing how, when, and to what degree we can absorb our experiences while maintaining the ability to be positive, efficient, and effective is paramount to ongoing efforts with youth. Presented by: Tammy Hopper

C4 (Adult)
Location: Salon 14
Unpacking The No: Developing The Relationship (Continuation of B4)

C5 (Adult)
Location: Salon 15
“Stop That Or Else!” Responding Therapeutically To Challenging Behavior (Continuation of B5)

C6 (Adult)
Location: Salon 20
The Road Less Traveled/Family Is Your Right
Workers hear from our Youth Advocates on what YGB identifies as the real reason for homelessness: lack of consistent support for youth aging out of foster care. Workers learn about the importance to respect and cultivate youths connections. Workers will understand the broadness of the term “family”, the importance of familial connections and the effect it has on youth’s lives. While acknowledging the contributing factors of poverty, mental illness, and other factors impacting youth. Presented by: Brezan Gowie and Willie Avery

C7 (Adult)
Location: Salon 19
Successful Strategies For Understanding And Working With Adolescents
Through the use of humor and a fresh look at adolescents, we will explore this challenging stage of development and rediscover why we chose to work with youths in the first place. We will examine the developmental tasks and characteristics of adolescents with special attention paid to the behaviors that fall within and outside of “normal” adolescence. Adult attitudes towards youth will be examined, as well as the impact that these attitudes and beliefs have on our ability to work successfully with this population. This seminar will enhance your understanding of the concepts of Positive Youth Development and Asset Development and explore how to integrate these philosophies into your work. Presented by: Kathi Crowe

C8 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 11
L.I.T. (Leaders Inspiring Transformation) Youth Leadership Development Workshop
This workshop focuses on youth leadership development. We want to train and inspire a new generation of current and former foster youth to become the leading voices of change and transformation to the social welfare system. In this workshop youth will participate in fun high energy activities that infuse hip hop and pop culture into leadership lessons that teach them how to avoid the pitfalls of following false paradigms for leadership often portrayed in modern media. Join us if you are ready to get L.I.T.! Presented by: Keith Hosea

C9 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 12
College Is Possible: Maximizing Resources To Address Mental Health Issues
Youth in foster care face multiple barriers to college completion. One such barrier is mental health. Youth who transition from foster care to college experience mental health challenges at much higher rates than their peers. In spite of these barriers, college completion is possible. Two areas that are not often addressed while in college, but impact college completion, are mental health issues and mental health service utilization. This workshop will discuss those challenges and review practical strategies for maximizing campus resources to address the mental health needs of youth. Presented by: M. Sebrena Jackson
C10 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 16
Transitions: A Grassroots Solution To A Small Town Problem
Transitions is a grassroots volunteer run program that has life skills curriculum (health, finance, permanency, following the Foster Club toolkit) with real-life coping skills lessons related to mental health, local providers, etc. The program assists youth aging out of the foster care system better prepare for the next phase of their lives. We pair youth with community volunteer mentors to help encourage them and talk them through their senior year in high school, and follow them post high school. This workshop will highlight the power of community. Presented by: Jennifer Perkins, Korey Shenewerk and DJ Schollmeyer

C11 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 9
The Truth About Transitioning Out of Care: A Youth Voice Perspective
Come learn from a youth’s perspective what it’s like coming of age in the foster care system. Youth panelists will talk about their experience in care and what their journey has been like as they transition into adulthood. The facilitators will guide this conversation around the services youth received from Connections to Independence (C2i) and how these services were instrumental during this process. Youth will share the brutal truth about their experience and how they achieved their goals. This is an open dialogue for youth and adults to learn and share in a safe forum so we will all leave with a sense of hope and positive outlook for this population that outcomes sometimes seem so dismal. Presented by: Jessica Rogers, Andrew Lemmie, Talicia Jackson and C2i Youth Leaders & Alumni

C12 (Youth)
Location: Salon 10
Escape To Independence
CAUTION “Independence is right around the corner” but the path to get there will not be easy!!! In order to breakaway and make this life changing transition you will need to follow clues, solve puzzles and crack codes that will help you escape the system and transition into adulthood successfully. Presented by: Stacia Burlingame, Doris Edelmann and Jessica Lyons

C13 (Youth)
Location: Salon 18
Chase the Bag; Don’t Let the Bag Chase You!
Money works for you when you know how to work it. Participants will be able to list the five basic steps to making sound financial decisions. Participants will engage in self reflection activities that will help them to better understand their current spending habits, needs, and goals. Participants will create a work plan that will list the steps to move them towards financial independence. It doesn't matter how much money you start with. The steps will work if you use them. Presented by: Oliver Green and Marquita Green

