

TNOYS
TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

#TNOYS2018



Annual TNOYS Conference on Services to Youth and Families

PUMP UP THE VOLUME

elevating youth voice through youth-adult partnerships



TUESDAY, JUNE 5 - FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018

WESTIN GALLERIA. HOUSTON, TEXAS



WELCOME!

TNOYS' 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

This year, for our 35th conference, we wanted to do something different and truly “pump up the volume” on youth voice. This year’s conference theme and program reflect TNOYS’ commitment to promoting youth-adult partnerships and opportunities for youth voice in system change work, as well as in day-to-day work and interactions with youth and families.

After nearly forty years, TNOYS continues to be at the cutting edge of the youth services field. Our conference is designed to offer information on the latest research, innovation, and evidence-based practices, as well as more traditional, foundational topics with a fresh spin. Conference tracks will address youth engagement basics, best and innovative practices, diversity, research and data, legal rights and advocacy, and storytelling for systems change. The agenda also includes time for experiential learning and networking. We hope you enjoy having fun while learning from and collaborating with our diverse audience and sharing your own expertise.

This year TNOYS is especially grateful for the collaboration of our conference partners, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards and the Texas Foster Family Association. We are also grateful to collaborators including the Supreme Court of Texas Children’s Commission’s Court Improvement Program, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, and the many sponsors, exhibitors, and presenters whose support is integral to this event.

True to TNOYS’ mission and to the missions of our member organizations, our focus continues to be on ensuring the most vulnerable but resilient Texas youth and families have opportunities to succeed. If your organization is not yet a TNOYS member, we encourage you to join this week.

Thank you for choosing to spend your week with us.

Sincerely,
The TNOYS Team

TNOYS STAFF

TNOYS is excited to welcome Dr. Katherine Barillas, based in Houston, to our team!



Christine Gendron
Executive Director



Katherine Barillas
Director of
Child Welfare Policy



Lara O'Toole
Director of Training &
Program Development



Elizabeth Flint
Programs Coordinator



Beth Duke
Office Manager

PROGRAM GUIDE

The workshops for this year's conference are divided into six topic tracks. Look for these symbols throughout the program:



FOUNDATIONS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



YOUTH RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY



BEST PRACTICES AND BRILLIANT IDEAS



BRINGING RESEARCH AND DATA TO LIFE



DIVERSE CULTURES AND NEEDS



STORYTELLING

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Social Workers, Counselors, Child Care Administrators, and Child Placing Administrators

TNOYS provides continuing education for Social Workers (Provider #6875), Licensed Professional Counselors (Provider #2420), Licensed Child Care Administrators, and Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrators, as well as training hours for all attendees. Please see the Continuing Education (CEU) form to track your attendance and for additional details. The entire conference offers 16 CEU/training hours; institutes and special sessions offer additional hours.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES & MEMBER EVENTS

8:00 A.M. On-site registration for institutes - GALLERIA FOYER

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

- Institute #1: Staying Ahead of the Opioid Drug Crisis - PLAZA 1
- Institute #2: #MeToo: How Providers Can Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault - PLAZA 2

8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

- Institute #3: Youth Mental Health First Aid - WEST ALABAMA

3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.: Early Check-in / Conference Registration

5:15 P.M. - 6:15 P.M. **TNOYS Member Leadership Council Meeting (by invitation)** - RIVER OAKS

6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. **TNOYS Member Reception (open to all members)** - MONARCH (24th Floor)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6: FULL CONFERENCE BEGINS

Separate youth and professional workshop tracks

8:00 A.M. Registration Opens - GALLERIA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. Welcome by Christine Gendron, TNOYS + Keynote - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **THE "WHY" OF YOUTH ORGANIZING AND VOICE** with Anna Gennari, Foster Youth in Action, and Steven Shaw, Voices for Change

Professional Track

Featuring select programming designed for youth services providers and stakeholders

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. Workshops

11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M. Lunch on your own

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. In-depth Workshops on Core Competencies (*Ethics workshop starts 12:30pm)

3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Keynote - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND THE BRAIN** with Daren Jones, LMSW, Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at TCU

Youth Leadership Track

Featuring a variety of interactive skill-building sessions designed for youth/young adults

10:00 - 10:30 A.M.: Youth Orientation - GALLERIA BALLROOM

10:40 A.M. - 12:20 P.M. Workshops

- Group 1: Core Workshop
- Group 2: Workshop Options (45 minutes each)

12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Lunch break + learning/networking session with youth leaders and youth councils

1:45 P.M. - 3:25 P.M. Workshops

- Group 1: Workshop Options (45 minutes each)
- Group 2: Core Workshop

3:40 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Closing Interactive and Creative Session - PLAZA 2

4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. TNOYS Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation) - RIVER OAKS

THURSDAY, JUNE 7: CONFERENCE DAY 2

All sessions are open to all, professionals and youth

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - GALLERIA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Keynote and Performance - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **A TIME TO RISE** with SaulPaul, A Musician with a Message

10:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. Workshops

12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Member Awards Luncheon (open to all) - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- Featuring Houston Meta-Four
- Interactive activity to develop TNOYS Legislative Agenda

1:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. Workshops

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Experiential Workshops

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. (offsite): The Courage to be Authentic: Equine Therapy Workshop by Spirit Reins (RSVP required)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8: CONFERENCE DAY 3

