



TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES



33TH ANNUAL

**TNOYS Conference on Services
to Youth and Families**

Houston, Texas | June 23-26, 2020

#TNOYS2020



WELCOME!

TNOYS' 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

We're excited to kick off TNOYS' 37th Annual Conference! Over the next three days, our dynamic presenters, speakers, and sessions will encourage you to "Make Your Mark" by tapping into your unique strengths to build resilience and overcome adverse situations. This year's conference once again reflects TNOYS' commitment to advancing equity, youth-adult partnership and youth voice, integration of research into policy and practice, and collaboration across systems.

After nearly 40 years, TNOYS continues to be at the cutting edge of the youth services field. This year's conference agenda includes opportunities to learn from and alongside young people with lived experience, with time set aside for specialized training, experiential learning, networking, and reflection. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to have fun while you learn from and collaborate with our diverse group of participants, and use this time to share your own expertise and experiences with others.

This year TNOYS is grateful for the collaboration of our conference partners, Children at Risk, National Network for Youth, Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Texas Appleseed, Texas CASA, The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Texas Homeless Network, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, and United Way of Texas. We are also grateful to the many sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and volunteers, as their collaboration and support are integral to the success of 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

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.

PROGRAM GUIDE

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



ADVANCING EQUITY



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE



SPECIAL TOPICS



POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATES



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH
VOICE AND CHOICE



ACCESSING RESOURCES ACROSS SYSTEMS



RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED
BEST PRACTICES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

While our conference has been designed for both youth and professional attendees, some workshops are more appropriate for youth attendees and others are appropriate only for professionals. Please look for the following symbols throughout the program for guidance:



Workshops recommended for youth/young adults



Workshops that are restricted to professionals

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 23: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

8:00 A.M. On-site Registration for Institutes - PLAZA FOYER

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #1** Deep Dive Into Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) - PLAZA I

9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #2** Strengths-Based Clinical Supervision - PLAZA II

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #3** Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Humility: Together We Can Achieve It! - WEST ALABAMA

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

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24: CONFERENCE DAY 1

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

9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. Welcome + Keynote - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **DETOUR: WINNING WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO ACCORDING TO PLAN** with Courtney Clark, Accelerated Resilience Expert and Motivational Speaker

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Workshops

12:15 P.M. - 1:45 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. Workshops

3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. General Session + Performance - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **ARTS AS A TOOL TO CENTER THE VOICES OF HOMELESS MINORS** with Malika Whitley, CEO & Founder, ChopArt
 - **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**
-

THURSDAY, JUNE 25: CONFERENCE DAY 2

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

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

- **EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: USING A COLLABORATIVE ANALYTIC DECISION-MAKING MODEL TO DE-POLITICIZE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** with Judge Steve Teske, Chief Judge, Juvenile Court of Clayton County, GA
- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE**

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

12:15 P.M. - 1:45 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

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

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 26: CONFERENCE DAY 3

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. - 12:15 P.M. Closing Keynote - GALLERIA BALLROOM

- **ADDRESSING INEQUITY IN SYSTEMS: THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA, BIAS, AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE SAFETY FOR HEALING** with Monique W. Morris, Award-Winning Author and Social Justice Scholar

FEATURED SPEAKERS

CHRISTOPHER "YUNGCHRIS" THOMAS



Christopher Thomas has visited 24 countries around the world as a dance teacher, choreographer, and performer. Thomas spent a year in Bangkok, Thailand training local pop stars and performing at events throughout Southeast Asia before he moved back to Houston in 2011 to start his own dance company, Sonkiss'd Dance Theater. Thomas' students have gone on to work and tour with major artists, including Taylor Swift and Beyoncé.

COURTNEY CLARK



Courtney Clark is the luckiest unlucky person in the world. After a series of major struggles beginning in her mid-20s, she has built two successful businesses and is the author of two books, including her most recent book, "The Successful Struggle: Power Techniques to Achieve Accelerated Resilience." She works with people who want to adapt faster and achieve more, and has spoken to organizations like Procter & Gamble, Dell, S&P, and Humana.

MALIKA WHITLEY



Malika Whitley is the founder and executive director of ChopArt, which supports youth experiencing homelessness through multidisciplinary arts immersion and mentorship. Whitley has a ten year background in arts curation and relationship management and has worked on five different continents, receiving praise from international governments and communities. Her work is informed by her own experience with homelessness.

JUDGE STEVE TESKE



Judge Steven C. Teske is the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia. Judge Teske has testified before Congress and several state legislatures on detention reform and zero tolerance policies in schools. He has written several articles on juvenile justice reform, including his model on school justice partnerships. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, notably the 2018 Juvenile Law Center Leadership Prize.