BONUS (Mixed)
Location: Salon 12
Serving Your State As A Youth Ambassador
This session led by current and former foster youth between the ages of 16 and 25 years of age will challenge on how others can serve their State as a youth voice and advocate. Through their own personal stories they will encourage and offer insight using their experience and knowledge to give ideas about how real changes can be made in the foster care system. Attendees will also learn how Alabama has developed and recruited youth for their State board. The session will conclude with time for Q & A. Facilitated by: Bill Benson and Ebone Kimber

MOVIE NIGHT (Mixed)
Location: Grand Ballroom D
Shazam!
Have you ever wanted to be a superhero? Well now is your chance! Come and enjoy a night of movies, popcorn, sodas and snacks and earn your superhero status! Facilitated by: Stacia Burlingame, Doris Edelmann and Jessica Lyons
D1 (Adult)
Location: Salon 12
Housing Options For Independent/Transitional Living Programs
A 36 year IL veteran will share his experiences and research on housing for youth aging out of foster care. Learn about various housing options, funding sources, common problems, supervision risk-management, dealing with landlords, measuring outcomes and more. Come with any and all questions about how to develop housing for older youth in your community. Presented by: Mark Kroner

D2 (Adult)
Location: Salon 19
Effectively Engaging Young People
Having a hard time reaching teenagers? Not really sure if you are gaining ground with the methods currently being used. Stephanie Keahey helps to bridge the gaps between the services being provided and the person(s) receiving the services you provide to help establish effective, meaningful relationships with the population you serve. Effective engaging of young people results in less homelessness and more successful entry into the amazing world of independence after foster care. Presented by: Stephanie M. Keahey

D3 (Adult)
Location: Salon 15
Restoring The Dignity Of The Family
Why is the family unit so dysfunctional? Luke and Corina look at the system that has been constructed over the last 50 years to help families. They analyze the patterns and flaws contained within that system and offer practical solutions to those needs. The common claim is these families are underserved, but Luke and Corina argue that the services are misplaced. These claims will be made with statistics and stories from across the nation. Presented by: Luke Kliewer and Corina Kliewer

D4 (Adult)
Location: Salon 14
Deeper Than Love
“Deeper Than Love” will look at piece by piece the concept of Prevention, Intervention and Suppression and take you one step further. The presentation will also look at, “The Stone Theory on Gang Relationships, Memberships and Exit Strategies” dealing with it in 5 steps. Fascination, Infatuation, Dedication, Separation and last but certainly not least the Exit Strategy with this presentation you will understand your role as a youth worker and destructive life style deterrence for the youth and community you serve. Presented by: Terrance Stone

D5 (Adult)
Location: Salon 9
Transformational: Learn To Create Relevant, And Impactful Life Skills Programming (Part 1 of 2)
Creating and improving relevant and comprehensive life skill programming through youth buy-in and assessment. Participants will become a part of an interactive presentation that mimics an Our Friends Place skill’s night. Participants will explore resources and strategies to collaborate with youth to provide programming that gives them tools to operate in today’s world, now! The group will also create a working definition for life skills, complete a life skills program delivery assessment, and walk away with a starting point for creating a skills program relevant to those they serve. Presented by: Nicole Price and Libby Woolverton

D6 (Adult)
Location: Salon 10
Brain Damaged: How Porn Is Hijacking Our Youth
The first half of the session explores the neuroscience behind pornography use and addiction, why it is particularly damaging in adolescents and the impact on short- and long-term sexuality. The second half of the session is a facilitated discussion among participants to share
what they are seeing in their youth and to practices for managing the challenges. Presented by: Stephanie Savely

**D7 (Adult)**

**Location:** Salon 17  
**Rethinking Challenging Kids: Collaborative Problem Solving (Part 1 of 2)**

Kids do well if they can, not because they want to. In this session, led by a foster and adoptive parent, we'll explore the foundations of Collaborative Problem Solving, an evidence-based approach to challenging behavior that is grounded in what kids need most: relationship and skills. Participants will leave the session with concrete skills they can put to use right away, with even the most challenging kid. Join us to learn what families across the US have already discovered: where there's a skill, there's a way. Presented by: Ed Morales

**D8 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 16  
**ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) And Your Health**

Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. As such, early experiences are an important public health issue. Much of the foundational research in this area has been referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Adverse Childhood Experiences have been linked to: risky health behaviors, chronic health conditions, low life potential, and early death. As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes. The wide-ranging health and social consequences of ACEs underscore the importance of preventing them before they happen. The CDC-Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations of childhood abuse and neglect and later life health and well-being. Come and learn about ACE’s, what your ACE score means and what you can do with this knowledge to be proactive and build resilience in living your best life possible! Presented by: Presented by: Denise Rice

