

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## 27th Annual National Foster Care Conference “Footsteps to the Future”



May 4-6, 2022 ~ Jacksonville, Florida  
Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Foster Care and Adoption

# FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE

## Invitation from the President/CEO

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to the 27th Annual National Foster Care Conference hosted by the Daniel Memorial Institute in beautiful Jacksonville, Florida. Once again, we have gathered the most knowledgeable and compelling speakers and educators from around the country to make this a premier foster care event that is not to be missed.

Over the course of the conference, you will learn valuable information that will help you improve outcomes for children for your respective foster care programs or for your own individual foster homes. With an expected attendance of over 200 like-minded professionals, the networking opportunities to learn and grow from the expertise and experiences of others in the field will be priceless!

All conference workshops will address the critical issues that affect the children and families that we serve as well as provide solutions to assist them in becoming resilient, motivated members of their communities.

I hope you will join us in Jacksonville, FL, May 4-6, 2022, for "Footsteps to the Future."

*Lesley Wells*

## Conference Hotel Marriott Jacksonville Hotel

(Previously Jacksonville River City Downtown Hotel)

245 Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202  
904-791-4841

*Hotel charges are not included in conference registration fee.*  
All hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel. Attendees should reference "DMI22" when making reservations. Online reservations can also be made by visiting the conference web page.

\$104.00 per night (single or double) - Reservations must be made by Wednesday, April 11, 2022 in order to guarantee the discounted group rate. After that date, guest rooms will be released back to the hotel and accepted on a space available basis only.

Discounted valet parking available for \$17.00 per day. *Note there are several city lots nearby for self park options.*



## Pre-Conference Institute

### Wednesday - May 4

**9:00am - 3:00pm**  
**Registration/Info Booth Open**  
**(Refreshments Provided)**  
Location: Prefunction area

**10:00am**  
**Pre-Conference Begins**  
Location: Pensacola Room

**Noon - 1:00pm**  
**Lunch (on your own)**

**3:00pm**  
**Pre-Conference concludes**

### Supporting Children With Oppositional Behaviors

Are you a parent or professional who helps children who have oppositional behaviors? Is mainstream behavior management not working well? Trauma, anxiety, and chemical imbalances can all factor into this complex issue. Mainstream behavior management strategies may not be effective for those with oppositional behavior patterns. During this presentation, you will learn strategies to assist with preventing meltdowns and aid in de-escalation of big emotions. You will also learn ways to prevent miscommunications, how to foster a diverse and inclusive environment, and how to encourage participation in self-advocacy and problem-solving.

*Presented by: Melissa Packwood, Eustis, FL*

**Travel tip:**  
Please bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort. Room temperatures vary greatly.



# PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Foster Care Conference

**Thursday - May 5**

**8:00am - 3:30pm  
Information Booth Open**

(Light breakfast and coffee service provided)

**Location: Prefunction Area**

**9:00am - 10:15am  
Opening General Session**

**Location: Duval Ballroom**

Keynote Speaker:

**Paul T. Peavy**  
Tallahassee Florida

### **Pump...Yourself Up**

Paul Peavy is a Licensed Psychotherapist, Professional Speaker and Storyteller. He is also a former Stand-Up Comic which of course makes him...wait for it... America's favorite Stand-Up Therapist. His work ranges from being the Mental Health Coordinator for the Taylor County School system to providing mental health counseling to FSU athletes. He has also provided counseling to abused and neglected children and their families for The Department Of Children And Families. For over 20 years he has produced assessments when children have been sheltered so he has actually been inside foster and group homes talking with foster parents and foster children. He has written for several magazines and websites and has appeared on many television and radio shows. His energy and enthusiasm have put him on Team Naya Drinking Water's "Thirst for Life Team". He was in the top twenty of ESPN's "You Make the Call" contest and he was featured in DisneyWorld's 25th Anniversary Video. He loves giving creative and interactive presentations helping people because he wants to Pump... You UP!