MONIQUE W. MORRIS



Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is an award-winning author and social justice scholar with 30 years of experience in the areas of education, civil rights, and juvenile and social justice. Dr. Morris has authored several books, including "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools." She has written and lectured widely on addressing juvenile justice, educational, socioeconomic, and trafficking issues for Black girls, women, and their families.

WORKSHOP CHART



ADVANCING EQUITY



SPECIAL TOPICS



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
THROUGH VOICE & CHOICE

GALLERIA I

PLAZA I

PLAZA II

TANGLEWOOD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.



The Impact of
Socioeconomic
Status on
Adolescents



Children's Mental
Health

CWLA Blueprint for
Excellence in Child
Welfare



Building Effective
Youth-Adult
Partnerships

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.



Addressing
the Issue of
Adultification



Providing Services
to LGBTQ Youth in
Care

Say What?!
Services to Persons
with Hearing Loss

The Impact of
Hurricane Harvey
and Other Natural
Disasters on Youth

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

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

Innovative Equity
Programs

Reaching Gang-
Involved Youth



Making Your Mark,
Like a #BOSS



Help for Children and
Youth in Foster Care

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



Art(is)facts

Creating Nurturing
Environment for
Trafficking Victims

Cultural Humility
within the LGBTQ+
Community

Contraceptive
Counseling for
Youth Experiencing
Homelessness

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

Achieving
Equitable
Outcomes

Child Sex
Trafficking and
Online Behavior



The VOICE
Project: Supports of
Formerly Homeless
Youth



Fundamentals
of Ethical Youth
Engagement

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

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

Equity at the
Systems Level

Successfully
Working with Birth
Families



Ending the Game:
Psychological
Coercion in CSEC

Resistance in Youth
and Young Adults



RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-
BASED BEST PRACTICES

BELLAIRE

Commercial Sexual
Exploitation -
Identification Tool
(Part 1)

Commercial Sexual
Exploitation -
Identification Tool
(Part 2)

Adolescent Brain
Development

Motivational
Interviewing (Part 1)

Motivational
Interviewing (Part 2)

Overview of Building
Bridges



TRAUMA INFORMED
CARE

POST OAK

Trauma Informed
Juvenile
Corrections

Mind Matters:
Overcoming
Adversity &
Building Resilience

A Team Approach
to Trauma
Informed Care

CARE: Child Adult
Relationship
Enhancement
(Part 1)

CARE: Child Adult
Relationship
Enhancement
(Part 2)

Peer-to-Peer
Troubleshooting
for Trauma
Informed Care
Implementation



POLICY AND
REGULATORY UPDATES

WESTCHESTER

CPS Updates

Round Robin
Discussion with
State Agencies

Bells and Whistles
for Specialized,
Collaborative CSEY
Services

Federal Policy
Updates

PEI Updates

Round Table
Discussion on
Cross-Systems
Policy Agenda



ACCESSING RESOURCES
ACROSS SYSTEMS

SAGE

Navigating
McKinney-Vento



Using SMS to Help
Teens Access Family
Planning Services

Finding and
Analyzing Funding
to Support Your
Programs



Connecting Youth
in Foster Care to
Resources

Community-Based
Supports for Youth
and Families

Navigating HUD +
Accessing
Resources for
Homeless Youth



PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

SAN FELIPE

Reduce Burnout



Change Happens:
Shifting Your
Mindset from Fixed
to Growth

Compassion
Fatigue and
Secondary
Traumatic Stress

Ethics for Child
and Youth Care
Professionals (Part 1)

Ethics for Child
and Youth Care
Professionals (Part 2)



Make Your Mark
While Creating
Landmarks!

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Pre-Conference Institutes
(separate registration required)

8:00 A.M. Registration Open - PLAZA FOYER

9:00 A.M - 4:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #1: Deep Dive Into Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) - PLAZA I

Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is a holistic, evidence-based, attachment-based, and trauma informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of "children from hard places." Children/Youth from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and beliefs systems. Building connections and healthy relationships are vital to creating a safe space for a child/adolescent to heal from trauma. The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development created TBRI, a practical, trauma responsive approach for those working with children and youth. This workshop equips participants with tools based in the connecting principles, like mindfulness, in order to bring healing to our kids.