**D9 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 13  
**Social Media and Human Trafficking**

This interactive workshop will introduce participants to the ways social media is used to identify, connect, groom, and then involve youth in exploitive and trafficking situations. The attendees will discuss commonly used techniques, profiles, and language. Participants will also have the opportunity to share what they have seen while conducting prevention or simply while searching to make a meaningful connection with others. Presented by: Tammy Hopper

**D10 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 7  
**Dimensions Of Grief: Tools And Techniques For Helping The Bereaved (Part 1 of 2)**

This workshop is designed to explore the modern understanding of grief and loss as well as explore how attachment and love influences grief. There are often many misconceptions surrounding grief and loss and there are unique influences on grief. We will discuss the central needs of the mourner, and encourage self-compassion, as well as acknowledge the way in which grief transforms over time. Presented by: Dr. Tracy Riley

**D11 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 11  
**“What’s in YOUR Wallet?” Understanding Adult Issues In Crisis**

Challenging foster children and older individuals in supervised settings frequently engage adults in fruitless power struggles when they feel emotionally overwhelmed. Parents, caretakers, and staff may find themselves overreacting personally, especially in less formal settings. In this eye-opening workshop, we first explore the dynamics of an escalating conflict, then identify five common adult anger traps. Finally, we offer powerful insights about why certain patterns are especially hard for us to manage, and close with strategies for staying calm in crisis. Presented by: Steve Parese

**D12 (Youth)**

**Location:** Salon 18  
**Igniting The Fire Within (Part 1 of 2)**

Have you ever woke up and just felt defeated? The truth is everyone experiences those days. This interactive workshop will take you on a journey through social media fads, music, and movie clips that will help you to reignite the fire within YOU. The passion that burns in your soul helps to sustain you through difficult times. This fire creates the energy necessary to overcome obstacles and solve problems. It also creates the momentum to take you closer to realizing your dreams. Sometimes the fire that fuels your passion can flicker and burn out. With no flame to show you the way, you can become discouraged. When the flame is gone, you may begin to feel hopeless and feel like giving up. When this happens, you will need to find new ways to become reenergized. Join Shalondra as she helps you to rediscover, reignite, and refuel the superpower within YOU. Presented by: Shalondra Young
D13 (Youth)
Location: Salon 21
What Are You Selling?
What's your brand? Too often young adults affiliated with the foster care system are seen first by what is listed in their files and not who they are as individuals. Positive branding can provide a different way for peers, foster parents and social workers to view and interact with young adults transitioning through care. Let's re-brand the message to get the results we want. Presented by: LeAnn McKoy and Terin Covington

D14 (Youth)
Location: Salon 20
Ways To Conquer Your Destiny, With Help From A Life Coach (Part 1 of 2)
This workshop will enlighten young adults to the importance of financial literacy, education, careers and vision boards. We will cover simple but effective layouts on how to set realistic goals with deadlines dates and how to identify supportive people that would hold them accountable. This workshop is interactive and encourages participation from attendees. Presented by: Alphonza Bush, Jr.

LUNCH ‘N LEARN
Location: Salon 12
Introduction To ILS v.10
Bring your lunch to enjoy as you learn about this amazing program! The Independent Living Skills system (ILS) is a 16-category assessment designed for individuals 14 years and older. The system begins with the administration of the life skills assessment and identifies the specific skills the client needs to improve. The results allow you to assist them with individualized transition plans. See what a difference ILS can make for your agency! Presented by: Bob Rooks

The Rosen Centre Hotel has generously offered to sponsor 2 complimentary one-day I-Ride Trolley Pass, per guest room, to use during your stay in Orlando!

What is the I-RIDE Trolley Service?
The I-RIDE Trolley is the exclusive, convenient and affordable transportation to hundreds of exciting destinations within the International Drive Resort Area. Visit the Official I-RIDE Trolley website at www.iridetrolley.com. By using the area's exclusive and convenient I-RIDE Trolley service you can sit back and ride up and down the miles of fun that make up the International Drive Resort Area. Discover how this wonderful, cost-saving amenity takes the parking and driving hassles out of your vacation and lets you cruise the Drive in charming style.

