

2023 CONFERENCE IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL OPTIONS



TOGETHER WE CAN!

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2023
CAJUNDOME, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA



REGISTER NOW

Registration Info

The two-day conference for professionals and volunteers who are working together to make a difference for abused and neglected children. We strive to be a multi-disciplinary event with sessions that will address the educational needs of social workers, attorneys, judges, educational leaders, CASA staff and volunteers, Child Advocacy Center staff, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT), law enforcement, foster parents, counselors, faith-based leaders and more!

Conference Host Organizations:

- [Louisiana CASA Association](#) - Louisiana CASA is an association of CASA organizations across Louisiana and offers training and support for CASA volunteers.
- [Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy](#) - providing educational opportunities for DCFS staff, university students and foster parents.
- [Louisiana Children's Trust Fund](#) - a prevention focused organization dedicated to educating people about child abuse and neglect.
- [Louisiana's Department of Child and Family Services - Children's Justice Act](#) - has many programs that impact children and families.
- [Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association](#) - an association of education and support for foster youth caregivers.
- [Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program](#) focuses on issues that will positively impact the Child In Need of Care, FINS, CASA and other child and family issues that are court related.
- [NASW-Louisiana Chapter](#) is an active leader in social work training and a supporting organization for TWC.
- [Pelican Center for Children & Families](#) focuses on providing educational opportunities for professionals and volunteers in the child welfare fields and coordinates the Court Improvement Program in collaboration with the LA Supreme Court.

REGISTRATION FEES: Onsite \$225 or Virtual \$125 (no choice of sessions)

Registration, Awards & Scholarship Links

Together We Can Registration:

REGISTER NOW

<http://bit.ly/TWCReg2023>



REGISTER NOW

Wednesday, Nov 8

8:30-10 AM

Opening Keynote

10:15-11:45 AM

Workshops

12:00-1 PM

Lunch & Keynote 2

1:15-2:15 PM

Workshops

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Workshops

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Keynote 3

6:00-8:00 PM

Reception at
Vermilionville

Thursday, Nov 9

8:30 - 9:30 AM

Keynote 4

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Workshops

11 AM - 12 PM

Workshops

12:00 - 1:15 PM

Lunch & Keynote 5

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Workshops

2:45 - 3:45 PM

Keynote 6 and Door
Prizes

Quick Info

Exhibits and Handouts

Exhibitor information and presenter handouts can be downloaded directly using our conference event app on Whoova (Don't worry, we'll talk about it more on the next page); but just in case apps aren't your PB&J, handouts will also be available on the TWC website from November 1 - December 15. Just remember that some speakers don't use handouts.

CLE/CEU Credits

You'll verify your attendance and credit hours each day using the Conference Evaluation Survey distributed on the Whoova app and posted to the LATWC.org website. Certificates will be sent out within 30 days after the conference via email, PLUS all CLE hours will be entered online for legal attendees within 30 days. All specialty credits will be identified as such in the WHOVA app.

Session Selections

This year we are going to join the ranks of national conferences and not have attendees pre-select sessions. You will simply go to a session and find a chair. If there are no chairs available, you must go to a different session. Those attending online will be viewing a limited schedule. We will be rotating the topic tracks to provide a wide range of info.

Hotels/Lodging

We have arranged for courtesy room blocks for conference attendees at many hotels in Lafayette. The list of those hotels is on our website: www.latwc.org. Most hotels will also meet state rates if you are a government employee with the proper paperwork.



Conference Interest Tracks



Foster Parent / Kinship Care



Social Work



Everyone



Legal



CASA



Registration: https://whova.com/portal/registration/twcc_202311/

REGISTER NOW



Credit Applications Pending - SW CEU & CLE

Virtual: Up to 8.5 hours available

Onsite: Up to 11 hours available

Keynote Sessions



ABA Resolution 606 and the Origin Story of Racism in Child Welfare Law

Prudence Beidler Carr, JD is the Director of the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law.



Understanding the Trauma of Poverty

Elizabeth Power, M.Ed., Founder of The Trauma Informed Academy and Adjunct Instructor in Psychiatry at Georgetown Medical Center.