All sessions are open to all, professionals and youth

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - GALLERIA FOYER

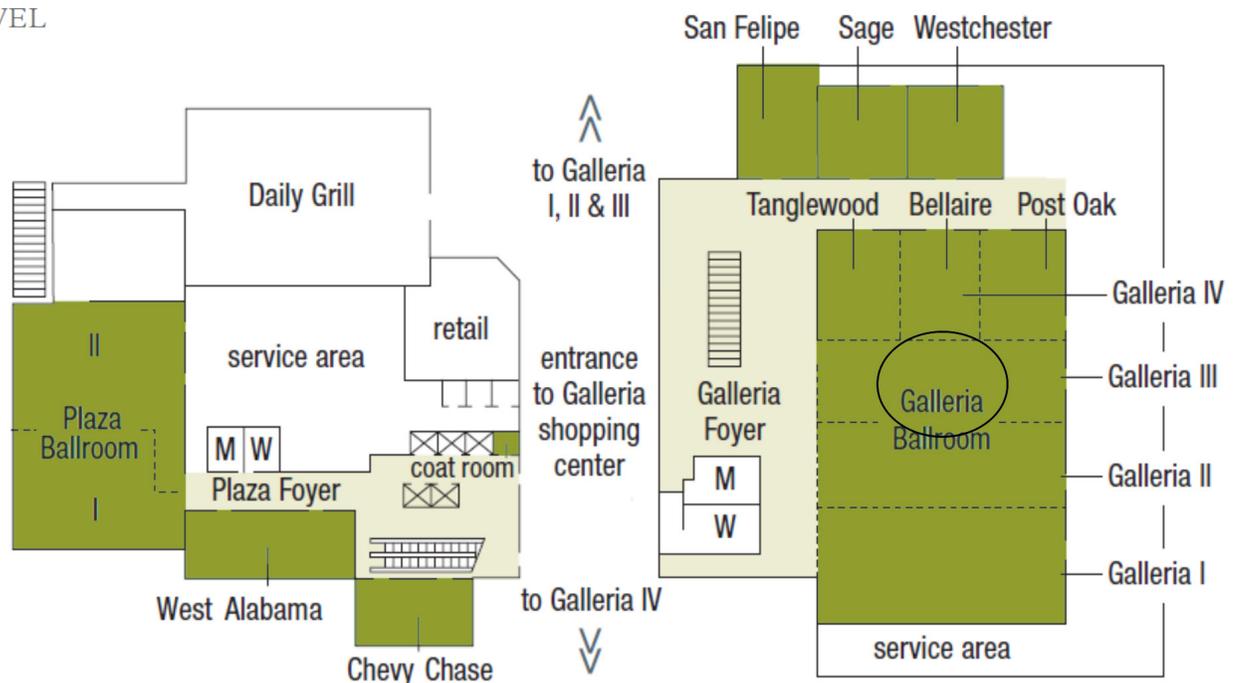
9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Workshops

10:45 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Closing Keynote and Performance - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **STEP ONWARD: BUILDING HOPE AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ART, ACTION AND COMMUNITY** with Patrice Pike, The Step Onward Foundation

HOTEL FLOOR MAP

THIRD LEVEL



Note that the June 5 Member events will take place in the Monarch Room, on the 24th Floor.

FEATURED PRESENTERS

SAULPAUL



For over a decade, SaulPaul has earned an international reputation as a “Musician with a Message” who can entertain and educate any audience. He’s performed two TED talks and appeared at some of the world’s most esteemed music festivals. He has collaborated with artists from around the world and has also been featured on MTV, LA TIMES, ESPN Radio and countless other media outlets. Equipped with an amazing inspirational story, a history in the criminal justice system, and an entertaining and interactive live presentation, SaulPaul is on a mission to assist others in transforming their dreams into reality. He has a film based on his life as well as a book titled Dream in 3D.

ANNA GENNARI



Founded by California Youth Connection in 2008, Foster Youth in Action (FYA) organizes a national grassroots network of foster youth-led groups through training, leadership opportunities, shared learning, and advocacy. FYA believes in the power of youth voice and helps transform youth into leaders and advocates. Anna Gennari currently serves as FYA’s Director of Programs and provides leadership across FYA’s movement building strategies. Anna has a diverse background centered on youth advocacy with the goal of supporting young people with lived experience in foster care to lead campaigns to improve the child welfare system and the community.

STEVEN SHAW



Steven Shaw has been advocating for the child welfare system for the past eight years as he currently is the president and co-founder of Voices for Change, a group primarily composed of young adults who aged out of the Texas foster care system who are dedicated to advocacy and improving the experience of youth in the foster care system. Steven has been privileged to speak in front of Congress and White House officials on numerous issues dealing with foster care. He played a key role in advocating for an ombudsman position in Texas, dedicated solely to children and youth in foster care.

PATRICE PIKE



Patrice Pike is a successful Texas musician and with a powerful story and vision. Patrice burst on to the music scene as the front woman for Austin jam band Sister Seven. Over the past decade, she has independently released five acclaimed solo records, and in 2007 she became the youngest member of the Austin/Texas Music Hall of Fame, inducted alongside Lucinda Williams. Patrice, who experienced homelessness as a youth, is also co-founder of the Step Onward Foundation and has collaborated in raising over \$450,000 in the last 10 years for supporting education and housing and sustainability for young adult survivors of homelessness and children surviving critical illness.