When Does the I-RIDE Trolley Operate?
Daily from 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Where Does the I-RIDE Trolley Go?
The I-RIDE Trolleys travel exclusively throughout the International Drive Resort Area. Refer to the I-RIDE Trolley Route map for specific locations of Red Line and Green Line Stops.
E1 (Adult)
Location: Salon 11
“Leave Me Alone! Wait, Come Back...” Understanding Rubber-Band Relationships
Many children in foster care and older individuals in independent living have experienced numerous childhood traumas, and have learned to become relationship-wary. To avoid deeper loss and pain, they sometimes control disappointment by sabotaging relationships. Through rich stories, interactive discussion, and practical exercises, this inspiring workshop first explores the incidence and impact of toxic stress and trauma, then discusses four common self-defeating behavior patterns. We close by offering valuable insights and skills needed to maintain a helping role with very challenging individuals. Presented by: Steve Parese

E2 (Adult)
Location: Salon 15
Starting An Independent Living Program With Housing
Running a successful Independent Living Program requires a high level of flexibility in policies and programming when working with Transition Age Youth. This workshop will present information and material on how to successfully start and run an independent living program with transitional housing. Presenters will touch on utilizing diverse funding streams and best practices in transitioning TAY to independence and adulthood while focusing on 7 independent living domains. Presented by: Alex Protzman and Shiesha Bell

E3 (Adult)
Location: Salon 21
Knowledge To Action: Helping Teens To Access Sexual Health Services
This workshop is an opportunity for Social Service professionals to become trained in Knowledge to Action – a lesson that educates youth about minor’s rights and accessing teen-friendly health services. Presenters will also share how we strengthened the capacities of Social Service professionals in North Carolina to implement Knowledge to Action with youth in foster care, strengthen local Departments of Social Services’ referral processes for sexual and reproductive (SRH) health care services, and our efforts to connect youth in foster care to SRH health care services in their communities. Presented by: Tamara Robertson and Linda Chamiec-Case

E4 (Adult)
Location: Salon 12
Introduction To ILS Certification
Daniel Memorial Institute is proud to launch the nation's first on-line Independent Living Specialist Certification! This workshop will present an overview of the on-line course content and samples of each of the 12-module courses. Some of the areas of curriculum focus are Education & Employment, Health, Special Needs Youth, Mental Health and Housing in the Transition Process. The certification will give new and seasoned IL professionals a comprehensive look at the history, legislation, concepts, program components and operational issues that make up this challenging field. Kathi Crowe and Mark Kroner, the developers of the course each have over 35 years in the Child Welfare and Independent Living fields and have been involved at the local, state and national levels since the field began in 1986. Presented by: Kathi Crowe and Mark Kroner

E5 (Adult)
Location: Salon 9
Transformational: Learn To Create Relevant, And Impactful Life Skills Programming (Continuation of D5)

E6 (Adult)
Location: Salon 10
How To Create Your Own Residential Independent Living Program
If you are motivated, professional and caring…looking to recreate your own healthy home, designed to empower youth in their journey, from dependence to independence, consider the framework of our Community Living Program. A structured curriculum is facilitated each day that holds residents accountable to the outcomes that we want for them, like graduating from high school, getting good paying jobs, and making homes of their own. The CLP promotes a productive environment that encourages internal navigation and self-initiative. Presented by: Monica DuPea

E7 (Adult)
Location: Salon 17
Rethinking Challenging Kids: Collaborative Problem Solving (Continuation of D7)

E8 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 16
Youth Depression And Suicide
Every year in the US more than 4,800 children, teens and young adult’s ages 0-24 die by suicide. Approximately 175,800 others are treated in emergency departments for injuries from self-harm. Although suicide can occur in any family, youth in foster care are at a higher risk for attempting or seriously considering suicide. There are signs and steps that parents, other youth and...
community members can be on the lookout for so that those at risk can get the help they need. Knowing the warning signs and risk factors can help other’s to intervene. Resource parents, friends, teachers and other professionals can also help address the underlying mental health issues and strengthen the factors that protect against suicide.
*Presented by: Denise Rice*

**E9 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 19

**Historic Opportunity For Change: Youth Perspective In Implementation Of The FFPSA**

Have you been following the historic new Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)? Curious about the impact on foster care in your state? Want to learn how youth expertise can inform and influence implementation? Join an interactive dialogue with young leaders. Discuss opportunities and priorities regarding prevention services, ensuring appropriate placements (including congregate care/group home placements), post-permanence supports, and improved supports for older youth, including Chafee and ETV services.
*Presented by: FosterClub All-Stars*

