

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

29th Annual National Foster Care Conference “Footsteps to the Future”



DANIEL MEMORIAL



INSTITUTE

May 22-24, 2024 ~ Orlando, Florida
Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Foster Care & Adoption

FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE

Welcome from the President/CEO

Dear Colleagues,

Join us at the 29th Annual National Foster Care Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida, brought to you by the esteemed Daniel Memorial Institute. This is not just a gathering, but a treasure trove of knowledge sharing by top speakers and educators from across the nation. Imagine gaining invaluable insights that could revolutionize the way you operate your foster programs or manage individual foster homes.

We will be confronting the pressing issues that affect the children and families in our care, offering practical, innovative solutions that empower them to be robust, contributing community members. Don't miss this chance to be a part of shaping the future of foster care.

We are pleased that you have joined us in Orlando, FL, for "Footsteps to the Future."

Lesley Wells



Conference Hotel

Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort
Bonnet Creek

14651 Chelonia Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32821
407-390-2300

Discounted self parking available for \$12.00 per day to your room reservation.



Pre-Conference Institute

Wednesday - May 22

9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration/Info Booth Open
(Coffee Provided)

Location: Grand Foyer Prefunction Area

10:00am

Pre-Conference Begins

Location: Discovery

Noon - 1:00pm

Lunch (on your own)

3:00pm

Pre-Conference concludes

Effective Communication Across The Generations: Tools For Multigenerational Team Building

Location: Discovery

This informative, interactive, workshop identifies the different characteristics of each generation, highlighting their communication style preferences and the best way to effectively communicate with them. These tools are essential for team building across generations. Assets and opportunities for each generation will be discussed so that attendees will know how to build teams where players will be able to work with and learn from each other.

Presented by: Dolores King, CEO Master Trainer - King Professional Development and Consulting LLC, Jacksonville, FL

Travel tip:
Please bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort. Room temperatures vary greatly and typically run cold.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Foster Care Conference

Thursday - May 23

8:00am - 3:30pm

Information Booth Open

(Breakfast breads and coffee service provided)

Location: Grand Foyer Prefunction Area

9:00am - 10:15am

Opening General Session

Location: Ponce de Leon 3-7 (III-VII)

Keynote Speaker:

Michael Guinn, MS

Irving, TX



Engage The Stage

Michael Guinn, MS, has been nominated for several music awards and his album is currently being considered for a Grammy nomination. Michael is also working on a TedTalk and was recently a guest on NPR's WAIT WAIT DONT TELL ME! In addition, he will attend the 2024 NAACP Image Awards on March 16th in Los Angeles as a judge on the lit arts sub committee.

This general session is a highly interactive, award winning, performance arts workshop that teaches participants the art of creative self-expression and encourages each individual to reach deep inside to discover power and purpose. Led by internationally renowned performance poet and social service veteran Mr. Mike Guinn. A powerfully creative journey that is fun, safe and supportive. We will explore a fresh approach to emotional empowerment.

10:30am - 12:00pm
Workshop Sessions A

(Concurrent Sessions)

A-1 Managing Identity Theft Risks Within The Foster Youth Community

Location: Discovery

Identity theft is a growing concern globally; however, foster youth face unique challenges that make them particularly vulnerable to this crime. This conference workshop aims to raise



awareness about identity theft in the foster youth community and bring together various stakeholders involved in supporting foster youth, including professionals working with foster care systems and foster youth themselves.

Presented by: Mona Terry, Chief Victims Officer - Identity Theft Resource Center, El Cajon, CA

A-2 Connecting With Creative Conversations

Location: Voyage

Connecting With Creative Conversations offers a unique approach to fostering connections that bring together individuals passionate about having meaningful conversations. Whether you're a service provider, writer, or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of creative self-expression, this session is the perfect opportunity to engage with like-minded individuals for an unforgettable experience filled with instant inspiration and positive collaboration!

Presented by: Michael Guinn, Spoken word Artist, Author, Actor and Activist - Mike Guinn Ent, Irving, TX

A-3 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, And Belonging: Supporting LGBTQIA Youth In Care

(Part 1 of 2)

Location: Journey A

With all of the controversy surrounding "DEI" in Florida it is paramount for anyone working with youth to have the skills to support any child who may identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ population. This interactive workshop will provide the tools necessary to make sure the children and youth that are being served feel safe, secure, and supported, while they transition through the Florida Foster Care System.

Presented by: Dolores King, CEO Master Trainer - King Professional Development and Consulting LLC, Jacksonville, FL

A-4 How To Get Better Outcomes For Children With Special Needs: Transition Planning Starts Early!

Location: Journey B

Learn how to work with individual education plan teams to support students with disabilities in school to get the supports and services they need to have successful career and life outcomes after leaving school. We will dive into the world of transition planning for youth with special needs

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and learn how to successfully work with their transition IEP teams.