Operating in a NOW Norm - the Post-Pandemic Environment

James Brown, Jr. is a speaker, emcee, voice-over talent, and presentation coach for youth and adults; I guess you could say he's a man who wears many hats. He is the CEO of the Xchange Zone.

Succeeding at Life After Foster Care



Judge Ernestine Gray (Ret.)



Pastor Elijah Evans



Timothy Lee



Terrica Lynn Smith



Jarvis Spearman, LMSW



Creative Collaboration: Working with What You've Got

LaDonna Wattley is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 25 years of experience.



No More Flinching: Someone Step In...

Award Winning, Author, Speaker, and Trainer, Carlotta Taylor transcended from a victim in foster care, to a survivor, advocate, and sounding board for the foster care system.

Workshop Breakouts

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Greetings from TWC Steering Committee and Special Guests

Opening Keynote: ABA Resolution 606 and the Origin Story of Racism in Child Welfare Law - Prudence Beidler Carr, JD

This presentation focuses on ABA Resolution 606, which passed before the ABA House of Delegates in August 2022, to become policy of the Association. Resolution 606 calls for all legal professionals to learn about Anti-Black systemic racism within the child welfare system, stemming from the history of slavery in the United States and perpetuated by over-surveillance of and under investment in Black families in America, which is pervasive, ongoing, and a root cause of the disproportionate involvement of Black parents and children within the system. The presentation will explain why the ABA focused on examining the historical roots of racism within child welfare as a part of a legal community response to those issues.

10:15 to 11:45 am Breakouts - Series 100

101 - Connecting the Dots - Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD

A session that tracks the progression of a CINC Case and provide insight about who are the stakeholders and their role within the case. DCFS/ Attorneys for Children, Parent(s), State, DCFS / Judge / CASA / Community Partners/ Etc. (Inspired by what appears to be a lack of insight by stakeholders about other stakeholders, their roles, and general process.

102 - ICWA and the Impact of the 2023 Supreme Court Decision - Mariah Meyerholz

This workshop will discuss the basic tenets of the Indian Child Welfare Act, it's history and practice issues involved. Participants will also learn how the 2023 Brackeen v. Haaland Supreme Court decision impacted the practice and future of the law.

103 - Developing Your Toolkit: Recognizing & Addressing Grief to Promote Resiliency - Jarvis Spearman, LMSW

How do we support children and families after trauma and loss? This workshop will provide an overview of trauma and grief, explore the myths and facts of grief, address the unique needs of clinical interventions for caregivers and professionals to support grieving children in the aftermath of a traumatic event and provide strategies to promote resilience.

104 - Understanding Post-Secondary Trauma and the Impact on Child Welfare Professionals - Patsy Wilkerson, MA and Sharon Worthy, LCSW-BACS

This session is designed to address the pressing issue of postsecondary trauma among child welfare professionals who work with youth experiencing child welfare services. Postsecondary trauma refers to the emotional and psychological challenges experienced by these professionals as they navigate the unique complexities of supporting vulnerable youth in their care. Participants will explore the causes, signs, and consequences of postsecondary trauma in the child welfare context, and they will learn practical strategies to prevent and address it while fostering their own well-being and resilience.



Workshop Breakouts

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

105 - Specialty Courts and Defined Roles in Louisiana Child Welfare: Enhancing Collaborative Practices - Rebecca May Ricks, JD

This session explores the integral role of specialty courts within the Louisiana child welfare system and how defined roles contribute to effective collaboration. Participants will gain insights into the specialized functions of these courts, the roles of various stakeholders, and their collaborative impact on child welfare cases. Attendees will learn how defined roles and specialty courts improve outcomes for children and families in the system.

106 - Navigating the Louisiana Coordinated System of Care and utilization of the Center for Evidence to Practice - Karen Stubbs, JD

This session is designed to provide an explanation of the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Care (CSOC) and the partnership with LSU's Center for Evidence to Practice. Participants will gain an understanding of the CSOC program, its structure, functions, and its role in improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in Louisiana.

107 - Disability Rights In Child Welfare - Richard Pittman, JD and Brittany Yoes

The fields of child welfare and disability rights law overlap to a degree that many people involved in the system do not fully realize. When a parent or a child has a known or suspected disability, the duties of the child welfare agency and the courts towards that person must comply with federal civil rights legislation. This session will summarize major federal legislation protecting people with disabilities, explain how it applies in the child welfare system, and provide concrete examples of cases where all agencies interacting with a family must be aware of their rights and act accordingly.