**E10 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 7

**Dimensions Of Grief: Tools And Techniques For Helping The Bereaved (Continuation of D10)**

**E11 (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 14

**For The Cause: Advocating Through Experience**

Goal achievement for any cause depends on the dedication and hard work of its advocates and some of the most powerful advocacy comes from those with voices who speak from personal experience. Those “lived experiences” become a strong motivating force to effect change. From homes to the courtroom, Youth Support Partners (YSPs) are using their “lived experiences” as proponents of change for those currently involved in child-serving systems and supporting youth to find their own voice in goal setting, planning and advocating for their needs. In this interactive session, participants.
*Presented by: Aaron Thomas*

**E12 (Youth)**

**Location:** Salon 18

**Igniting The Fire Within (Continuation of D12)**

**E13 (Youth)**

**Location:** Salon 13

**Live Your Best Life!**

You and your friends are going through a lot and are experiencing significant changes in your lives. While this can be an exciting time, it can also cause a lot of stress and anxiety. Let’s discuss what these changes look like, the feelings that sometimes come with those changes, and ideas to help in honing our skills in noticing if something is going on with our friends. Join us as we brainstorm ideas for activities you can use to help in easing the stress of being a fabulous teenager!
*Presented by: Robbie Whee and Laura Osbun*

**E14 (Youth)**

**Location:** Salon 20

**Ways To Conquer Your Destiny, With Help From A Life Coach (Continuation of D14)**

**BONUS (Mixed)**

**Location:** Salon 12

**Housing And Child Welfare**

The US department of housing and urban development recently made a major shift in the way that housing resources are distributed to youth leaving foster care. The new policy called Fostering Stable Housing Opportunities Act will allow communities to time the provision of a section 8 voucher perfectly with the emancipation of a Foster youth regardless of where they age out in the country. This session will provide attendees with an overview of FSHO and a clear understanding of how the process will work. *
*Facilitated by: Jamole Callahan*

**Dance Night!**

**Location:** Junior Ballroom F

Open to all attendees. Refreshments Provided

Join us for an evening filled with today’s popular tunes. Our DJ will spin the top hits while you show your moves on the dance floor.
**Location:  Executive Ballroom Foyer**
Information Booth Open

**Location:  Signature 1**
For those attendees that will be checking-out of the hotel on Friday, and leaving after the Closing Session, we will provide a luggage storage area beginning at 8:30am. All luggage will need to be retrieved by 12:15pm. Any items remaining after that time will be relocated to the hotel lost and found area.

---

**F1 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 13**

**Grief- It's Ok To Not Be Ok**
Grief is a natural feeling that is experienced in some of the most trying times of our lives but how do we survive it? How do we make it through? It's ok to not be ok! I will discuss different types of grief, the 5 steps of grief and helpful tips for individuals experiencing grief or how to assist someone that is grieving. I will also provide a list of resources and reading materials that will assist the grieving. It's ok to not be ok!  
*Presented by: Raanee Lewis*

**F2 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 10**

**Providing Services To Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, And Transgender Youth In Care**
Service providers learn how to appropriately discuss sexual orientation and gender identity and address the needs of LGBT youth, particularly those in foster care, by gaining insight about their experiences and concerns.  
*Presented by: Paula Lupton*

---

**F3 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 14**

**Navigating Foster Youth On A Journey To Success**
Promises2Kids, a leader in San Diego County for nearly 40 years, creates a brighter future for foster children. From the moment they come into foster care and through to adulthood, Promises2Kids provides the hope, support, and opportunities these special individuals need to change their lives for the better. Our programs include the Polinsky Children’s Center, Camp Connect, Guardian Scholars, and Foster Funds. With an over 85% graduation rate for foster youth pursuing higher education in Guardian Scholars, Promises2Kids has found success in its mentoring, 1:1 individualized support, and sibling connections.  
*Presented by: Angela Aceves, Rashida Elimu and Patricia King*

**F4 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 15**

**Growing FAAYT - Rising Youth Groups**
FAAYT (Foster and Adoptive Youth Together) is the Youth Group in Las Vegas, Nevada. Before August 2018, FAAYT struggled, but the group has gone from 1 youth to over 30 attending consistently. FAAYT applied for a City of Las Vegas YNAPP grant (for youth), and were awarded the grant to give back to the community. In April 2019, FAAYT put on their own "Arts in the Park" event. This has united officers and other FAAYT members and we are still growing! FAAYT will present what has made this all work!  
*Presented by: Ariel Racine, Carmen Martinez-Flores, Markesha Gordon and Violet Huetra*

---

**F5 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 11**

**Discovering Hope: Inside The Mind Of A Survivor**
Cole Ian will share her testimony as a survivor of child abuse, being trafficked out at 2 years old and how she developed Complex- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Dissociative Identity Disorder. Cole will share the effects of Childhood trauma. We will focused on the results of child abuse with details information on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), DID (Dissociative Identity Disorder), Depression, Self harming, and suicide.  
*Presented by: Cole-Ian Bacon*