DAREN JONES



Daren Jones has been a Training Specialist with the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development at Texas Christian University (TCU) since 2014. His main focus is instructing professionals working with children who have experienced trauma in Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI). This is a treatment model that emphasizes trauma-informed care and trauma in the context of behavior, neuroscience, resilience, and youth voice and choice. Daren has been an integral part of teaching and spreading TBRI across the U.S. and throughout the world. He has 12 years of experience serving youth and families directly in residential and foster care settings. He has a Master's in Social Work and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Counseling.

WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS WITH META-FOUR HOUSTON



Founded in 1983, Writers in the Schools (WITS) is a Houston-based non-profit organization that engages children in the joy and power of reading and writing. WITS writers work in year-long programs in more than 360 classrooms as well as in after-school and summer writing programs to help students develop their creative and analytical thinking skills. Meta-Four Houston is a program of WITS that uses writing through performance as a tool to encourage self-expression and advance literacy among youth ages 13-19. Past and current Meta-Four Houston students have helped develop the city's slam poetry community, won national acclaim, and have been featured in ABC13 Visions, Houston Chronicle, Texas Monthly, Houston Public Media, TEDxYouth, and TEDxHouston.

YOUTH VOICE ATX

The mission of YOUTH VOICE is to facilitate the ability of youth to create and use art and media for community engagement, cultural expression and social change. We think kids and communities do better when youth have a voice in the systems, services and opportunities that govern their lives. We execute our mission by working directly with youth, working in partnership with organizations who work with youth, and working with those who advocate for the needs of young people in our communities. It's our distinct privilege to have spent the last 7 years building the processes and pathways that allow open communication with kids about their life experiences and world views, and to help organizations get and stay connected to the power of YOUTH VOICE.

YOUTH VOICE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

Pre-Conference Institutes
(separate registration required)

Pre-Conference Institute #1

Staying Ahead of the Opioid Drug Crisis

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. - PLAZA 1



America's opioid epidemic has become a national crisis, grabbing media headlines and prompting action at the highest levels of our government. Vulnerable youth and families are most severely impacted by the crisis, with increased rate of families impacted by substance use disorders that result in homelessness, trauma, and involvement in state systems. Parental substance use is the fastest growing reason that children end up in foster care and many state foster care systems are overwhelmed by the number of children entering the system due to the opioid epidemic. This pre-institute will offer practical information to help participants better understand substance use, misuse and substance use disorders and the various impacts of the opioid epidemic on youth and families. The pre-institute will highlight innovative and best practice programs and offer creative ideas that providers can implement.

Presented by Lori Holleran Steiker, Ph. D., ACSW, Operation Naloxone, University of Texas at Austin; Julie McElrath, LMSW, LCDC, University High School; Sierra Castedo, The UT Center for Students in Recovery; Jessica Cance, MPH, Ph.D., Center for Health Statistics, DSHS; Karen Palombo, LMSW, LCDC, Women's Substance Use Disorder Specialist, HHSC; Marco Quesada, DFPS Investigations, Alicia Kowalchuk, D.O., Baylor College of Medicine.

Pre-Conference Institute #2

#MeToo: How Providers Can Prevent and Respond to Sexual Assault

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. - PLAZA 2



The international #MeToo movement is shining a spotlight on sexual assault and harassment and encouraging more survivors to come forward. This impacts youth-serving organizations, whose clients are often survivors, and may even be perpetrators, of sexual assault. Learn about the issues of sexual assault and harassment from various angles, including community-wide initiatives to prevent sexual assault, programs that provide treatment for sexually aggressive youth, initiatives to support young survivors and help them heal, and resources to prevent abuse and false allegations within your organization. Together, we can respond to #MeToo by strengthening the role that our organizations play in preventing and responding to sexual abuse and harassment.

Presented by Robert Ellis, Keith Bradbury, and Eric DeHoyo, Pegasus Schools; Mike Riley, Praesidium; Katherine Barillas, Ph.D., Texas DFPS Child Sexual Aggression Workgroup; Laramie Gorbett and Shelli Collins, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault; Martha Pacelli, Houston Area Women's Center.

Pre-Conference Institute #3

Youth Mental Health First Aid

8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. - WEST ALABAMA



Youth Mental Health First Aid is a national curriculum designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including ADHD), and eating disorders.

Presented by Sebastian Ramos and Lauren Richter, LPC-S from Connections Individual and Family Services.

Early Check-in / Conference Registration

3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. - GALLERIA FOYER

Membership Events

TNOYS Membership Leadership Council Meeting (invitation only)

5:15 P.M. - 6:15 P.M. - RIVER OAKS

TNOYS Membership Reception

6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. - MONARCH (24th floor)



All TNOYS members and staff from member organizations are invited to this festive and fun reception. You will have the chance to network with other members from across the state and enjoy appetizers and a cash bar.

Become a TNOYS member!

TNOYS now has two types of membership options -- you can join as an individual or as an organization. Both options give you access to great membership benefits, such as discounted training, networking events, and more. If you're not already a member, we encourage you to stop by the conference registration desk this week to learn more and join today! You can also sign up online at tnoys.org/become-a-member.

WORKSHOP CHART



FOUNDATIONS OF YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT

TANGLEWOOD



BEST PRACTICES AND
BRILLIANT IDEAS

BELLAIRE



DIVERSE CULTURES
AND NEEDS

POST C

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

**Workshops -
Professional Track**

Fundraising to Support Youth
Engagement

Mental Health Foundations:
*Transition to Adult Mental Health
Services + Hidden Mental Illness:
Matters of Heart/Suicide Prevention*

Child Sex Traff
Prevention

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

**Core Competency
Workshops -
Professional Track**

TBRI® for Teens

Normalcy: Is the Cultural Shift
Taking Hold? w/ Foster Care
Ombudsman

Expanding and
Voice in Texas
Development

Workshops - Youth Track

10:40 A.M. - 11:25 A.M.