Presented by Kimberly Jones, LMFT-A, and Ally Matteson, LCSW, Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, Texas Christian University

9:30 A.M - 4:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #2: Strengths-Based Clinical Supervision - PLAZA II

Join us to learn strategies that can assist social work supervisors during advanced clinical supervisions. The workshop will prepare supervisors to use collaboration, strengths-based approaches, and other best practices when working with supervisees. Upon completing this workshop, participants will be able to use strengths-based conversations with supervisees to develop measurable goals for supervision, engage supervisees in discovering clinical strategies to use in their work with clients, reinforce supervisees' strengths while addressing their challenges, and more.

Presented by Jack Nowicki, LCSW, Jack's Collaborative Counseling & Consulting

10:00 A.M - 3:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #3: Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Humility: Together We Can Achieve It! - WEST ALABAMA

Issues of equity and inclusion have a critical impact on the lives of the youth we serve. Join trainer Mia Williams of Melanin Marketing to help enhance your understanding of these issues and learn how to incorporate such principles into your work. Through immersive and engaging professional development activities, this institute aims to change the way organizations operate and the way people communicate relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. Attendees will dive into how history develops, shapes, and influences our core values, discuss the differences between cultural competency and cultural humility, and develop strategies for normalizing discussion that influence and generate inclusive policy.

Presented by Mia Williams, Melanin Marketing Management

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

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

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

9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. WELCOME + KEYNOTE: Detour: When Life Doesn't Go According to Plan by Courtney Clark - GALLERIA BALLROOM

In this inspiring and interactive presentation, resilience researcher Courtney Clark will teach a multi-step framework for creating optimal outcomes in uncontrollable situations. At the end of this session, participants will be able to: discover how to let go of "the plan," identify ways to maintain personal power during transition and upheaval, and develop measures to increase perspective and adaptability.

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. WORKSHOPS



Libby Wolverton, Nicole Price, and Youth Presenter, Our Friends Place

GALLERIA I

Take an in-depth look at how socio-economic status (specifically poverty and middle class) impacts the lives of adolescents. Through interactive activities, participants will explore the resources, perceptions, and hidden rules within each socio-economic class. We will discuss how these areas impact adolescent-adult interactions, relationship building, and beliefs, and how issues youth face compound their developmental stages such as neglect, homelessness, poverty, and abuse.



Lauren Pursley, Mental Health America of Greater Houston

PLAZA I

This presentation will cover the signs and symptoms of mental illness and how to have a conversation with a young person about it. We will also discuss behavior modification and de-escalation techniques, and share information about medication and its uses with youth. Attendees will leave feeling empowered with accurate information they can share with the young people they serve.



Robert Brewer and Anna M. Bell, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults; Stan Waddell, Centene; Julie Collins, Child Welfare League of America

PLAZA II

In 2013, the Child Welfare League of America published the National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare to broaden the thinking of communities, individuals, and groups and help them understand how their roles and responsibilities fit into the overall strategy to improve outcomes for children and youth. This workshop will inform participants of the CWLA National Blueprint; share how one TNOYS member and one non-TNOYS member agency plan to implement the CWLA National Blueprint within their organization's work; and teach participants to begin their own evaluation and implementation plans.



Latasha Teamer and Youth Presenters, HOPE Youth and Family Development

TANGLEWOOD

Youth are filled with passion, knowledge, insight, and fresh ideas that adults often overlook because of their age. When youth-adult partnerships are developed appropriately and youth are included in decision-making, youth can become valuable resources and assets to communities, organizations, and society. Adults benefit by gaining more relevant and responsive ways to serve youth, and become more competent in their work with youth by seeing them as crucial contributors.



Kerri Taylor, Unbound Houston

BELLAIRE

This three-hour training takes place over two workshop sessions and covers the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT), which assists youth-serving professionals in identifying children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited. This training tool helps professionals identify youth sooner and improve early intervention and response. The workshop will provide a complete overview of the tool, and train you to administer it (but will not qualify you to train others).



Trauma-Informed Juvenile Corrections

Troy McPeak, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

POST OAK

This workshop features an overview on the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's effort to reform juvenile services through the use of the Texas Model of Trauma Informed Corrections. The Texas Model is a trauma informed care (corrections) model based on Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) that focuses on youth and staff safety.



Updates on Texas Child Protective Services

Representative from CPS, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

WESTCHESTER

Join us for an update on the latest regulations and practices from Child Protective Services, and what it means for youth-serving organizations and programs.



Navigating McKinney-Vento

Willa Rosen, Education Service Center Region 13

SAGE

This workshop will provide an overview of the McKinney-Vento Act, followed by a discussion on the rights of homeless students, best strategies for serving this population, and resources to improve outcomes for homeless youth.