Presented by: April Katine, Advocate-Investigator - Disability Rights Florida. Tallahassee, FL

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch (Provided)

Location: Ponce de Leon 3-7 (III-VII)

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 Housing Former Foster Youth & Child Welfare Involved Families (Part 1 of 2)

Location: Discovery

Former foster youth and families in the process of adoption, reunification and prevention face barriers securing stable and adequate housing. Collaboration between child welfare, housing and other partners can reduce homelessness. Moreover, housing stability can prevent reentry into "the system". The presentation will showcase how collaboration amongst various entities can assist in preventing homelessness and demonstrate how agencies can access resources to develop housing and related services.

Presented by: Marlon Pena, Family Unification Program Coordinator, Jason Ruiz, HCVP Specialist, Alberto Gonzalez, Housing Navigator and Cristian Ocon, Housing Navigator - Citrus Family Network, Miami, FL

B-2 Hand2paw: A Work Preparedness Program For Transition Aged Youth

Location: Voyage

This presentation addresses challenges faced by youth from marginalized communities and explores the use of animal-assisted interventions for socioemotional skill development and career readiness. Hand2Paw's efforts in Philadelphia, such as paid internships for youth aging out of foster care, working with homeless animals, contribute to systemic change.

Presented by: Marie Wenzel, Executive Director - Hand2Paw, Philadelphia, PA

B-3 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, And Belonging: Supporting LGBTQIA Youth In Care

(Part 2 of 2)

Location: Journey A

Continuation of workshop A-3.

Presented by: Dolores King, CEO Master Trainer - King Professional Development and Consulting LLC, Jacksonville, FL

B-4 Mindfulness: A Gateway To Change

Location: Journey B

We will highlight the importance of mindfulness and skills that are used as "distraction" and coping strategies through different languages of music. Audience will get a chance to label emotions through song listening and also reflect. Audience will also learn new mindfulness activities to utilize in milieu settings and at home.

Presented by: Courtney Glover, Integrated Treatment Model Implementation Manager and Patrick Rawlins, Intergrated Treatment Model Behavioral Coordinator - The Children's Village, Dobbs Ferry, NY

2:45pm - 4:15pm
Workshop Sessions C
(Concurrent Sessions)

C-1 Housing Former Foster Youth & Child Welfare Involved Families (Part 2 of 2)

Location: Discovery

Continuation of workshop B-1.

Presented by: Marlon Pena, Family Unification Program Coordinator, Jason Ruiz, HCVP Specialist, Alberto Gonzalez, Housing Navigator and Cristian Ocon, Housing Navigator - Citrus Family Network, Miami, FL

C-2 Developing Relationships That Changes Lives

Location: Journey B

This workshop features a panel of speakers who were part of a public speaking team while incarcerated as youth but were released from the institution and are currently motivational speakers nationwide. The Messengers will share their experiences on how a relationship with one caring adult impacted their lives. They will also share insights and facilitate discussions about how to make impacts on issues in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

Presented by: Andy Broughton, Director, Gordan Brown, Messenger, Chris Thompson, Messenger and Quantavis Coe, Messenger - The Messengers, Columbia, SC

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

C-3 Understanding The Link Between Persons With Disabilities And Human Trafficking

Location: Voyage

During this training, we will discuss how people with disabilities are often targeted for sex and labor trafficking and exploited for financial gain. You will learn more about red flags of trafficking and next steps to take if you believe that someone you know may be trafficked or is being groomed for trafficking or exploitation. Educating the community to understand what human trafficking looks like on the local, state and national levels is a vital step to combating human trafficking in the US. *Presented by: Marina Anderson, Regional Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator - Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL*

C-4 Fostering Education

Location: Journey A

Exposure to trauma can disrupt a child's behavior, emotional wellbeing, health, and academic success. Schools play a vital role in establishing and maintaining healthy environments, so students feel safe to learn and grow. Discover ways to support trauma-exposed students through collaboration and innovation to promote 100% student success. Topics discussed will include Every Student Succeeds Act and best practices.

Presented by: Ruth Tipton, Child Welfare Liaison and Megan Stasak, School Counselor to Youth in Foster Care - Pinellas County Schools, Palm Harbor, FL



Friday - May 24

8:00am - 1:30pm

Information Booth Open

(Breakfast breads and coffee service provided)

Location: Ponce de Leon 3-7 (III-VII)

8:30am - 10:00am
Workshop Sessions D
(Concurrent Sessions)

D-1 ETV And College Resources For Students With Foster Care Experience

Location: Voyage

The Texas Education and Training Voucher (ETV) is a federal fund put in place to assist students coming from foster care with living expenses while attending post-secondary school. This workshop will outline ETV along with other post-secondary benefits and help attendees understand the unique challenges foster care alumni face when aging out of care and moving on to post-secondary education. *Presented by: Drew Melton, ETV Specialist - BCFS Health and Human Services, San Antonio, TX*

D-2 Why Do They Do That: Understanding The Impact Of Complex Trauma

Location: Journey A

Complex trauma survivors can exhibit a wide range of behaviors and symptoms which may be frightening (i.e. suicidality, aggression) and/or puzzling (i.e. desiring connection while appearing to sabotage existing relationships). Youth often do not know why this happens and without the ability to articulate their experience, adults struggle to know how to help. Using the Structural Dissociation Model, this workshop will address the "why" and provide insights for intervening effectively.