Core Workshop: Youth Organizing
101: Youth-Led Action &
Leadership - **GALLERIA 3**

11:35 A.M. - 12:20 P.M.

Group 1

1:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

My Needs Matter: Speaking the
Language of You - **PLAZA 1**

If It Doesn't Change You, It Won't
Challenge You - **WEST ALABAMA**

2:40 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.

What Lies Behind the Pieces:
Moving Past Obstacles - **PLAZA 1**

To Thine Own Self Be True -
WEST ALABAMA

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

Workshops - Open to All

Meeting in the Middle:
Perspective Taking for Youth-Adult
Partnerships

The Strengths Model:
Applications for Elevating
Youth Voice

Humpty Dump
Stereotypes

1:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M.

Workshops - Open to All

Rebuilding the Way We Think

WRAP for Youth

What Are My I

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Experiential & Creative
Workshops - Open to All**

TNOYS' PEAKS Model:
Experiential Youth-Adult
Partnerships - **GALLERIA 3**

Bailamos? Learning the Steps to
Healthy Relationships

Poverty Simula

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Workshops - Open to All

More Than Just a Seat at the
Table: Youth Voice in Systems
Change

Trauma-Informed Discipline

Strengths-Bas
Intervention



CULTURES
& NEEDS

ST OAK

Trafficking: Tools for
1

g and Empowering Youth
exas with Positive Youth
ent



YOUTH RIGHTS AND
ADVOCACY

WESTCHESTER

Preview of the 86th Texas
Regular Legislative Session

Ethics 101 for 2018
**This session will run from
12:30-3:30pm*



BRINGING RESEARCH AND
DATA TO LIFE

SAGE

Youth-Adult Partnerships in
Program Implementation
and Evaluation

Empowering Youth & Families
in Crisis



STORYTELLING

SAN FELIPE

Fostering Brighter Futures:
Foster Care Awareness

Group 2

My Needs Matter: Speaking the
Language of You - **PLAZA 1**

What Lies Behind the Pieces:
Moving Past Obstacles - **PLAZA 1**

Core Workshop: Youth Organizing
101: Youth-Led Action &
Leadership - **GALLERIA 3**

Understanding Your Rights in
Foster Care - **WEST ALABAMA**

To Thine Own Self Be True -
WEST ALABAMA

Empty: Challenging
as

My Needs for Housing?

ulation and Framework

Based Gang
on

Homeless Youth: Personal Stories
and Legal Rights

Orchestrate Youth Future: ETV and
Higher Education for Foster Youth

Foster Youth Jeopardy

Conflict: Practical Resolution Tools

Texas Youth Permanency Study:
Elevating Youth Voice in Research

Engaging Youth & Families in
Research and Evaluation:
*STAR Program Evaluation and
Stories + Participatory Evaluation*

Vision Boards

Fostering Healthy Lives:
Pregnancy Risks and Rights

The Basics of Public Speaking
and Power of Words

From Foster Care to Adoption:
The Teenage Years

Tell Your Story: Write It, Speak It,
Rap It, Sing It, Act It Out!

The Power of a Story to Transform
a System

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Separate Professional and Youth Workshop Tracks

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - GALLERIA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 9:45 A.M. Welcome: Christine Gendron + Keynote: The “Why” of Youth Organizing and Voice by Anna Gennari and Steven Shaw - GALLERIA BALLROOM

Kick off the conference with a “TED-talk” style presentation about the power of youth organizing as an approach to youth engagement, positive youth development, and intergenerational community building. Hear professional and personal lived experiences that tell the story of why and how youth organizing and elevating youth voice is both healing and transformative in their own lives and the communities they work in.

Professional Track

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. WORKSHOPS



Fundraising to Support Youth Engagement

Facilitated by Christine Gendron, TNOYS

TANGLEWOOD

Join us for an opportunity to hear from funders, including the Simmons Foundation, Reissa Foundation, and Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, about supporting and sustaining youth engagement. Funders will discuss why it is critical that providers, advocates, and others work to promote youth/adult partnerships and facilitate opportunities for youth voice and choice. Funders will also offer their insight into how organizations can raise funds to support youth engagement work.



Mental Health Foundations

BELLAIRE

Conversations to Prepare for the Transition to Adult Mental Health Services with Beth Garland, Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital

The first half of this workshop will share a checklist of the conversations caregivers can have with a teen or young adult about understanding their mental health, taking medications, and finding providers, including how to have conversations when you differ in opinion. This session focuses on the idea that there is a balance between independence and caregiver involvement.

Understanding Hidden Mental Illness: Matters of the Heart with Thelma Scott and Tempestt Moore, SAFE Diversity Communities

The second half of this workshop will introduce SAFE Diversity Communities’ suicide prevention tools to help youth who are grappling with hidden mental illnesses and do not know how to address their pain. The session will help understand the symptoms, solutions and origins of these struggles so youth can better cope and realize that life is worth living.



Child Sex Trafficking: Tools for Prevention

Katie Watson, The Refuge for DMST; Jenna Cooper, United Against Human Trafficking

POST OAK

An estimated 79,000 youth and young adults in the state of Texas alone are being exploited for commercial sex. To combat this problem, we will discuss the prevention and identification of child sex trafficking. This session will also include a story of one child victim from Round Rock to highlight the difficulties of intervening instead of preventing exploitation.