108 - Supporting Teen Parents: Understanding DCFS Involvement and Empowering Positive Outcomes - Samantha Morrison and Tiffany Carroll

Participants will gain an understanding of the challenges faced by teen parents and how DCFS may become involved. Through examples, discussions, and practical insights, attendees will learn how to provide effective support to teen parents, strengthen family dynamics, and promote positive outcomes for both parents and their children within the context of DCFS involvement.

109 - Understanding Autism: Identifying Signs, Accessing Services - Scott Meche, PsyD

This informative session aims to provide participants with an increased understanding of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), focusing on recognizing early signs and symptoms in individuals of all ages and facilitating access to appropriate services and support. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the diverse presentations of autism, the importance of early intervention, and the resources available for individuals and families.

110- The Impact of Youth Engagement: Empowering Youth Voices for Positive Outcomes - Josephine Vanderhorst, JD

In the child welfare system, the voices and perspectives of young individuals are of paramount importance. This presentation will delve into the critical topic of youth engagement in child welfare cases, shedding light on the methods, benefits, and challenges of involving young people in decision-making processes.



Workshop Breakouts

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

12pm to 1pm - Lunch and Keynote 2

Understanding the Trauma of Poverty - Elizabeth Power, MEd

The financial hardship for people living with poverty causes stress, anxiety, isolation, shame and stigma. The long-term effects of poverty impact people's health and wellbeing which leads to limits on the ability to live fulfilling lives and a range of lifelong negative consequences.

1:15 to 2:15 pm Breakouts - Series 200



Legal
Ethics
& Prof.

201/301 - Collaboration In The Court System: It's Possibilities and It's Ethical Limits - Richard Pittman, JD, CWLS and Josephine Vanderhorst, JD, CWLS

A child's attorney and parent's attorney will talk about what collaboration means to them, the ethical bounds of collaboration for attorneys representing a client, and the distinctions between appropriate, healthy collaboration and inappropriate collaboration.

202 - Navigating Guardianship and Custody in CINC Cases: Best Practices and Legal Insights - Emily Aucoin and Rella Zapletal

This session is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex legal aspects surrounding guardianship and custody within Child in Need of Care (CINC) cases. Participants will explore the intricacies of legal processes, responsibilities, and decision-making related to guardianship and custody arrangements in the context of CINC cases.

203 - Louisiana ACE Educator Program and Parent Talk: Parents Can Prevent ACEs - Sheri Eastridge

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study demonstrated the connection between childhood adversity and health and well-being throughout the lifespan. Increased childhood adversity is associated with an increase in the risk of adverse outcomes in physical health, mental health, and social problems. Parents have the greatest power to prevent childhood adversity, and they deserve to know more about this important driver of public health.

204 - Addressing the Impact of the Trauma of Poverty on Children & Families - Elizabeth Power, MEd

While the keynote detailed the issues that the trauma of poverty can cause in health, learning and earning, this workshop helps participants develop practical, transferable skills that help counter that impact.



205 - Adolescent Substance Misuse: Why We Should Pay Attention - Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW

Attend this session to learn more about the signs of substance misuse by adolescents. Information will be shared about how prevention includes paying attention for the signs and symptoms associated with substance misuse. Substance misuse often leads to involvement with child welfare and criminal justice systems for adolescents.

206 - Unveiling CASA Roles and Responsibilities: Empowering Advocates for Child Welfare - Jerri Pevey and Audrey Alexander

This session is designed to shed light on the critical roles and responsibilities of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) within the child welfare system. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the CASA role, their unique position as advocates for children in the legal system, and the impact they have on child welfare outcomes.

Workshop Breakouts

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

207 - Kinship Navigator & Discovery Center Program: Strengthening Support for Kinship Caregivers and Families - Cecile Guin, PhD

This session will provide a comprehensive exploration of the Kinship Navigator and Discovery Center Program, a powerful initiative aimed at empowering kinship caregivers and families. Participants will gain insights into the multifaceted approach of these programs, including their role in providing critical resources, guidance, and a supportive community for kinship caregivers.