**10:30am - 12:00pm  
Workshop Sessions A**  
(Concurrent Sessions)

**A-1 Accelerating Mental Toughness for Distressed Kids (To be repeated in B-1 session)**

**Location:**

Mental toughness is the ability to stick to something when the going gets tough. Kids from distressed environments do not normally have the foundation to build on for mental toughness that can greatly impact their self-esteem and confidence in a positive way. Adults who care for these children along with the children itself can learn how to rewire their brain to think differently and focus only on what they control in the moment while letting go of everything else. They will learn to be interdependent versus codependent. *Presented by: Christopher Salem, CEO - Empowered Fathers in Action, Inc, Danbury, CT*

**A-2 Speak-Laugh-Love: Creative Engagement**

**Location:**

Speak-Laugh-Love: Creative Engagement. This Is an highly interactive & highly engaging creative confidence presentation that combines performance arts and public speaking in a way that encourages creative resiliency. This the perfect session to help participants release, engage and support each other in a safe & supportive space. This workshop illuminates the importance of self awareness in challenging times and fosters a connection to cultural & social similarities. It's a powerful 60-75 minute session. All materials provided. This is the perfect workshop to help re-energize & re-focus after a heavy session. *Presented by: Michael Guinn, Creative Engagement Specialist - Uplift Your Life, Irving, TX*

**A-3 Culture is Home! (To be repeated in B-3 session)**

**Location:**

How can YOU be the bridge to a youth's cultural identity while they are in foster care? In this workshop, youth leaders with lived experience from YMCA's Youth Leadership Council in Minneapolis, MN will be facilitating and highlighting the importance of providing youth in care the resources and accessibility to their culture. Participants will engage in discussion, reflection, and hands-on activities that will offer them tools to become the bridge to bring culture home. To be continued in workshop B-3.

*Presented by: Youth Advocates from the Youth Leadership Council - YMCA of the North, Minneapolis, MN*

**A-4 Understanding the Sequential Development of Attachment (Part 1 of 2)**

**Location:**

The human brain does not guarantee that we will automatically connect and attach with others. The structure of the brain itself is not enough to develop attachment. Rather, for the new being to develop attachment skills and competency, the brain requires experiences that are patterned, predictable, repetitive, consistent, and nurturing from an adult to produce connection and attachment characteristics. The timing, sequence, dosing and spacing of these attachment experiences are just as critical as the experiences themselves. Learn the sequential development of attachment! To be continued in workshop B-4. *Presented by: Connie Pierre-Antoine, CEO, Founder - Genesis Family Enrichment Center, Inc, Gainesville, FL*



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**12:00pm - 1:00pm**

**Lunch (Provided)**

**Location: Duval Ballroom**

Enjoy this time to relax, network with other attendees and share your ideas and successes with your colleagues.

**1:00pm - 2:30pm**  
**Workshop Sessions B**

**(Concurrent Sessions)**

## **B-1 Accelerating Mental Toughness for Distressed Kids (Repeat of A1 session)**

**Location:**

Mental toughness is the ability to stick to something when the going gets tough. Kids from distressed environments do not normally have the foundation to build on for mental toughness that can greatly impact their self-esteem and confidence in a positive way. Adults who care for these children along with the children itself can learn how to rewire their brain to think differently and focus only on what they control in the moment while letting go of everything else. They will learn to be interdependent versus codependent.

*Presented by: Christopher Salem, CEO - Empowered Fathers in Action, Inc, Danbury, CT*

## **B-2 Take The Fear Out Of Team Building / Mission Transition**

What is the first thing you think of when you hear (or read) “team building”? Why does team building, whether you spell it as one word or two, have such a negative connotation to so many? For those who are naturally active and/or outgoing, team building is often welcomed with open arms; however, for those who are introverted, and/or less athletically inclined, it’s often a cause of hesitation, fear, and anxiety. Team building is more than zip lining, trust falls, and slide show presentations. Are you still feeling

skeptical? It’s time you participated in this interactive (yes, attendees will partake in some simple, yet engaging activities), informative and engaging presentation.

*Presented by: Matt May, Producer & Facilitator - Premier Team Building & Interactive Experiences, Tampa, FL*

## **B-3 Culture is Home! (Repeat of A-3 session)**

**Location:**

How can YOU be the bridge to a youth’s cultural identity while they are in foster care? In this workshop, youth leaders with lived experience from YMCA’s Youth Leadership Council in Minneapolis, MN will be facilitating and highlighting the importance of providing youth in care the resources and accessibility to their culture. Participants will engage in discussion, reflection, and hands-on activities that will offer them tools to become the bridge to bring culture home. To be continued in workshop B-3.

*Presented by: Youth Advocates from the Youth Leadership Council - YMCA of the North, Minneapolis, MN*

## **B-4 Understanding the Sequential Development of Attachment (Part 2 of 2)**

**Location:**

Continuation of workshop A-4.

*Presented by: Connie Pierre-Antoine, CEO, Founder - Genesis Family Enrichment Center, Inc, Gainesville, FL*

## **Enjoy your free time this afternoon!**

Jacksonville is the ideal Florida destination to explore the outdoors, enjoy active eco-adventures and be surrounded by nature!