Preview of the 86th Texas Regular Legislative Session

Katherine Barillas, TNOYS, and Brett Merfish, Texas Appleseed

WESTCHESTER

Join us for a discussion of the upcoming Texas legislative session and its potential impact on youth and family services. The juvenile justice system is expected to be up for another major overhaul and there will likely be attention on child welfare issues again in 2019, including preparing youth in foster care for adulthood and implementation of the federal Family First Act. Presenters will discuss anticipated priorities for the Legislature and opportunities for you to get involved.



Youth-Adult Partnerships in Program Implementation and Evaluation

Jason Lau, DePelchin Children's Center; Tia N. Johnson and Nichelle Bailey, Houston Health Department; Cameron Mitchell, Youth Representative; Eileene Chappelle, Caregiver Representative

SAGE

Both the Harris Transition Coalition and the Texas Healthy Adolescents Initiative have youth voice and youth-adult partnerships as central components in programming and evaluation. The presentation will include firsthand experiences and share the successes and challenges of establishing youth-adult teams and evaluating the impact of youth empowerment initiatives.



Fostering Brighter Futures: Inspiring Positive Awareness of Foster Care

Catherine Earley and Hannah Sims, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards

SAN FELIPE

It is time that we reexamine the information we promote about foster care. See examples of published headlines and other current media portrayals of foster care and compare to statistics from the DFPS Data Book to consider how they differ. Leave this workshop prepared to challenge myths, confront stigma, and positively present the realities of foster care, while honestly acknowledging challenges, in order to increase public support for the child welfare system.

11:30 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.: LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. IN-DEPTH WORKSHOPS ON CORE COMPETENCIES



TBRI® for Teens

Daren Jones, Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, TCU and Jessica Kilpatrick, STARRY

TANGLEWOOD

TBRI® is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI® uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs, and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors. Learn how to implement TBRI principles with teenagers by addressing the need behind the behavior in a developmentally and biologically respectful manner.



Normalcy - Is the Cultural Shift Taking Hold?

Knox Kimberly and Frank Lopez, Upbring, and a panel discussion with youth in foster care, with special opportunity for a Q&A with HHSC Foster Care Ombudsman Clarice Rogers

BELLAIRE

Three years ago, the Texas Legislature enacted normalcy into law. In this session that meets normalcy training requirements, participants will review normalcy laws, the protective factor benefits associated with implementation, real life examples of effective implementation, and discussion of what more needs to be done for this cultural shift to come fully to fruition.



Expanding and Empowering Youth Voice in Texas with Positive Youth Development

Brytani Cavil, Cory Jones, and Youth Co-Facilitator, Texas Institute for Excellence in Mental Health

POST OAK

This training will provide an introductory understanding and refresher on positive youth development (PYD) and highlight the central role of respecting and elevating youth voice. It is also designed to re-energize professionals in the field who are familiar with the concepts of PYD, but are having challenges in implementing them in their daily work.



Ethics 101 for 2018

Patrick Foster, Central Texas Table of Grace and Michael H. Foster, Safe Haven for Kids

WESTCHESTER

What are ethics? Do we know for sure what is right or wrong anymore? Ubiquitous technology and social media raise moral and ethical dilemmas 24-7. This interactive session explores a serious subject with playful humor, honesty, soul searching, voluntary personal disclosure and frank but civil and respectful dialogue. **This session will run from 12:30-3:30pm.**



Empowering Youth and Families in Crisis

Jack Nowicki, LCSW, Collaborative Counseling & Consulting and Isa Arizola, American Youthworks

SAGE

Participants in this practice-oriented workshop will review an evidence-informed approach to working with people in crisis, hear stories from a youth partner on the topic, and find specific ways to apply the approaches presented. Research on crisis intervention theory and the strengths-based, solution-focused counseling techniques will be incorporated.

3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. KEYNOTE: Trauma, Resilience, & the Brain by Daren Jones - GALLERIA BALLROOM

How can we respond to trauma and build resilient youth? Daren will discuss principles of complex developmental trauma and research findings regarding treatment outcomes and limitations. By understanding the impact of trauma and neglect on the developing brain, youth services providers and stakeholders will start to see children in care in a whole new light.

4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. TNOYS Board Meeting (invitation only) - RIVER OAKS

Youth Leadership Track - Group 1

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Orientation + Icebreaker for All Youth - GALLERIA BALLROOM

10:40 A.M. - 12:20 P.M. Core Workshop for Group 1

Youth Organizing 101: Youth-Led Action & Leadership

Steven Shaw and Anna Gennari, Foster Youth in Action

GALLERIA 3

Join national leaders for a hands-on, fun and interactive introduction to the history, concepts, and methods of youth organizing and its direct application to youth-led advocacy in Texas. Participants will gain an understanding of youth organizing, identify key issues, and be inspired to continue this work in Texas.

12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. LUNCH BREAK + opportunity to meet other youth leaders and learn about active youth councils - PLAZA 2

1:45 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. Workshops for Group 1 (choose one)

My Needs Matter: Speaking the Language of You

Kelene Blake-Fallon and Youth Advisory Council Members, People's Community Clinic

PLAZA 1

The People's Community Clinic Youth Advisory Council (YAC) will use an interactive writing lab, personal SWOT, and role playing to help participants identify and communicate their needs and concerns on health rights, confidentiality, and consent.