208 - Maximizing Effectiveness: Utilizing Instant Safety Plan Orders and Informal Adjustment Agreements - Judge Adam Haney, JD

This session will provide an in-depth exploration of the use of Instant Safety Plan Orders and Informal Adjustment Agreements within the child welfare system. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the purpose, implementation, and legal considerations associated with these tools.

209 - Reasonable Efforts in Child Welfare: An Examination - Mark Harris, JD, Samantha Morrison, Cassandra Tramonte Johnson

This session provides a thorough examination of the concept of "reasonable efforts" within the child welfare system. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes reasonable efforts, their legal and ethical significance, and their role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children and families involved in child welfare cases.

210 - Mental Health for Parents and Foster Parents - Kathy Lynn Cook, JD, CWLS and Pakima Stamps, LCSW-BACS

This workshop is geared towards parents and foster parents who are providing care to a child with mental health problems; to attorneys who are representing these children or their parents; and to workers who are tasked with identifying which resources are needed and then finding them.

2:30 to 3:30 pm Breakouts - Series 300

301 - Continuation of Session 201

302 - Strengthening Families: Exploring Family Preservation Court in Child Welfare - Judge Thomas Duplantier, Darce' Byrd, MA, Johanna J. Braud

This session delves into the innovative concept of Family Preservation Court (FPC) within the child welfare system. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of FPC's role, principles, and practices in preventing the unnecessary separation of families while ensuring child safety.

303 - The Importance of Differentiating Between Autistic Spectrum Traits and Sexual Abuse Indicators - Lisa Jacob, LCSW, MSW

Youth diagnosed with ASD have traits that are often mistaken for sexual abuse indicators and vice-versa. In addition, when both ASD and PTSD are indicated, Evidenced Based treatment modalities need to be adjusted to meet their needs.



Workshop Breakouts

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

304 - Changing America One Youth at a Time - LA National Guard Youth Challenge Program - Marco Molina

The goal is to instill life coping and education skills to assist students in gaining independence once they graduate from the YCP program or high school. Our students are offered multiple educational pathways.

305 - Disparities and Disproportionality in Child Welfare - Mark Harris, JD, Dr. Amy Dickson, Dr. Sebastian Del Corral, Thailund Porter-Green, JD and Joe Keegan, LCSW

Presenters will discuss factors that impact out-of-home placement stability for young children in foster care. In addition, the presenters will provide information about potential recommendations and suggestions to improve outcomes for young children.

306 - Working Through Stress and Trauma in Child Welfare - Tonyalea Elam, MSW, LCSW

Child welfare professionals play a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children and families. However, the nature of their work often exposes them to high levels of stress and trauma. This session is designed to equip child welfare professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage and work through the stress and trauma they encounter in their roles.

307 - Understanding Brain Architecture and Trauma: A Interactive Game-Based Session - Corie Hebert, PhD

This engaging and interactive session will introduce participants to the concept of brain architecture and its relationship to trauma using the Brain Architecture Game. Participants will explore how early childhood experiences, including trauma, can shape brain development and lifelong health.

308 - Youth Independence: A Collaborative Effort - Kayana "Keedy" Bradley, Karen Carpenter, LCSW-BACS, Fre'Drecia Payne, MSW, LMSW, Angie Thomas, LCSW

This will be a panel presentation from key stakeholders of the Independent Life Skills Programs and partners with DCFS.

309 - Developing Your Toolkit: Recognizing & Addressing Grief to Promote Resiliency - Jarvis Spearman, LMSW (REPEATED SESSION)

310 - Addressing the Impact of the Trauma of Poverty on Children & Families - Elizabeth Power, MEd

While the keynote detailed the issues that the trauma of poverty can cause in health, learning and earning, this workshop helps participants develop practical, transferable skills that help counter that impact.

3:45 to 4:45 pm - Keynote 3:

Operating in a NOW Norm Post-Pandemic Environment - James Brown, Jr.

In order for businesses to be successful, Zig Ziglar says "you don't build a business - you build people - and then people build the business." COVID-19 changed the world, we are operating in uncharted waters, and we must accept it to survive. How do we adjust and continue moving forward in this NOW normal environment?