Reduce Burnout

Jose Garcia-Cuellar, Own Your Happiness

SAN FELIPE

In this interactive presentation you will become aware of symptoms of burnout, and reenergize yourself to become present with your clients. Mindfulness techniques will allow you to reduce stress and gain awareness of your physical, mental, and emotional state so you can continue to find enjoyment and fulfillment in your career and lifestyle.

12:15 P.M. - 1:45 P.M. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. WORKSHOPS



Addressing the Long Misunderstood Issue of Adulthoodification Y

Jacqueline Miller, Healthy Actions Intervening Responsibly; Lyric Wardlow, TNOYS

GALLERIA I

This workshop explains the long misunderstood issue of adulthoodification on children, which commonly leads children and youth down paths toward homelessness, the criminal justice system, substance use, school suspensions, teenage pregnancy and a multiple of health and social determinants.



Providing Services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Care Y

Artemio Garcia, Garcia's Family Wellness Clinic, LLC; Alex Polk, TNOYS

PLAZA I

This training reviews sexual orientation and gender identity terminology, and the process that LGBT youth go through in regards to sexual orientation and gender identity. Facilitators of this training will also present ideas on how to apply the CWLA's best practices in serving LGBT youth.



Say What? Legal Obligations and Services to Persons with Hearing Loss

Detra Stewart, Assistive Technology Unlimited

PLAZA II

Many health, medical, and social service providers are unaware of their legal obligations when communicating with deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened and deaf/blind individuals. This workshop addresses current medical, health, and social service practices that present new legal and ethical challenges to those who serve clients (and their companions) with hearing loss. Join us to learn more about how the spectrum of services offered by medical, health, and social service providers can significantly impact the lives of youth with hearing loss.



The Impact of Hurricane Harvey and Other Natural Disasters on Youth

Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Justin “Prince” Hayward, TNOYS

TANGLEWOOD

Natural disasters are on the rise, and Texas tops the nation in frequency of natural disasters. Children, youth, and families who are impacted by natural disasters experience trauma and instability that heighten their risk of victimization, exploitation, and mental health crises. Join us to hear the youth perspective on how to address the long-term impacts of natural disasters, strengthen your services for future disasters, and build community resilience.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation – Identification Tool (CSE-IT): Part 2

Kerri Taylor, Unbound Houston

BELLAIRE

This three-hour training takes place over two workshop sessions and covers the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT), which assists youth-serving professionals in identifying children and youth who are commercially sexually exploited. This training tool helps professionals identify youth sooner and improve early intervention and response. The workshop will provide a complete overview of the tool, and train you to administer it (but will not qualify you to train others).



Mind Matters: Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience

Janet Pozmantier and Youth Presenters, The Dibble Institute

POST OAK

As more youth who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are identified, we need an innovative approach to reach young people with self-soothing skills and other healthy habits so they can heal. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and practice innovative research-based tools from the Mind Matters curriculum that are effective in overcoming the barriers created by trauma. Youth attending the session will leave with self-soothing skills they can immediately use.



Round Robin Discussion with State Agencies

Sarah Underwood, Health and Human Services Commission CRCG; Naomi Cantu and Kali Adams, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Benjamin Holquist, Texas Workforce Commission

WESTCHESTER

Join us for a facilitated, interactive round robin with youth-serving regulatory agencies to hear policy and program updates.



Using SMS to Help Teens Access Family Planning Services



Eleanor Grano, Graci D’Amor, and Samantha Sorsby-Jones, Jane’s Due Process

SAGE

In this session, participants will hear from a youth activist about legal barriers that young people face when trying to prevent pregnancy in states with parental involvement laws for abortion and contraception. They will also learn about how Jane’s Due Process supports young people navigating these barriers and ensuring their reproductive freedom. Facilitators will present a live-demonstration of Jane’s Due Process’s helpline and also provide information about judicial bypass for abortion, referral resources for teens that reside in contraceptive deserts, and how to safety plan with young people around sexual shame.



Change Happens: Shifting Your Mindset from Fixed to Growth



Nicole Price, Libby Woolverton, and Youth Presenter, Our Friends Place

SAN FELIPE

Sometimes we feel like the traits and behaviors we see in one youth have set them on a similar path to those of others we’ve seen in the past. It is human nature to place people in categories to help us understand the situation, but this often becomes a barrier. This interactive workshop will discuss various topics through the lenses of fixed vs. growth mindsets such as challenges, efforts vs. outcomes, ideals, and myths. Participants will engage in exercises and discussions to review how our mindsets directly impact our youth and how to support and empower youth.