If It Doesn't Change You, It Won't Challenge You

Jonathan Rodriguez, Tracey Bui, and Shaye Hicks, Rainbow of Love

WEST ALABAMA

Come learn how to craft your own story, advocate (stand up) for yourself, and use your voice! This workshop includes an interactive activity, video of life paths, and testimonies of youth presenters on how they've crafted and used their own stories.

2:40 P.M. - 3:25 P.M. Workshops for Group 1 (choose one)

What Lies Behind the Pieces: Moving Past Obstacles and Distractions Puzzling your Life

Lakeisha Hughes, Whole Life Solutions/Harris County Protective Services

PLAZA 1

Where do you want to be at this moment? Why aren't you doing what you truly want to do? Explore the excuses we make about why we don't reach our greatest potential. We will creatively paint on the "canvas of your imagination" and look at life like a puzzle of your life's choices. Turn up the volume of what makes you great and drown out the noise that dims your light!

To Thine Own Self Be True

Ramona Walton, Andrea Johnson, and young adult residents, Star of Hope Mission

WEST ALABAMA

This fun and interactive workshop is designed to highlight the importance of partnering with adults to help your voices be heard. You can also develop your self-esteem in the process. This will be an inspiring session with stories from our own work.

3:40 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Closing Interactive and Creative Session for All Youth - PLAZA 2

Youth Leadership Track - Group 2

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Orientation + Icebreaker for All Youth - GALLERIA BALLROOM

10:40 A.M. - 11:25 A.M. Workshops for Group 2 (choose one)

My Needs Matter: Speaking the Language of You

Kelene Blake-Fallon and Youth Advisory Council Members, People's Community Clinic

PLAZA 1

The People's Community Clinic Youth Advisory Council (YAC) will use an interactive writing lab, personal SWOT, and role playing to help participants identify and communicate their needs and concerns on health rights, confidentiality, and consent.

Understanding Your Rights in Foster Care

Clarice Rogers, Texas Health and Human Services Commission Foster Care Ombudsman

WEST ALABAMA

This is a chance for youth in foster care to learn about their rights. Come discuss questions and complaints, find ways to resolve problems, understand CPS policy, and ensure your rights are being protected.

11:35 A.M. - 12:20 P.M. Workshops for Group 2 (choose one)

What Lies Behind the Pieces: Moving Past Obstacles and Distractions Puzzling your Life

Lakeisha Hughes, Whole Life Solutions/Harris County Protective Services

PLAZA 1

Where do you want to be at this moment? Why aren't you doing what you truly want to do? Explore the excuses we make about why we don't reach our greatest potential. We will creatively paint on the "canvas of your imagination" and look at life like a puzzle of your life's choices. Turn up the volume of what makes you great and drown out the noise that dims your light!

To Thine Own Self Be True

Ramona Walton, Andrea Johnson, and young adult residents, Star of Hope Mission

WEST ALABAMA

This fun and interactive workshop is designed to highlight the importance of partnering with adults to help your voices be heard. You can also develop your self-esteem in the process. This will be an inspiring session with stories from our own work.

12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. LUNCH BREAK + opportunity to meet other youth leaders and learn about active youth councils - PLAZA 2

1:45 P.M. - 3:25 P.M. Core Workshop for Group 2

Youth Organizing 101: Youth-Led Action & Leadership

Steven Shaw and Anna Gennari, Foster Youth in Action

GALLERIA 3

Join national leaders for a hands-on, fun and interactive introduction to the history, concepts, and methods of youth organizing and its direct application to youth-led advocacy in Texas. Participants will gain an understanding of youth organizing, identify key issues, and be inspired to continue this work in Texas.

3:40 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Closing Interactive and Creative Session for All Youth - PLAZA 2



THURSDAY, JUNE 7

All workshops open to
professionals and youth

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - GALLERIA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. KEYNOTE: A Time to Rise with SaulPaul - GALLERIA BALLROOM

SaulPaul's life now looks a lot different than his humble beginnings. From juvenile incarceration to college graduation to international sensation, SaulPaul transformed his dreams into reality. In this inter-generational keynote experience, SaulPaul shares his inspiring story and messages about overcoming adversity and grasping greatness. Prepare to move in this interactive session that combines strategic storytelling, inspirational speaking, music, audience participation, and the power of theater and comedy.

10:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. WORKSHOPS



Meeting in the Middle: Perspective Taking for Youth-Adult Partnerships

Tyreena Heck and Amanda Gomez, Break the Cycle

TANGLEWOOD

How do we understand each other's perspectives in order to do the best work possible together? Successful youth-adult partnerships mean that life experiences are valued, and everyone is willing to be honest and to learn from each other's differences. We will explore how to build equal youth-adult partnerships, including on how to find solutions to conflicts. This will be an interactive problem-solving session where everyone can strengthen their partnerships with youth or adults.



The Strengths Model: Applications for Elevating Youth Voice

Brooke White, LifeWorks

BELLAIRE

The Strengths Model was developed to support youth with severe mental health diagnoses to develop and reach personal goals. It teaches both youth and service providers how to use the tools of a recovery-oriented approach and help to identify the diverse strengths a young adult brings to the table. Sometimes we overlook strengths and use spirit-breaking language; this presentation helps everyone adjust to avoid doing that.



Humpty Dumpty: Challenging Stereotypes

Cherry Steinwender and Calvin King, Center for Healing of Racism

POST OAK

This youth-adult presenter team invites participants to examine their own beliefs around how we have been impacted and hurt by negative stereotypes. Then, you will have the chance learn strategies for confronting stereotypes. The joys/strengths, along with the pain/anxieties of cross-cultural relationships are also discussed. This will be a visual and impactful workshop.