Evening Reception

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

6:00 to 8:00 pm Annual Reception at Vermilionville

Join us for an evening of food, music and dancing. Meet up with colleagues and friends from many fields and professions. Share a table and dance a bit. The catering department at Vermilionville always brings us great Cajun treats. Our favorite band, Terry and the Zydeco Bad Boys, will be making a reunion with us after our absence of four years. Come relax and listen to the music.

Vermilionville is located at 300 Fishers Road, Lafayette. Please drive safely. You must provide your own transportation for the evening event.



Workshop Breakouts

Thursday, November 9, 2023

8:30 to 9:30 am - Keynote 4:

Succeeding in Life After Foster Care - Tim Lee, Jarvis Spearman, LMSW, Elijah Evans, Terrica Lynn Smith and Moderator, Judge Ernestine Gray (ret.)

This session will be a facilitated panel discussion. We will have several adults who were in foster care when they were younger and have successfully transitioned to careers and adult lives.

9:45 to 10:45 am Breakouts - Series 400

401 - Improving Court Outcomes through Effective Motions - Nzinga Hill, JD, Sherry Powell, JD, and Moderator, Caitlin Glass, JD

Motions are a strategic tool that can be used in a variety of ways to improve outcomes in Louisiana Child in Need of Care (CINC) cases. Filed by an attorney or party, a motion seeks a specific order of the court. Department of Children and Family Services caseworkers, CASA volunteers and supervisors, parties, and providers may be called as witnesses at motion hearings.

402 - Navigating Appellate Court Cases: Strategies for Success - Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD and Rebecca May Ricks, JD, CWLS

This session offers a comprehensive exploration of appellate court cases, focusing on the strategies and principles that lead to successful outcomes. Participants will gain a deep understanding of the appellate process, from filing an appeal to presenting arguments before an appellate court.

403 - The Benefits of Extended Foster Care Services for Youth - Shannon Cantanzaro, LCSW and Brandy Young, LMSW

The presentation will provide an overview of the program, eligibility and services offered. The audience will have the opportunity to hear from a participant in the program and the benefits they believe the program can provide young people.

404 - Mandated Reporting Updates and Process - Denise Evans, MSW, LMSW and Connie Guillory, MSW

Who are Mandated Reporters? The Who, What, Where, and When of reporting child abuse and/or neglect. When to call the hotline and when to utilize the Mandated Reporter Online Portal. What are serious and high-risk reports for an emergency priority? Reporter expectations when making a report of abuse and/or neglect.

405 - Supporting LGBTQIA+ Youth in Foster Care - Dr. Heidi Breaux

Dr. Heidi Breaux will be talking about her approach she calls "Unlearning." It's a non-judgmental and empowering way to teach adult learners. By the end of the presentation not only will you better understand the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals, their partners, and families, but you will learn how society has shaped your views and how you can continue to 'unlearn' on your own.



Workshop Breakouts

Thursday, November 9, 2023

9:45 am to 12 pm - In-Depth Learning Institutes



Institute 1 - The Chemistry of Ethical Self-Care - Lisa Jacob, LCSW, MSW

This presentation will address the importance of self-care as part of the NASW Code of Ethics. Information will be presented that participants will be able to share with clients, co-workers and they will be able to use themselves.



Institute 2 - Criminal Minds: The Mask Behind a Pedophile - Jim Holler

This workshop addresses the common trademarks and typologies of the child rapist as well as characteristics and behaviors that this person may have. For many of these individuals their problem is not only the nature or quality of their sex drive of being attracted to children but also the quantity because they must have frequent and repeated sex with children.

Institute 3 - Poverty Simulation - COPE (Limited Seating & Advanced Registration Required) - Bill Beamon

This Cost of Poverty Experience is a simulation that explores the lived experience of poverty firsthand through the eyes of real families. The experiential nature of this training helps organizations and communities more deeply understand the human and systemic impacts of poverty.



Institute 4 - Psychiatric Medication and Foster Youth - Dr. Martin Irwin

Multiple studies have concluded that children in foster care, many of whom are victims of abuse and trauma, are prescribed psychiatric medication at a rate significantly higher than other populations of children. Much of the time, the medications are used to control behavior and anger. Many of the medications used in this population of already vulnerable children are prescribed off-label, with little proven benefit but significant risk.