3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. GENERAL SESSION + PERFORMANCE: Arts As A Tool To Center The Voices Of Homeless Minors with Malika Whitley - GALLERIA BALLROOM

Learn how using the arts for risk intervention and trauma recovery allows homeless teens to build the foundation for healing, access community, and create their own interventions for adult homelessness. Gain insight into how it can challenge our systems to listen to the perspectives of teens we serve, and gives us a better chance of creating stronger paths into stability.

- **Featuring a Special Performance**

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

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. KEYNOTE: Effective Criminal Justice Reform: Using a Collaborative Analytic Decision-Making Model to De-Politicize Crime and Punishment by Judge Steve Teske - GALLERIA BALLROOM

Hear about how Judge Teske convened local stakeholders in Atlanta to improve the juvenile justice system using an analytic decision-making model to remove the political rhetoric that often results in "Get Tough" policies as opposed to what works to improve public safety. The keynote will take a deep dive into the counter-intuitive and discuss the four phases of the collaborative analytic decision-making model and how they work to overcome the politicizing of criminal justice issues.

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



Innovative Programs Addressing Equity: A Facilitated Discussion

Moderated by Rachel Brownlie, TNOYS

GALLERIA I

Join us for a facilitated discussion about innovative projects across Texas that address equity. You'll have the opportunity to hear from the following programs: First Generation Youth and Traffic Court with Alexandra Vargas, City of Austin; Positive Alternative Activities for Disconnected Youth with Tisha Wilson, Houston reVision; Legal, Educational, and Support Services for Justice-Involved Youth with Christina Beeler, Juvenile Children's Advocacy Project.



Reaching Gang-Involved Youth From a Trauma-Informed Perspective

Liz Martinez and Youth Presenter, At-Promise Youth Solutions

PLAZA I

This workshop examines how Adverse Childhood Experiences can put children at risk for gang involvement. Attendees will learn how gangs become stand-in providers for meeting basic needs of traumatized youth and how caring adults can intervene. Tools will be shared to teach caring adults how to help youth use their own strengths to set and reach their goals.



Making Your Mark, Like a #BOSS (Y)

Janeke Watson and Youth Presenters, Cultivating Young Minds

PLAZA II

This workshop will acknowledge trauma and generational curses that keep us from being our best selves. Attendees will learn how to think like a #BOSS, what positive and negative self-worth looks like, and how to identify mindsets that keep us from reaching goals. There will be an interactive activity using Q&A, props, and examples from audience.



Help for Children and Youth in Foster Care (Y)

TANGLEWOOD

Youth Perspective on How Child Welfare Professionals Can Prioritize Normalcy with Sarah Crockett, Texas CASA; Panel of Youth

Many real and perceived barriers can prevent foster parents and treatment providers from prioritizing normalcy. Hear from a panel of youth on what foster parents and treatment providers can do to help give the youth in their care a more normal life.

FCO: Who Are We and How Can We Assist? with Erica Brewington, Zophelia Mays, and Raven McKinley, Health & Human Services Commission Foster Care Ombudsman

Participants will learn about the development of the Foster Care Ombudsman program and what the FCO statute means for youth in foster care, DFPS, Health and Human Services, and other services providers who interact with youth in care.



TBD: Adolescent Brain Development

Meera Beharry, McLane Children's Medical Center

BELLAIRE

An abundance of research exists on infant and child brain development, but the adolescent brain seems to receive significantly less attention. This workshop will share knowledge and insight into the adolescent brain, youth behavior, and how to understand, respond to, and motivate youth and adolescents.



A Team Approach to Trauma-Informed Care

Michael Migura, Superior Health Plan

POST OAK

Teamwork is critical to a successful child/family relationship. This course examines the importance of teamwork in the child welfare system, identifies critical team players, and focuses on ways to partner with families and community agencies.



Bells and Whistles for Specialized, Collaborative CSEY Services

Alan Schonborn, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Lauren Rose, TNOYS

WESTCHESTER

Find out about tools, training, and resources from the Governor's Office to help recognize and respond to exploited children. Determine if you should be participating in a new collaborative model of care that is changing the game for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) survivors, and learn about opportunities for providers to partner with the Governor's Office.



Finding and Analyzing Funding to Support Your Programs

Gayla Rawlinson Maynard, Harris County Department of Education

SAGE

This session will help participants gain awareness of types and characteristics of government and private grantors; review funding guidance for a better understanding of funders' expectations and requirements; acquire tools and techniques to assess your organization's readiness to apply for funding; and locate search engines to identify public/private funders.