Presented by: Maegan Heller, Victim Services Coordinator/Clinician - FLITE Center, Orlando, FL

D-3 FASD & The Big 3: Raging, Lying & Stealing (Part 1 of 2)

Location: Discovery

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are one of the first forms of trauma children can experience & we are seeing high rates of it within child welfare. Some common symptoms in children who have an FASD and/or have experienced trauma, are lying, stealing, and raging. We will discuss the neuro-behavioral aspects of why these behaviors are

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common and talk about concrete relational-based strategies that can help get a handle on these frustrating behaviors.

Presented by: Barb Clark, Director of Training - Families Rising (NACAC), Homosassa, FL

D-4 Connecting The Dots Between Substance Abuse And Human Trafficking

Location: JourneyB

Substance use is one of the most influential techniques that human traffickers use to coerce, manipulate, and exploit their victims. Substances is commonly used to prey on the persons vulnerabilities that leads to the recruitment of labor and sex trafficking. The trafficker may recruit people by luring them with drugs and alcohol. The traffickers may target individuals with existing substance abuse issues to recruit into a trafficking situation.

Presented by: Marina Anderson, Regional Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator - Florida Department of Children and Families, Tallahassee, FL

10:15am - 11:45am Workshop Sessions E (Concurrent Sessions)

E-1 Empowering Through Inclusive Small Groups: Tailoring Support For Diverse Foster Youth

Location: Journey A

Discover the transformative power of small groups within the Empower Program, designed to provide targeted support for foster youth aged 14 to 24. This workshop delves into the creation of specialized small groups, such as the Connections Club for those with intellectual disabilities. Explore how organizations can elevate their services by implementing tailored small groups, fostering deeper connections and addressing the unique needs of diverse clients.

Presented by: Keely Popkin, Empower Program Manager; Andrew Speers, Senior Coordinator; Daniela Santos, Senior Advocate and Joseph Burnett, Advocate - Foundation for Foster Children, Winter Park, FL

E-2 Finding Yourself In The Environment Of Caring For Others

Location: Journey B

Finding the courage and curiosity to become the most authentic version of you. Through clarity, boundaries and inner healing we will begin to live in the clearest version of ourselves. After 13 years as a

foster parent, and losing myself in the pursuit of caring for others, I share with you insights to reclaiming clarity, life and joy! I not only rediscovered myself but also uncovered my soul's calling to continue caring for others. Join me as we walk together through this and begin to find some clarity in your pursuit of caring for others.

Presented by: Corree Roofener, Trout Creek, MT

E-3 FASD & The Big 3: Raging, Lying & Stealing (Part 2 of 2)

Location: Discovery

Continuation of workshop D-3.

Presented by: Barb Clark, Director of Training - Families Rising (NACAC), Homosassa, FL

E-4 Creating A System Of Felt Safety

Location: Voyage

Adults often find themselves at a loss when working with children and families from hard places who have been impacted by prenatal trauma of FASD and postnatal traumatic events. TBRI has empirical research defining success. The Behavior Dysregulation Program outlines the specific steps needed to utilize TBRI and practical skill sets important for success. This presentation give tools for understanding and practical steps to implement.

Presented by: S. Chris Troutt, CEO - Papillion Center for FASD, Gallatin, TN

**11:15pm - 1:00pm
Lunch (Provided)**

Closing Session/Evaluations/CEU's

Thriving Through Connection: Enhancing Foster Youth Resilience With Strength Based Communication

Location: Ponce de Leon 3-7 (III-VII)

This presentation will dive into the transformative power of connection and communication in fostering resilience among youth in the foster care system.

By embracing a strengths-based approach to communication, we empower foster youth to thrive despite adversity. Participants will gain practical strategies for building meaningful connections, identifying and nurturing individual strengths, and fostering a supportive environment that promotes resilience and well-being.

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



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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

Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Florida

Orlando, FL

devereux.org

Foster Parent Professionals

Key West, FL

fosterparentp.com

Keys to Independence

Orlando, FL

keystoindependencefl.com

Take-One-Table Item

University of Florida / Florida Youth Experiences Study

Gainesville, FL

ufl.edu

conferencesponsors

Sunshine Health

Tampa, FL

sunshinehealth.com



Meeting Space Map