**F6 (Mixed)**

**Location:  Salon 16**

**Foster Youth Informed and Involved: Improving Youth Participation in Case Planning**
What are the challenges to youth participation in their case plan? How can youth leaders, professionals, courts and caregivers support youth to participate and as they plan for life beyond foster care? Check out FosterClub’s recently redeveloped tool, the FYI Binder, which assists youth in keeping track of important documents, contacts, and resources. Concepts presented include youth participation in their case plan, self-advocacy, and navigation of the system. Participants will leave the workshop with a code to order a copy of the FYI Binder at a discounted price.  
*Presented by: FosterClub All-Stars*
F7 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 9
Intentional Choice
How can you change your day in one second? Make an intentional choice. It sounds so simple, but most of us go through our day in a “muscle memory” phase, just going through the same motions of yesterday. This course will challenge attendees to stop “going through the motions” and to start being intentional when making profession and personal- LIFE- choices each day. There will be discussion on how this can improve a person’s commitment to their work and their commitment to self-care for workers, caregivers, and youth.  
Presented by: Teresa Hess

F8 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 17
How To Start A FosterClub Community
Bring FosterClub’s magic to your organization! Learn what it takes to start and host a FosterClub Community. A FosterClub Community is a research-supported program which can be used as a start-up, or as an overlay to existing Independent Living Programs. It builds youth capacity using FosterClub’s SPARK Curriculum, an innovative Club Mentoring model, and Full-Circle Facilitation method. Learn how to give youth, ages 10 to 24, who have experienced foster care the same fun and interactive learning experiences the FosterClub All-Stars receive.  
Presented by: FosterClub All-Stars

F9 (Mixed)
Location: Salon 18
Mentoring Foster Youth
Shasta County has a mentor program that pairs former foster youth with current foster youth ages 10-15.5 years old. The mentors assist with tutoring, social skills, conflict resolution, life skills, etc. The collaboration has worked successfully, due to the mentors being able to relate to their mentees and offer advice or solutions to challenges they may be facing.  
Presented by: Valerie Hartley, Suzanne Jundt, Erica Andrade, Rosalyn Adqui and Michael Garcia

F10 (Mixed)
Location: Executive Ballroom
Effective Communication Skills for Romance, Work, and Other Relationships
The way we communicate determines how we present ourselves to the world. Whether we are with family, co-workers, instructors, or making your moves on that special person that doesn't know you exist, using good, clear, respectful communication will give you the edge you need. Come learn the different styles of communication and how you can find more success in your life. This workshop is interactive and fun for the participants.  
Presented by: Roxanne Thompson

Cap off your conference experience by joining us for this closing session.

Enjoy a delicious brunch while viewing a slide show of the week’s activities.

Bring your tickets for door prizes!

General Session by MelRo Potter

MelRo is a powerful force to be reckoned with. Her keen ability to move, inspire, and shift audiences from all walks of life has allowed her message to be delivered for over a decade, and carry on internationally. From high schools, women's prisons, foster-agencies, to corporate America, MelRo's message of hope, resilience, and rising from adversity, has left unforgettable impressions on all she's come across.

Thank you to Tim Decker for the original artwork used on the cover and shirts for Growing Pains 2019
EXHIBITORS / RESOURCES

Daniel Memorial Inc / Daniel Memorial Institute
www.danielkids.org
Jacksonville, FL

FosterClub
www.fosterclub.com
Seaside, OR

George E. Miller II
www.gemartstudio.com
Orange Park, FL

Keys to Independence
www.keystoindependencefl.com
Orlando, FL

Life Skills Reimagined
www.lifeskillsreimagined.com
Loveland, OH

Mark Crandall
www.markcrandall.net

National Resource Center for Youth Services
www.nrcys.ou.edu
Tulsa, OK

Sunshine Health Plan
www.sunshinehealth.com
Tampa, FL

Visit the exhibitors at each break and get your passport ‘stamped’ for a chance to win prizes every day!
Angela Aceves  
Junior Guardian Scholars Supervisor  
Promises2Kids  
San Diego, CA

Rosalyn Adqui  
Youth Mentee  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Angie Alberda  
Permanency Manager  
FamiliesFirst Network  
Pensacola, FL

Juli Alvarado  
Sr. Clinical Consultant  
Alvarado Consulting and Treatment Group  
Boulder, CO

Marina Anderson  
DCF Human Trafficking Coordinator  
Department of Children and Families  
Jacksonville, FL