Compassion Fatigue and Secondary Traumatic Stress

Crystal Sepulveda, Upbring

SAN FELIPE

Attendees will gain a better understanding of how to combat, recognize, and treat themselves for compassion fatigue, bettering their mind, body and soul. This workshop features an interactive activity and take-away swag promoting self-care.

12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. - LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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



Art(is)facts

Torrina Harris, ACEs to Assets Collaborative

GALLERIA I

This workshop explores how youth voice expressed through art can be interpreted as qualitative data and give insight into past and present experiences as well as future goals. Attendees will engage in several creative, hands-on activities, and the group will discuss how thematic analysis has been implemented to address racial inequity in school discipline.



Creating and Maintaining a Nurturing Environment for Trafficking Victims

Crystal Sepulveda, Upbring

PLAZA I

This workshop reviews evidence-based data on the mental health need of victims of human trafficking. Attendees will gain an understanding of service provider goals and youth goals for providing and maintaining a nurturing environment.



Cultural Humility with the LGBTQ+ Community

Phillis Lewis, Shelby County Victims & Rape Crisis Center

PLAZA II

This session will dive into the differences between Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation, and discuss how personal biases get in the way of understanding another perspective. Attendees will discover how to make themselves or their space more inclusive and a safe place for someone who identifies with the LGBTQ+ community.



Contraceptive Counseling for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Meera Beharry, McLane Children's Medical Center

TANGLEWOOD

Youth Experiencing Homelessness (YEH) and youth exiting foster care have higher teen pregnancy rates. This workshop will include a review of current contraceptive methods, special concerns for YEH, and resources for use when educating youth.



Motivational Interviewing: An Introduction to Application and Skill: Part 1

Erin Espinosa, National Council on Crime and Delinquency

BELLAIRE

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based practice that is a collaborative approach to conversations that strengthen an individual's motivation and commitment to change. Participants will explore the myths and facts of MI, understand how it can be used to improve outcomes, learn the basics of reflective listening, and learn how to apply MI. This three-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions.



Child Adult Relationship Enhancement: The CARE Model: Part 1

Cindy Downey and Roy Van Tassell, Centene; Chad Sedam, Texas STAR Health Plan

POST OAK

Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions of any adult and child/adolescent. Based on evidence-based parent training programs, this intervention can support other services provided to families. Skills are taught through live coaching in small groups. This 3-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions and is limited to 40 participants.



Federal Policy Updates

Jo Ann Paanio and Youth Presenter, National Network for Youth

WESTCHESTER

Hear what's new in federal policy and implications for Texas youth, families, and professionals who serve them. Topics will include the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, and more.



Connecting Youth in Foster Care to Education and Workforce Resources Y

SAGE

College Resources for Foster Care Alumni with Brandi Purswell, Drew Melton, and Youth Presenter, BCFS Health & Human Services

This workshop will explore the challenges for youth who age out of foster care as they navigate the post-secondary education process and will highlight the resources available to current and former foster youth as they pursue post-secondary education.

Supporting Independence: Vocational Rehabilitation & Other Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Services for Youth in Foster Care with Laura Villarreal and Benjamin Holquist, TWC-Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Join us to hear information on services students in foster care can access while in high school and after graduation, as well Vocational Rehabilitation, the TWC Foster Care Guide, and TWC programs of value to youth in foster care.



Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 1

Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth

SAN FELIPE

This 3-hour training (broken into two workshop sessions) will familiarize practitioners with the Standards for Practice of North American Child and Youth Care Professionals and its application to practice. This course focuses on teaching participants the process of 'doing ethics' and bridging the gap between professional ethical standards and daily practice applications.

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



Achieving Equitable Outcomes: A Collaborative Approach for Children, Youth, and Families

Mia Williams, Melanin Marketing Management

GALLERIA I

What is it like to live in poverty? Misunderstanding 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.



Child Sex Trafficking and Online Behavior: Risk Factors, Recognition, and Response

Elysse Kusse and Youth Presenter, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

PLAZA I

This workshop teaches about preventing child sexual exploitation by discussing grooming, sexting, and meeting new people online. It also covers crimes such as sextortion and sex trafficking, including how traffickers recruit and control victims.



The VOICE Project: Building the Social Supports of Formerly Homeless Youth

Rhie Azzam Morris, Franklin Fisher, Elizabeth Schoenfield, Krystan Farnish, and Lea Kokenes, LifeWorks

PLAZA II

To address the sense of social disconnection and lack of community integration reported by youth transitioning from homelessness to housing, LifeWorks implemented Venturing On Into Community Engagement (VOICE). This workshop includes an overview of this youth-led project, including accomplishments, opportunities and challenges, and future goals.