Institute 5 - Navigating the Initial 30 Days in Child Welfare: A Roadmap to Success - Dr. Amy Dickson, Samantha Morrison, Lori Miller, RSW, Mark Harris, JD

This session is designed and includes 2 sections to provide child welfare professionals with essential guidance for the critical first 30 days in child welfare cases. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the key considerations, responsibilities, and best practices during this crucial period. Through expert insights and practical discussions, attendees will learn how to lay a strong foundation for effective child welfare intervention and family support.



Workshop Breakouts

Thursday, November 9, 2023

11:00 am to 12 pm - Breakouts - Series 500

501 - Navigating Acts 350 & 602: Expanding Access to Civil Legal Services - Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD

This session provides an in-depth examination of Acts 350 and 602, focusing on their impact on expanding access to civil legal services. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the provisions, requirements, and implications of these acts for both legal professionals and the communities they serve.

502 - Louisiana Child Welfare Legislative Update: Navigating Recent Changes - Richard Pittman, JD, CWLS and Kathy Lynn Cook, JD, CWLS

This session offers an essential legislative update on recent changes and developments in the Louisiana child welfare system. Participants will gain insight into the latest legislative reforms, amendments, and policies that impact child welfare practice in the state.

503 - Working with Immigrant Children - Kristin Jones, JD

Immigration status is an integral part of a Child in Need of Care (CINC) case for children who have no status. As stakeholders, it's important for us to understand the reasons children without immigration status are in our state and the barriers they may face. There are pathways to lawful status that may be available, for example, Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status.

504 - Why is a Forensic Interview and Forensic Medical Eval Important in Child Sexual Abuse Cases - Rebecca Havlik, RN, MSN, FNP and Lacey Pitre

The importance of the child forensic interview when there is known or suspected abuse is performed at a Children's Advocacy Center by a training Forensic Interviewer. But have you heard of a head to toe check up and why that is also important? Learn what is considered abnormal, and why it is normal to be normal, even if there has been abuse.

505 - Combating Trafficking: Efforts and Initiatives in Louisiana - Dr. Dana Hunter and Mary Kate Andrepont

This session provides a comprehensive overview of the efforts and initiatives aimed at combatting human trafficking in the state of Louisiana. Participants will gain insights into the challenges, strategies, and collaborative efforts involved in addressing this pressing issue.

12:00 to 1:15 pm - Keynote 5:

Creative Collaboration: Working with What You've Got - LaDonna Wattley, LCSW

In today's dynamic and resource-constrained environments, professionals often find themselves needing to achieve more with fewer resources. This session will provide participants with tools, strategies, and a mindset shift to harness their existing resources and leverage creative thinking to foster effective collaboration within their teams and organizations.



Workshop Breakouts

Thursday, November 9, 2023

1:30 to 2:30 pm - Breakouts - Series 600

601 - Engagement in the Courtroom: Strategies for Effective Communication and Advocacy - Judge Desiree Cook-Calvin, Judge Timothy Marcel, Judge Verity Gentry and Mark Harris, JD

Attend this dynamic and informative session that explores the importance of engagement in child welfare legal proceedings. Whether you're an attorney, advocate, or legal professional, effective communication and engagement with judges, juries, and clients are crucial for achieving positive outcomes in the courtroom.

602 - FINS 101: How FINS Collaborates with Other Stakeholders to Obtain the Best Results - ReShonn Saul

Attend this informative and insightful session that will provide information about the complex landscape of the impact of FINS program and the impact on the community. Information will be shared about the difference between informal and formal support from FINS and about the referral process.

603 - Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children: "The Purpose Behind the Travel" - Judge Gail Grover and Tomeka Tate, RSW, MNPA

The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) is an agreement among all 50 States, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands for the movement and safe placement of children between states when the children are sent out-of-state for placement in foster care or as a preliminary step to a possible adoption. ICPC is set forth in the Louisiana Children's Code, federal regulations, and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) policy.

604 - Collaboration Between DCFS and DOE at State and District Levels - LeTrese LaCour, Melanie Mayeux, M.Ed., Nicholas Thomas, and Moderated by Walter Fahr, LCSW

This session will provide participants with information about strategies for effective collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Education at the local, state, and federal levels.

