



## **Texas Network of Youth Services 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Call for Presenters/Proposals Information on Conference and Topics**

Thank you for your interest in presenting at the 2018 TNOYS Conference **June 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>** in Houston, TX! We are excited to embrace a new format and focus this year. Our conference theme is Pump Up The Volume: Elevating Youth Voice through Youth-Adult Partnerships with an integrated audience of youth services providers, youth (age 15-24), families as well as our [child welfare board partners](#) and other community members.

Please read all information before applying to present to ensure you understand this year's conference theme, structure, and goals. Questions can be directed to Lara O'Toole at [LOToole@tnoys.org](mailto:LOToole@tnoys.org).

TNOYS will review presenter applications on a rolling basis until **February 15, 2018**. We will not consider incomplete applications. We plan to make all selections and notify presenters by **mid-March 2018**.

Presenters selected will be entitled to conference registration discounts. There will be limited scholarships available for youth presenters and attendees.

### **This Year's Conference...**

This year, for TNOYS' 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, we are fully integrating youth and adult partnerships into the fabric of the event. There will be opportunities for providers and community members to build skills and learn best practices, as well as opportunities for young people to grow their leadership abilities. There will be workshops for adults alone, workshops for youth alone, and mixed sessions. Please take a look at the priority topics below as you craft your proposal.

**When possible, priority will be given to sessions that incorporate or showcase youth-adult partnerships (youth and adult co-presenter teams, presentation videos/elements that highlight youth voice, etc.). We are also looking for interactive and creative sessions.**

*Note: Longer institute sessions will occur on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Sessions for adult/provider-only and youth-only audiences will occur on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Sessions for a mixed audience will occur on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. It is difficult to accommodate specific schedule requests.*

## Priority Topics and Ideas 2018

### Mixed Youth + Adult Audience

- Team work/collaboration
- Problem solving
- Building strong youth-adult partnerships
- Examples of youth voice in action, youth stories, and youth Q&A panels
- Human trafficking
- Youth homelessness
- Foster care
- Cultural competency & undoing bias (intersectionality or with certain groups)
- The opioid drug crisis
- Impact of trauma
- Brain development
- Resources and youth services available (statewide)
- Youth legal rights
- Social media
- Creative self-expression (art, poetry, etc.)
- Reflections on current TV/movies about mental health

### For Adults/Providers Only

- Legislative and policy updates
- TBRI (Trust Based Relational Intervention)
- Working with youth with intellectual and/or physical disabilities
- LGBTQ youth topics
- Trauma-informed care topics
- Reducing restraint and seclusion
- Suicide prevention
- Safety when transporting youth
- Current standards of care/licensing
- Ethics and boundaries in youth services
- Normalcy for youth in foster care
- Positive youth development
- Avoiding burnout
- Employee retention and supervision
- Board development
- Supervision of youth in peer roles
- Increasing youth and family voice

- Supporting the transition to adulthood/aging out
- Skill building & best practices related to counseling, case management, foster care, and residential programs
- Working with media
- Working with limited funding

### For Youth Only

- Crafting one's story
- Self-advocacy (standing up for what you want/need)
- Transition-to-adulthood skills (job readiness, finances, housing, etc.)
- Leadership skill building
- Communication and public speaking
- Team work
- Self esteem
- Resources and services available (in Houston or statewide)