Come experience a different side of Florida, combining both relaxation and family adventures. Enjoy our 22 miles of beaches, extensive park system, world-class fishing, historic neighborhoods, eclectic museums, vibrant street arts scene, creative coastal cuisine, delicious craft beer and so much more!



# PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Friday - May 6

### 8:00am - 3:30pm Information Booth Open

(Light breakfast and coffee service Provided)

Location: Prefunction Area

### 9:00am - 10:30am Workshop Sessions C (Concurrent Sessions)

#### C-1 Mentoring the Whole Student: A Multifaceted Approach to Mentoring

**Location:**

Promises2Kids has supported current and former foster youth in San Diego County for 40 years. Promises2Kids has always worked to create meaningful relationships for foster youth that will connect them to the larger community during and after their time in care. Using a multilayered approach, Promises2Kids has opened youth to community through mentorship at the peer, community, and professional levels. This strategic and simultaneous approach allows youth to engage with their community and create relationships that last far beyond the space of care.

*Presented by: Rashida Elimu, Program Manager - Promises2Kids, San Diego, CA*

#### C-2 Time Management/Personal Care for YOU!!! (To be repeated in D-3 session)

**Location:**

This workshop will teach each parent how to assess their lives and create a new life track so that they can be more on target with their parenting, their work track, home track and "still have time to personal enrichment and all the little things that makes us happy". Parents will learn how to recognize happiness and capture more of it in their daily living as well as to accomplish their daily goals. This

workshop will include stress management, time management, tai chi and laughter!

*Presented by: Shamele Jenkins, Executive Director & Immediate Past President - Miami Dade County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association - Miami Gardens, FL*

#### C-3 Practical Strategies for Supporting Youth Mental Health & Resilience

**Location:**

How do you help students bounce back from what they have been through? From trauma, isolation, and poverty, to mental health challenges, our students have faced many obstacles over the last two years. Come see a formula to help you guide students through the challenges that destroy motivation and make it difficult to find success.

*Presented by: Christian Moore, Founder - WhyTry, Provo, UT*

#### C-4 How the Narrative of Foster Care is Damaging

**Location:**

Would you agree we all love a good story? We root for the hero to win and cheer when the villain falls. But what happens when story isn't all good? There's a narrative in foster care that many cling to. Foster parents are the heroes and Biological families are the villain. And like most good stories, we don't even see how this narrative is woven into our everyday lives. This workshop will address this narrative head on. I'll share why this narrative is damaging to kids, foster parents and biological families.

*Presented by: Erin Bouchard, Owner - Trauma Informed Parenting, Arkona, Ontario*

### 10:45pm - 12:15pm Workshop Sessions D (Concurrent Sessions)

#### D-1 Creating Systemic Change for Foster Youth Through a DEI Lens

**Location:**

Promises2Kids has stayed on the forefront of all major issues that have plagued foster care in San Diego. Promises2Kids believes we must challenge the conscious and unconscious biases that have disproportionately impacted foster youth, further driving systemic racism across care. We are committed to creating systemic change by championing diversity, equity, and inclusion. With an intentional and strategic approach to DEI efforts including the recruitment of diverse board members and staff, educating volunteers, and promoting diverse leadership, everyone in our organization is committed to driving and sustaining change for youth.

*Presented by: Rashida Elimu, Program Manager - Promises2Kids, San Diego, CA*

#### D-2 "It takes a Village": Supporting Foster Youths' Relational Permanency Goals

**Location:**

This workshop will address the theory and processes involved with Relational Permanency, "the sense of belonging that comes through enduring, life-long connections to parents, extended family, kin and other caring adults". Relational Permanency is an important component of case management that is crucial for youth as they transition out of foster care and beyond. Discussion and activities will center on how to assist youth in identifying and sustaining healthy and safe relationships needed throughout all life stages and how to overcome potential barriers during the relational permanency process.

*Presented by: Tamara Herman, Family Finding and Engagement Coordinator - Missouri Alliance for Children and Families, Jefferson City, MO*



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## D-3 Time Management/Personal Care for YOU!!! (Repeat of C-2 session)

### Location:

This workshop will teach each parent how to assess their lives and create a new life track so that they can be more on target with their parenting, their work track, home track and "still have time to personal enrichment and all the little things that makes us happy". Parents will learn how to recognize happiness and capture more of it in their daily living as well as to accomplish their daily goals. This workshop will include stress management, time management, tai chi and laughter!  
*Presented by: Shamele Jenkins, Executive Director & Immediate Past President - Miami Dade County Foster & Adoptive Parent Association - Miami Gardens, FL*