Homeless Youth: Personal Stories and Legal Rights

Gabriella McDonald and Michael Santos, Texas Appleseed; Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office

WESTCHESTER

This workshop will include stories by youth who have experienced homelessness or foster care on what helped them succeed and will include opportunities to talk with experts about the rights of young people who are homeless in schools and communities. Presenters will also discuss ways that lawyers, school homeless liaisons, and other advocates can support youth to exercise their rights in accessing educational services and community resources.



Texas Youth Permanency Study: Elevating Youth Voice in Research

Tymothy Belseth and Monica Faulkner, Texas Institute for Child and Family Well Being; Murray Chanow and Amy Knop-Narbutis, Upbring

SAGE

How do we ensure "nothing about us without us" includes research? Hear how this research team worked to elevate youth voice in their research design. You will also receive a summary of findings from the pilot Texas Youth Permanency Study that you can apply to your practice to improve your programs. This session will focus on the perspectives of foster care alumni.



Basics of Public Speaking and Power of Words

Terri Jagers, OrphanCare Solutions

SAN FELIPE

Communication is a balance of give and take, talking and listening. But how many times have we found ourselves in the midst of a communication gone wrong? This workshop will provide the basics of good communication and how to organize speeches and presentations to teach or advocate. Both youth and adults will gain a clear understanding of the power of words to make an emotional impact, how to structure a speech, and how to overcome the fear of public speaking.

12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. - MEMBER AWARDS LUNCHEON (OPEN TO ALL) - GALLERIA BALLROOM

All are encouraged to join us for TNOYS Annual Awards and a performance by Houston Meta-Four, as well as an interactive activity to develop TNOYS' 2019 Legislative Agenda.

1:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. WORKSHOPS



Rebuilding the Way We Think and Work

Sebastian Ramos and Lauren Richter, Connections Individual and Family Services; Alex Polk, Youth Co-Presenter

TANGLEWOOD

Join us to 'think outside the box' on our youth-adult interactions in counseling, case management, and in programs in general. This workshop will explore the paradigms of helping youth in crisis deescalate so that we're thinking of ways to delve into conversations on the complex nature of life experiences to help youth heal.



WRAP for Youth

Jill Jendrzej and Tracey Moore, Joy Journey and WRAP Facilitators Jim Lemon and Veronica Carouthers

BELLAIRE

WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) is an evidence-based practice that can be used to deal with uncomfortable feelings or thoughts, manage stress, improve relationships with family and friends, and increase physical and mental wellness. It starts with developing a list of fun wellness tools, then identifying what a young person can do every day to stay healthy and well, identifying signs that things are going badly, and thinking about how to make the situation better.



What Are My Needs for Housing?

Rafael Sarango, Gerald Eckert, Jermaine Harmon, Daquam Taylor, Salvation Army Young Adult Resource Center

POST OAK

Hear practical ways to approach solving homelessness for young adults, based on input from young adults, outreach peers, staff, and administrators. Presenters share their experiences with Houston's YARC program, which serves 600+ clients a year as a low barrier, housing-first approach to provide wrap-around services to young adults experiencing homelessness.



Orchestrating Your Future: Post-Secondary Education for Current/Formal Foster Youth

Brandi Purswell, Jennifer Conn, and Deyanira Garcia, BCFS Health and Human Services, San Antonio

WESTCHESTER

The workshop will discuss Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) benefits and the Texas Education and Training Voucher (ETV) for foster youth wanting to attend college or another post-secondary school. Come hear about some of the challenges youth in foster care face going to college and learn about some of the benefits available to them.



Engaging Youth and Families in Research and Program Evaluation

SAGE

STAR Program Evaluation and Stories with Susan Poag and Tessa Baker, SUMA Social Marketing

In the first half of this workshop, hear stories and qualitative research from the Texas DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention Program (PEI) Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program evaluation, including the complex issues faced by families served by STAR and impact of the program.

Participatory Evaluation with Sarah Narendorf and Charles Batiste, University of Houston

In the second half of this workshop, hear about youth engagement frameworks and strategies for different levels of youth involvement, including examples from the presenters' experience as research professor and youth researcher with lived experience. The presenters will highlight a recent project they worked on together, the Homeless Youth Health Initiative.



From Foster Care to Adoption: The Teenage Years

Stephanie Holmes, Texas DFPS, and a panel of foster care youth, caseworkers, and adoptive parents

SAN FELIPE

Finding your voice in the foster care system can be overwhelming. Our panel will go straight to the source and hear from teenagers who made the decision to be adopted from foster care. We will meet adults who helped make this possible, and explore what worked, what didn't, and how we can continue to elevate the youth voice toward adoption from foster care.

3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. EXPERIENTIAL & CREATIVE WORKSHOPS



TNOYS PEAKS Model: Experiential Youth-Adult Partnerships

Elizabeth Flint, TNOYS, and PEAKS Camp Volunteers

GALLERIA 3

Learn about PEAKS Camp, TNOYS' experiential outdoor camp for youth in at-risk situations, which creates magic for its youth and adult campers through positive youth development, successful youth-adult partnerships and intentional group dynamics. Learn about this model and experience PEAKS activities first-hand in an interactive, fun and creative atmosphere.