Fundamentals of Ethical Youth Engagement

Lyric Wardlow, TNOYS

TANGLEWOOD

Youth engagement is a strategy to value and include the insights of youth in program design and service delivery. Learn about how to incorporate youth engagement into your own work in a substantive and ethical way.



Motivational Interviewing: An Introduction to Application and Skill: Part 2

Erin Espinosa, National Council on Crime and Delinquency

BELLAIRE

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an evidence-based practice that is a collaborative approach to conversations that strengthen an individual's motivation and commitment to change. Participants will explore the myths and facts of MI, understand how it can be used to improve outcomes, learn the basics of reflective listening, and learn how to apply MI. This three-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions.



Child Adult Relationship Enhancement: The CARE Model: Part 2

Cindy Downey and Roy Van Tassell, Centene; Chad Sedam, Texas STAR Health Plan

POST OAK

Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions of any adult and child/adolescent. Based on evidence-based parent training programs, this intervention can support other services to families. Skills are taught through live coaching in small groups. This 3-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions and is limited to 40 participants.



Updates on Prevention and Early Intervention

Representative from PEI, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

WESTCHESTER

Join us for an update on the latest programs and resources from the Texas Department of Protective Services; Prevention and Early Intervention Services.



Community-Based Supports for Youth and Families

SAGE

Exploring Youth Voice and Choice in the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver and Wraparound with Simone Sawyer, Chera Tribble, Chelsea Haley, Edith Turner, and Youth Presenters, Health and Human Services Commission

Learn about the YES Waiver, a 1915(c) Medicaid program that partners with families and the community to ensure qualifying Texas youth have access to a wide range of community-based services and supports.

Residential Treatment Initiative to Prevent Parental Relinquishment with Liz Pearson, Health and Human Services Commission-Children's Mental Health

Learn about the Residential Treatment Center Initiative to prevent parent relinquishment and provide mental health services for high-needs youth, including a review of the referral process and partnership with families who access treatment.



Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 2

Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth

SAN FELIPE

This 3-hour training (broken into two workshop sessions) will familiarize practitioners with the Standards for Practice of North American Child and Youth Care Professionals and its application to practice. This course focuses on teaching participants the process of 'doing ethics' and bridging the gap between professional ethical standards and daily practice applications.

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

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



Equity at the Systems Level

Aurora Martinez Jones, Travis County District Courts

GALLERIA I

In our day-to-day work, we often witness inequities play out at the individual level. In this workshop, participants will learn about disproportionality at a systems level to better understand its impact on providers, services, and the youth they serve.



Successfully Working with Birth Families

Amber Brackmann, Centene

PLAZA I

The majority of children in foster care return home to their parents. How can we develop healthy relationships with birth parents to increase the likelihood of success when children go home? Join us to hear the advice of foster/adoptive parents, birth parents, case managers, and counselors who have had success working with birth families.



Ending the Game: Understanding the Problem & Process of Psychological Coercion in CSEC

Rachel Thomas and Youth Presenter, Ending the Game

PLAZA II

Though there is little evidence-based research on the mental health treatment of victims of human trafficking, one disturbing trend cannot be ignored: victims often exhibit strong attachments to their traffickers and/or the lifestyle of commercial sexual exploitation. Ending The Game© (ETG) is a first-of-its-kind "coercion resiliency" curriculum that reduces feelings of attachment to traffickers and/or a lifestyle characterized by commercial sexual exploitation, thereby reducing the rate of recidivism among sex trafficking survivors.



Resistance in Youth and Young Adults

Jessica Davis, Via Hope

TANGLEWOOD

This workshop will explore different aspects of "resistance" found when working with youth and young adults, and will identify key techniques and tangible strategies for working with the youth towards a common goal. Participants will leave with tangible strategies that can be implemented immediately.



Overview of Building Bridges and Core Strategies for Reducing Seclusion and Restraints

Jason Drake, Upbring; Elizabeth Aleman, New Life

BELLAIRE

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) works to ensure that services and supports for youth are family-driven, youth-guided, strengths-based, culturally and linguistically competent, individualized, and evidence-based and practice-informed. Learn about BBI strategies for reducing seclusion and restraint followed by a discussion about opportunities and challenges for implementation in your own programs.



Peer-to-Peer Troubleshooting for Trauma-Informed Care Implementation

Christine Gendron, TNOYS

POST OAK

One of the key principles of trauma-informed care is to give people being served input into the services and decisions that affect their lives. Youth engagement and peer support are critical elements of a strong youth services program that is trauma informed. Learn how peers can help clients overcome challenges and reach their goals in a trauma-informed setting.