Erica Andrade  
ILP Youth Mentor  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Willie Avery  
You Gotta Believe  
Brooklyn, NY

Cole-Ian Bacon  
Founder/Director  
DID Discovering Hope Ministry  
Tarpon Springs, FL

Shiesha Bell  
Housing Coordinator/Transition Age Therapist  
LIFE Skills Foundation  
Durham, NC

Bill Benson  
Alabama ILP Coordinator  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Montgomery, AL

Stephanie Bosson  
Independent Living Program Coordinator for TN Dept of Children's Services  
The Victory Lap  
Nashville, TN

Stacia Burlingame  
Aftercare Coordinator  
Montgomery County Job and Family Services  
Dayton, OH

Alphonza Bush, Jr.  
Certified Professional Life Coach  
Florida United Methodist Children's Home  
Enterprise, FL

Jamole Callahan  
Consultant  
Callahan Training and Consulting  
Westerville, OH

April Carthorn  
NSP Membership Manager & T/TA National Safe Place Network  
Louisville, KY

Linda Chamiec-Case  
Capacity Building Specialist  
SHIFT NC  
Durham, NC

Liz Clark  
Trauma Consultant  
Alvarado Consulting and Treatment Group  
Boulder, CO

Jenny Coleman  
Director  
Stop It Now!  
Northampton, MA

Terin Covington  
Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo)  
Raleigh, NC

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
Mark Crandall, LMSW, LCDC  
Speaker, Author, Recovery Specialist, & Coach  
3 Fold Wellness, LLC  
Round Rock, TX

Jeff Creel  
Program Administrator for School & Transition Services  
Methodist Children's Home  
Waco, TX

Kathi Crowe MSW, LICSW  
Executive Director  
Waterbury Youth Service System, Inc.  
Beacon Falls, CT

Monica DuPea  
Executive Director & Founder  
Nevada Youth Empowerment Project  
Reno, NV

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
George Duvall  
Motivational Speaker, Comedian, and Trainer  
Spokane, WA

Doris Edelmann  
Program Coordinator  
Montgomery County Job and Family Services  
Dayton, OH

Rashida Elimu  
Guardian Scholars Supervisor  
Promises2Kids  
San Diego, CA

Sue Evans  
COO  
Walden Family Services  
San Diego, CA

FosterClub All-Stars  
Seaside, OR

Mary Frame  
Director of Quality Assurance  
Walden Family Services  
San Diego, CA

Michael Garcia  
ILP Youth Mentor  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Markesha Gordon  
FAAYT Officer  
Department of Family Services/Foster and Adoptive Youth Together  
Las Vegas, NV

Mary Frame  
Director of Quality Assurance  
Walden Family Services  
San Diego, CA

Michael Garcia  
ILP Youth Mentor  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Markesha Gordon  
FAAYT Officer  
Department of Family Services/Foster and Adoptive Youth Together  
Las Vegas, NV

Brezan Gowie  
Advocate For Youth  
You Gotta Believe  
Brooklyn, NY

Marquita Green  
ReGroup4Change LLC  
Jacksonville, FL

Oliver Green  
ReGroup4Change LLC  
Jacksonville, FL

Valerie Hartley  
ILP Coordinator  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Teresa Hess  
Team Manager, Adoption and Young Adult Services  
Pensacola, FL

Tammy Hopper  
Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer  
National Safe Place Network  
Louisville, KY

Keith Hosea  
President/CEO  
Telios Training Solutions  
Redlands, CA

Violet Huerta  
FAAYT Officer  
Department of Family Services/Foster and Adoptive Youth Together  
Las Vegas, NV

Shaquin Ingram  
Youth Advocate  
Community Access Unlimited  
Elizabeth, NJ

M. Sebrena Jackson  
MSW Program Director/Assistant Professor  
University of Alabama School of Social Work  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Talicia Jackson  
Program Manager  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Suzanne Jundt  
ILP Caseworker  
Shasta County ILP/Youth and Family Program  
Redding, CA

Lucina Kayee  
Youth Leader & Alumni  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN
Stephanie M. Keahey  
Independent Living Consultant  
Children's Aid Society  
Birmingham, AL

Patricia King  
Director of Programs  
Promises2Kids  
San Diego, CA

Corina Kliewer  
Founder and Director  
Miriam's Hope  
Hastings, NE

Lukie Kliewer  
Founder and Director  
Miriam's Hope  
Hastings, NE

Mark Kroner, MSW, LSW  
National Trainer/Consultant  
Cincinnati, OH

Andrew Lemmie  
Youth Leadership Coordinator  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Raanee Lewis  
Independent Living Life Coach  
Necco  
Jonesboro, GA