605 - Keeping the Door Open - Working to Overcome the Barriers for Transitional Youth to Experience Successful Outcomes - Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD

Transitional youth, those who are on the cusp of adulthood and emancipation from the foster care system, often face numerous barriers on their path to successful outcomes. This session will equip you with the tools and insights necessary to be a zealous advocate for these vulnerable individuals, empowering them to overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.

606 - Understanding Crossover Youth in Foster Care: Navigating the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice - Curtis Nelson, JD, Stephen Phillippi, PhD, Courtney Myers, JD

Attend this informative session and explore the unique challenges and needs of crossover youth—those who are simultaneously involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Presenters will provide an overview of the complexities of this intersection and attendees will gain insights into strategies for providing comprehensive support and intervention to this vulnerable population.



Workshop Breakouts

Thursday, November 9, 2023

607 - Using Data to Strengthen Communities, with My Community Cares & the Casey Community Opportunity Map - Luke Gerber, PhD-C, Eliska Brooks, MSW, LCSW and Destiny Fatula

This session will focus on how participants can use data from the Casey Family Programs Community Opportunity Map to support communities and provide an example from the Louisiana DCFS My Community Cares program. We will demonstrate how to use the map tool and invite participants to try themselves. Then, we will share some examples of how groups within child welfare have used the tool, detailing how the My Community Cares program used the map tool to strengthen families across Louisiana.

608 - Healing in the Courts: Cultivating a Trauma Focused Lens - Lucinda Miles

For decades the judicial system has addressed families within the court with a characteristic punitive approach, yet in recent years we are seeing judges and courts shifting to a more trauma focused lens. Best practice models include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to achieve target outcomes. TBRI®, Trust Based Relational Intervention, has been key in providing a deep look into the effects of complex trauma. Compassionate understanding that trauma rewires the brain provides for deeper insights into the role generational trauma plays in the recidivism of our children in the child welfare system.

609 - "You, Me, and We": Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Louisiana DCFS - Division of Child Welfare - Thailund Porter-Green, JD

This session explores the critical importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging within the context of Louisiana's child welfare system. Participants will gain valuable insight into the principles, challenges, and opportunities associated with fostering a more diverse, inclusive and equitable child welfare environment.

610 - LEAF - Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force: Empowering Advocates for Child Welfare Excellence - Kayanna "Keedy" Bradley and Karen Carpenter, LCSW-BACS

The LEAF Louisiana Elite Advocacy Force is a specialized program dedicated to advancing excellence in child welfare advocacy. In this session, participants will gain insights into the mission, principles, and strategies of LEAF, with a focus on enhancing the skills and knowledge of child welfare professionals. Through the lived experience of the expert panelists, participants will hear success stories and discover how LEAF empowers advocates to make a significant impact on the lives of children and families in Louisiana's child welfare system.

2:45 to 3:45 pm - Closing Keynote:

No More Flinching: Someone Step In - Carlotta Taylor, MSL

In this engaging and insightful session, Carlotta Taylor invites participants to explore the concept of stepping in and the potential to prevent harm and promote safety. Drawing from her expertise and real-life lived experience examples, attendees will learn how to recognize situations where intervention is needed, overcome barriers to action, and effectively step in to make a positive difference in the lives of children involved with child welfare system.



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS



Wednesday, November 8, 2023

**8:30 am to 10:00 am - Greetings from TWC Steering Committee and VIPs
Opening Keynote: ABA Resolution 606 and the Origin Story of Racism in Child Welfare Law -
Prudence Beidler Carr, JD**

This presentation focuses on ABA Resolution 606, which passed before the ABA House of Delegates in August 2022, to become policy of the Association. Resolution 606 calls for all legal professionals to learn about Anti-Black systemic racism within the child welfare system, stemming from the history of slavery in the United States and perpetuated by over-surveillance of and under investment in Black families in America, which is pervasive, ongoing, and a root cause of the disproportionate involvement of Black parents and children within the system. The presentation will explain why the ABA focused on examining the historical roots of racism within child welfare as a part of a legal community response to those issues.