Round Table Discussion on Cross-System Policy Agenda

Lauren Rose and Justin “Prince” Hayward, TNOYS

WESTCHESTER

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is developing a statewide, cross-systems youth policy agenda and wants your input. Please join us for a meeting of youth service providers to share and discuss your ideas to improve supports for Texas youth across systems including juvenile justice, education, housing, workforce, and more.



Navigating HUD and Accessing Resources for Homeless Youth

Housing Expert

SAGE

This workshop will share resources available to serve homeless youth and provide strategies for accessing these resources and using them effectively.



Make Your Mark While Creating Landmarks!



LaKeisha Hughes and Youth Presenters, Whole Life Solutions

SAN FELIPE

On Your MARK! Get Ready! Set! Go Live Your Whole Life Being Your Best Self! This conversation provokes us to explore the excuses we make about why we are not experiencing life at our greatest potential. You will be empowered to move past distractions and excuses.

10:45 A.M - 12:15 P.M. CLOSING KEYNOTE: Addressing Inequity in Systems: The Impact of Trauma, Bias, and Strategies to Create Safety for Healing by Monique W. Morris

Research suggests that children who are heavily system-involved experience more trauma and exhibit more challenging behavior than their non-system involved counterparts. When this behavior shows up in various environments, implicit bias drives disproportionate punitive disciplinary practices which has an even greater impact on Black, Brown, and Indigenous girls. Social justice expert Monique W. Morris will share her research and advocacy work centered on the unique challenges facing Black and Brown girls and provide guidance for how you can support girls in your work and provide the environment they need to thrive.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. The full conference will offer 16 CEU/CPE hours and each of the three pre-conference institutes will offer 6 CEU/CPE hours. We are an approved CEU provider for Licensed Child Care Administrators (LCCAs), Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrators (LCPAAs), licensed social workers and licensed professional counselors (LPC Program Provider #2420; Social Work Provider #6875), continuing professional education providers (CPE provider #902-679), and our credit hours are typically approved for LMFTs. We are approved by Texas Juvenile Justice Department Licensing for CEUs for JPOs, JSOs, and CAOs. This conference is also approved for CEUs for the following substance abuse professional licenses: LCDCs, Associate Prevention Specialists (APS), Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS), and Peer Mentor/Peer Recovery Designation (PM/PRC) through our partnership with Connections Individual and Family Services, and Continuing Legal Education credits (CLEs) through our partnership with Texas Appleseed.

You can find a CEU certificate in the folder you received when you checked into the conference. This certificate is for your records, you will need to fill in your name and indicate which sessions, institutes, or other approved events you attended. For any questions, contact info@tnoys.org.

ABOUT TNOYS

The mission of Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is to strengthen services and support for Texas youth and families to help them overcome challenges and achieve healthy development. Our members share a vision of Texas where all youth and young adults are valued, their strengths are recognized, their voices are heard and respected, and they have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to meet their goals.

TNOYS STAFF

Christine Gendron, Executive Director
Lauren Rose, Director of Public Policy
Justin "Prince" Hayward, Policy Specialist
Sarah Prager, Program Director
Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, Program Manager
Lyric Wardlow, Program Specialist

Rachel Brownlie, Program Coordinator
Shannon Bloesch, Program Support
Mary Bergeron, Communications Director
Alex Polk, Communications Specialist
Anna Geismar Hallmark, Media
Beth Duke, Office Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel Levine, Harris County Protective Services, Houston - Chair
Kellie Stallings, Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc., New Braunfels - Vice Chair
Melissa Opheim, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth - Secretary
Erin Whelan, LifeWorks, Austin - Treasurer
Celeste Garcia, BCFS Health and Human Services, San Antonio
Beth Senger, El Paso Center for Children, El Paso
Leslie Bourne, Covenant House Texas, Houston
Charles Wolford, Promise House, Dallas
Richard Singleton, STARRY, Inc., Round Rock
Candreas Jones, Andrews Center Networks Star, Tyler
Robert Ellis, Pegasus Schools, Inc., Lockhart
Allicia Frye, Jonathan's Place, Garland
Jeffrey Reed, Deep East Texas Council of Governments, Jasper
Charles Rotramel, Houston reVision, Houston
Kym Olson, Lonestar Government and Public Affairs, Austin
Sarah Narendorf, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work, Houston
Diane Santa Maria, UT Health School of Nursing, Houston
Noelita Lugo, Consultant, Austin
Randy Turner, Consultant, Fort Worth

THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS:



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