Cidney Lindsay  
Youth Leader & Alumni  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Paula Lupton, LCSW  
Child Welfare Trainer  
Sunshine Health  
Maitland, FL

Jessica Lyons  
Independent Living Coordinator  
Montgomery County Job and Family Services  
Dayton, OH

Carmen Martinez-Flores  
FAYT Facilitator  
Department of Family Services/Foster and Adoptive Youth Together  
Las Vegas, NV

LeAnn McCoy  
SaySo Program Coordinator  
Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo)  
Raleigh, NC

Ed Morales  
Director  
Socorro Consulting  
Minneapolis, MN

Brandon Nahl  
Youth Leader & Alumni  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Laura Osbun  
Program Development Specialist  
National Resource Center for Youth Services  
Tulsa, OK

Rachel Paaschau, LSW  
Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange Coordinator  
Family Design Resources  
Harrisburg, PA

Dr. Steve Parese  
Founder  
TACT2 Training Institute  
Danbury, NC

Jennifer Perkins  
Direct Program Supervisor  
Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association  
Jefferson City, MO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
MelissaRoshan “MelRo” Potter  
Speaker, Foster Parent Trainer  
MelRo’s Voice LLC  
Pataskala, OH

Nicole Price  
Residential Program Manager  
Our Friends Place  
Dallas, TX

Alex Protzman  
Executive Director  
LIFE Skills Foundation  
Durham, NC

Brandi Purswell  
Education and Training Voucher Specialist  
BCFS Health and Human Services  
San Antonio, TX

Ariel Racine  
Independent Living Supervisor  
Department of Family Services/Foster and Adoptive Youth Together  
Las Vegas, NV

Rosemary Ramsey  
Director  
The Victory Lap  
Nashville, TN

Denise Rice, LCSW, LAC  
Therapist, Trainer  
HOPEful Healing Training and Consulting, LLC  
Colorado Springs, CO

Dr. Tracy Riley, Psychologist, LCSW  
Tracy Riley Counseling  
Jacksonville, FL

Tamara Robertson  
Capacity Building Specialist  
SHIFT NC  
Durham, NC

Jessica Rogers  
Executive Director  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Sandra Santiago-Conyers  
Consultant  
Daniel Memorial Institute  
Jacksonville, FL

Stephanie Savely  
Founder, President  
LYFT Learning  
Loveland, OH

DJ Schollmeyer  
Transitional Age Youth Program Coordinator  
Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association  
Jefferson City, MO

Korey Shewenew  
Volunteer Mentor for Transitional Youth Program  
Central Missouri Foster Care & Adoption Association  
Jefferson City, MO

Manijah Sherin  
Youth Advocate  
Community Access Unlimited  
Elizabeth, NJ

Elizabeth Smith Miller  
Director of Marketing and Events  
National Safe Place Network  
Louisville, KY

Terrance Stone  
CEO  
Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy  
San Bernardino, CA

Aaron Thomas  
Assistant Unit Director  
Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services - YSP Unit  
Pittsburgh, PA

Roxanne Thompson  
Psychotherapist/ Clinical Director  
Denver Therapy and Consultation Group/ Institute for Attachment  
Littleton, CO

John Mark Toomey  
Training Director  
Omnivisions  
Danbury, NC

Ebene Watkins Kimber  
Independent Living Program Director  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Montgomery, AL

Robbie Wheeet  
Program Supervisor  
National Resource Center for Youth Services  
Tulsa, OK

Lynne Whittington, MS, CCPP  
Director of Quality and Program Development  
FamiliesFirst Network  
Pensacola, FL

Howard F. Wingard  
Supported Housing Assistant Director & MAC ATTACK Co-Advisor  
Community Access Unlimited  
Elizabeth, NJ

DeShawn Woods  
Youth Leader & Alumni  
Connections to Independence  
Minneapolis, MN

Libby WoolVerton  
Non-Residential Program Director  
Our Friends Place  
Dallas, TX

Shalondra Young  
CEO of Young & Consultants, LLC and Empowerment Coach and Founder of Glow Girl Inc.  
Young and Consultants  
Atlanta, GA
Level One Meeting Space
CONFERENCE FACILITY

#GrowingPains2019

Level Two Meeting Space

Enhancing the quality of life of our nation’s youth and their families by improving the effectiveness of human services for more than 40 years.

We are your resource for:

☑ YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
☑ YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
☑ LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMMING
☑ TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

Visit our exhibit booth to learn more about NRCYS services and resources.

(800) 274-2687
NRCYS.OU.EDU
Make sure to visit the exhibitors at each break for a chance to win prizes!