## D-4 Steps to Reforming Foster Fare Permanently

### Location:

Cheryl Williams is not only the founder of a Texas 501c3 that gives educational toys to foster kids, she is also Queen Lonestar Ambassador 2022, and she was a foster kid herself. She has real lived experience going through the system. She has made a documentary titled, "The hearts that foster care." Now she is spreading the word to what it will take to make foster care a better place for generations to come.  
*Presented by: Cheryl Williams, San Antonio, TX*

**12:15pm - 1:00pm**

**Lunch (Provided)**

**Location: Duval Ballroom**

**1:00pm - 2:30pm**

**Closing Session**

Two trash bags and five minutes to pack them . . . that's the standard for what a child receives when he or she is being taken out of his or her home and placed in foster care. Foster Family: Mission Transition is your opportunity to change that. This socially responsible experience benefits children of all ages. Participants are tasked with a variety of mental and physical challenges, fit for children, in order to earn duffel bags, fleece, and toiletry supplies, which they then lovingly fashion into a "kit" which will be given to a child being removed from an unsafe home environment. Of course, we include some good old-fashioned competition, as teams attempt to outscore their opponents, in a heartwarming battle for the gold!

As teams break off to their workstations, they collectively compete against each other by completing a variety of mental and creative activities, in order to earn the supplies to include in their duffel bags. Each team will create several "foster kits" consisting of a knot



blanket, a toiletry kit, and a duffel bag, as well as a homemade card for the recipient. Individual pride, as well as team spirit, fills the room, as well as the hearts of all involved. We believe that no team challenge is complete without some sort of live publicity presentation highlighting the team's hard work, spirit, and collaboration. Your participants create and perform this presentation for their colleagues, often resulting in great laughs and thunderous applause for all. At the conclusion of this program, your participants will, without a doubt, feel a sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing they have helped children in need.

*Presented by: Matt May, Producer & Facilitator - Premier Team Building & Interactive Experiences, Tampa, FL*

**2:30pm**  
**Wrap up, evaluations, CEU's**



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# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

DANIEL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE ~ MAY 4-6, 2022 ~ JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Please complete this form for each participant. Photo copy this page as needed.

**Name:** (as it will appear on name badge) \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees: (check selection)

To be eligible for the early registration rate, your registration and payment MUST be received by April 4, 2022.

Early Rates: Registered on or before April 4, 2022

- \$115 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 4  
 \$215 - Foster Care Conference: May 5-6

### Register for both and save!

- \$300 - Pre-Conference &  
Foster Care Conference: May 4-6

Late Rates: Registered on or after April 5, 2022

- \$160 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 4  
 \$265 - Foster Care Conference: May 5-6

### Register for both and save!

- \$395 - Pre-Conference &  
Foster Care Conference: May 4-6

- \$165 Discounted Presenter Registration Rate.** Will you attend the pre-conference?

- {one} Primary Presenter Registration (waived)**

Will you attend the pre-conference?

**Total Amount Due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options: (check one)

- Check Enclosed** Ck # \_\_\_\_\_  
Make payable to Daniel Memorial, Inc. / Federal ID# 59-3067752
- Credit Card** (American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Discover)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Transfer/Cancellation policy:** Transfer of registration to another person may be done at any time without a fee. Please notify the Conference Coordinator of all changes. All requests for cancellation must be received **in writing** by the following dates to receive a refund. A full refund (less a \$50 processing fee) is available through March 28, 2022. A 50 percent refund (less a \$50 processing fee) is available through April 11, 2022. No refunds thereafter. *Please note if you do not cancel or attend the conference you are still responsible for payment.*

## Workshop Preferences (optional):

Please indicate your first choice workshop selection for each session. **Providing selections assists in room assignments only and does not guarantee seating.** Popular workshops may be crowded, so please arrive early. Thank you. Daniel Memorial Institute reserves the right to cancel any workshop at any time.

Thursday: Session A \_\_\_\_\_ Session B \_\_\_\_\_

Friday: Session C \_\_\_\_\_ Session D \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know below if you have any special needs (dietary, seating, wheelchair, etc.) prior to the conference start. *Special dietary meal requirements must be arranged with the conference director at least 24 hours prior to the meal function:*

How did you hear about this conference? Check all that apply

- Email marketing  Social Media posts  
 Brochure via mail  Save the date postcard  
 Daniel Memorial Institute website  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Submit form or direct questions to:

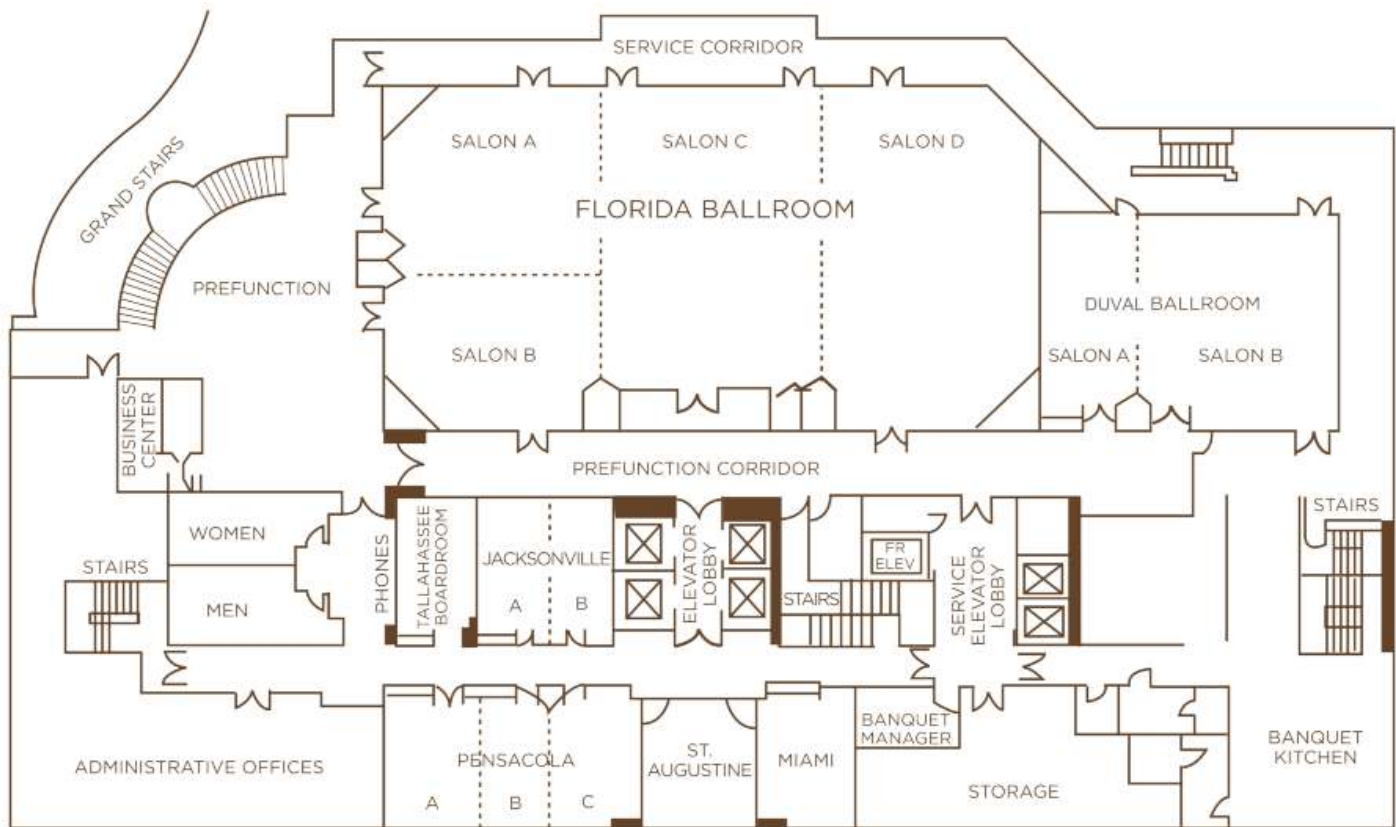
Email/Scan: [conferences@danielkids.org](mailto:conferences@danielkids.org)

-or-

Stephanie Waugerman, Associate Director of Conferences  
4203 Southpoint Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Phone: (800) 226-7612 ~ Fax: (904) 353-3472

Easy online registration available at [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org)

# FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE



## conferencepartners

*Exhibitors scheduled to date:*

### Florida's Adoption Information Center

Jacksonville, FL  
adoptflorida.org

### Daniel Memorial, Inc and Daniel Memorial Institute

Jacksonville, FL  
danielkids.org

### Child Welfare Information Gateway

Fairfax, VA  
childwelfare.gov

### Keys to Independence

Orlando, FL  
keystoindependencefl.com

### Selfless Love Foundation - One Voice IMPAACT

Jupiter, FL  
selflesslovefoundation.org

### National Safe Place Network

Louisville, KY  
nspnetwork.org | nationalsafeplace.org

## conference sponsors

### Sunshine Health

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