Bailamos? Learning the Steps to Healthy Relationships

Cynthia Tellez Silva and Yesenia Santiago Martin, UMOs Latinx Resource Center

BELLAIRE

This workshop uses fun and interactive dance as a means to learn about healthy relationships and help prevent teen gender-based violence. Through the steps of Bachata, learn what relationships are like today, how we can effectively communicate, the importance of consent, relationship pacing, and practices for empowerment in teen violence prevention.



Poverty Simulation and Framework

David W. Head and Melanie Phillips, Communities in Schools of Houston

POST OAK

What is it like to live in poverty? Misunderstandings can happen when teachers, social workers, and others don't understand the experiences of those they serve. In this interactive and creative workshop, you will have the chance to deepen your understanding of poverty by experiencing situations that families in poverty face – and trying to figure out what to do.



Foster Youth Jeopardy

Mary Christine Reed, Texas Foster Youth Justice Project

WESTCHESTER

This game show style session will explore questions about foster youth rights, benefits, and common issues when entering adulthood including criminal justice interaction, ID documents, and finding/keeping a job. We will have short discussions and cheer each other on to win PRIZES with youth being the main players and adults there to learn and provide support.



Vision Boards

Harris County Protective Services Youth on B.O.A.R.D. Members and Hakemia Jamison Jackson, First & Goal, Inc.

SAGE

This is a fun and creative workshop that gives you the chance to look at your vision and goals for the future. Participants will create a visual reference guide to keep them on track with their goals, milestones and vision statement. Come ready to explore and map out your dreams and goals, helping create the future you want.



Tell Your Story: Write it, Speak it, Rap it, Sing it, Act it Out!

SaulPaul and Bianca Neal

SAN FELIPE

Join us for a special workshop by our keynote speaker to discover how to create and tell your story! This workshop is about life skills and developing a positive perspective, as well as art and entrepreneurship. Attendees will leave equipped with the tips, tools and techniques to then tell their own story and some will get to record (audio or video) what they create.

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. - SPECIAL OFFSITE ACTIVITY: The Courage to be Authentic: Equine Therapy Workshop (RSVP required)

In this interactive workshop at the Red Dun Ranch, learn how horses are partnering with humans to heal trauma. Hear from the organization Spirit Reins about how equine assisted psychotherapy can be a powerful and effective way to support trauma survivors. Then, connect with a horse yourself to explore your courage, vulnerability, and authentic voice.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

All workshops open to professionals and youth

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - GALLERIA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. WORKSHOPS



More than Just a Seat at the Table: Youth Voice in Systems Change

Elizabeth Schoenfeld and Gage Kemp, Austin Youth Collective to End Homelessness; Megan Davis, Harris County Youth Collective

TANGLEWOOD

Hear from two groups that are putting young adults with lived experience with homelessness and/or involvement in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems front and center to create collective impact. This workshop explores the successes and challenges of creating both groups and creative ideas for engaging youth in policy and community change.



Trauma-Informed Discipline

Jessica Kilpatrick and youth partner, STARRY

BELLAIRE

Learn about Trust-Based Relational Intervention® and No Drama Discipline strategies to keep kids connected to the adults who care for them, and how traditional discipline strategies do not work with many children from hard places. Participants will have the opportunity to hear from a youth who has experienced both helpful and hurtful discipline strategies.



Strengths-Based Intervention for Gang-Involved and High-Risk Youth

Elizabeth Martinez and youth partners, At-Promise Youth Solutions

POST OAK

For both gang members and professionals, it can be hard to know how to work together in helpful ways. This workshop teaches best practices for collaboration by adults and youth from very high-risk youth populations, including ways adults can help youth set goals, identify personal strengths, and challenge their own ideas of what is possible in their lives.



Conflict: Practical Resolution Tools

Chanelle Omiwade and Meghan Loera, Communities in Schools of Houston

WESTCHESTER

What is conflict? How does it affect me? How do I respond to it? Conflict has a cost in life, schools and programs. However, it can also create a benefit. Learn how to move conflict from being a mindset to a skillset. This interactive workshop lets participants of all ages and roles build on their conflict resolution skills to be more effective in work and in life.



Fostering Healthy Lives: Pregnancy Risks Among Youth in Care

Jennifer Biundo, Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; Adriana Kohler, Kate Murphy, Texans Care for Children

SAGE

Hear about and discuss research findings on teen pregnancy and health care access among youth in Texas foster care, gaps in services and supports, best practices to reduce unintended and untimely pregnancy, and programs to support parenting foster youth. We will also tackle the common misunderstandings around consent and confidentiality rights.



The Power of a Story to Transform a System

Katherine Barillas and Elizabeth Flint, TNOYS; Steven Shaw, Voices of Change

SAN FELIPE

A personal story has the power to move people and change the course of public policies, laws, and history. Learn how to be strategic about how and what you share – your own story or one about a young person you've worked with.

10:45 A.M - 12:15 P.M. KEYNOTE + PERFORMANCE: Step Onward: Building Hope and Sustainability through Art, Action and Community by Patrice Pike - GALLERIA BALLROOM

Hear musician Patrice Pike's experience growing up in an at-risk family and leaving home at age 16 to pursue her dream of bringing community together to help young adult survivors of homelessness through music and art events. She co-founded the Step Onward Foundation and is now a successful artist who travels internationally to share her gifts and perspective.

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ABOUT TNOYS

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is a network of members working toward a shared vision of Texas where all young people are valued, their strengths are recognized, and they have access to the resources, support, and opportunities they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. Our mission is to strengthen, support, and protect critical services for Texas youth and families in order to ensure their success. TNOYS was founded in 1979.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TNOYS is led by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from member organizations, member regions, and the greater community.

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