10:15 to 11:45 am - 104 - Understanding Post-Secondary Trauma and the Impact on Child Welfare Professionals - Patsy Wilkerson, MA

This session is designed to address the pressing issue of postsecondary trauma among child welfare professionals who work with youth experiencing child welfare services. Postsecondary trauma refers to the emotional and psychological challenges experienced by these professionals as they navigate the unique complexities of supporting vulnerable youth in their care. Participants will explore the causes, signs, and consequences of postsecondary trauma in the child welfare context, and they will learn practical strategies to prevent and address it while fostering their own well-being and resilience.

**1:15 to 2:15 pm - 210 - Mental Health for Parents and Foster Parents - Kathy Lynn Cook, JD,
CWLS and Pakima Stamps, LCSW-BACS**

This workshop is geared towards parents and foster parents who are providing care to a child with mental health problems; to attorneys who are representing these children or their parents; and to workers who are tasked with identifying which resources are needed and then finding them.

2:30 to 3:30 pm - 302 - Strengthening Families: Exploring Family Preservation Court in Child Welfare - Judge Thomas Duplantier, Darce' Byrd, MA, Johanna J. Braud

This session delves into the innovative concept of Family Preservation Court (FPC) within the child welfare system. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of FPC's role, principles, and practices in preventing the unnecessary separation of families while ensuring child safety.

3:45 to 4:45 pm - Keynote 3: Operating in a NOW Norm Post-Pandemic Environment - James Brown, Jr.

In order for businesses to be successful, Zig Ziglar says "you don't build a business - you build people - and then people build the business." COVID-19 changed the world, we are operating in uncharted waters, and we must accept it to survive. How do we adjust and continue moving forward in this NOW normal environment?



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Thursday, November 9, 2023

8:30 to 9:30 am - Keynote 4: Succeeding in Life After Foster Care - Tim Lee, Jarvis Spearman, LMSW, Elijah Evans, Terrica Lynn Smith and Moderator, Judge Ernestine Gray (ret.)

This session will be a facilitated panel discussion. We will have several adults who were in foster care when they were younger and have successfully transitioned to careers and adult lives.



9:45 am to 12 pm - Institute 4 - Psychiatric Medication and Foster Youth - Dr. Martin Irwin

Multiple studies have concluded that children in foster care, many of whom are victims of abuse and trauma, are prescribed psychiatric medication at a rate significantly higher than other populations of children. Much of the time, the medications are used to control behavior and anger. Many of the medications used in this population of already vulnerable children are prescribed off-label, with little proven benefit but significant risk



1:30 to 2:30 pm - 606 - Understanding Crossover Youth in Foster Care: Navigating the Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice - Curtis Nelson, JD, Courtney Myers, JD, Stephen Phillippi, PhD

Attend this informative session and explore the unique challenges and needs of crossover youth—those who are simultaneously involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Presenters will provide an overview of the complexities of this intersection and attendees will gain insights into strategies for providing comprehensive support and intervention to this vulnerable population.

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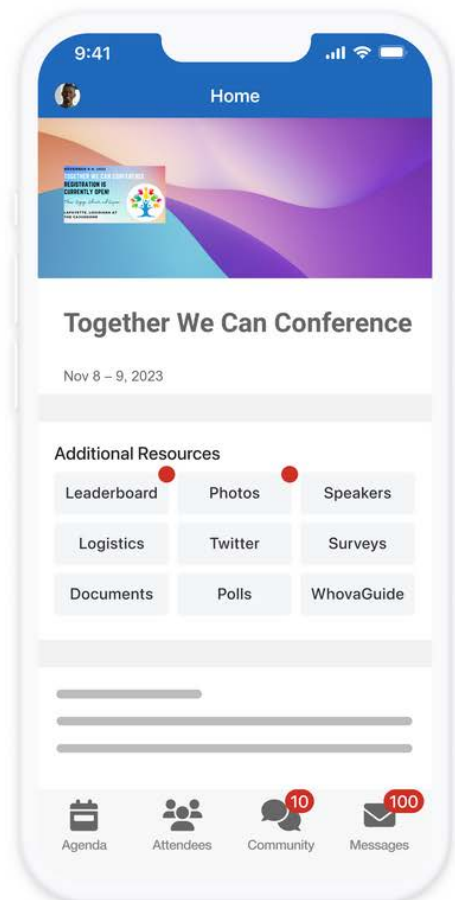
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