



**STEP**  
**INTO YOUR**  
**SUPERPOWER**  
**36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**TNOYS**  
TEXAS NETWORK OF  
YOUTH SERVICES



**TNOYS CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES**  
**HOUSTON, TEXAS | JUNE 25-28, 2019**

**#TNOYS2019**

# WELCOME!

## TNOYS' 36TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

This year, for our 36th annual conference, we encourage you to “Step Into Your Superpower” 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 especially grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, Pegasus Schools Incorporated. We are also grateful to our conference partners, National Network for Youth, Texas CASA, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, Texas Foster Care Association, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and United Way of Texas, for their collaboration. 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



# PROGRAM GUIDE

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



BUILDING ALLIANCES WITH YOUTH



RESOURCES AND COLLABORATION



EVIDENCE-BASED AND BEST PRACTICES



EQUITY AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS



MEDIA AND THE ARTS



PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PUBLIC POLICY



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. The full conference will offer 16 CEU/CPE hours, and each of the two 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), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) certification hours/CEUs for Juvenile Probation Officers, Juvenile Supervision Officers and Community Activities Officers, and our credit hours are typically approved for LMFTs. 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).

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](mailto:info@tnoys.org).

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## TUESDAY, JUNE 25: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

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

9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

- Institute #1 Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) in Youth Services - COTTONWOOD
- Institute #2 Trauma Responsive Care: TBRI® with Child Sex Trafficking Victims - DOGWOOD

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

5:00 P.M. - 8:45 P.M. TNOYS Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation) - MESQUITE

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## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26: FULL CONFERENCE BEGINS

*Separate youth and professional workshop tracks*

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

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

- **REMAINING AWAKE THROUGH A GREAT REVOLUTION** with Spencer Tillman, Super Bowl Champion, College Football Analyst, and Best-Selling Author

### Professional Track

*Featuring select programming designed for youth services providers and stakeholders*

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

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

- 12:30 P.M.-1:30 P.M. Safety Nets Subgrant Recipient Networking Lunch (by invitation) - IMPERIAL BALLROOM

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

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

- **THE RESILIENCE CODE: 5 POWERFUL SECRETS TO BUILDING RESILIENCE IN EVERYONE** with Frank Kros, Child Advocate and Neuroscience Expert

### Youth Leadership Track

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

10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Youth Orientation - IMPERIAL WEST

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Core Workshop - IMPERIAL WEST

12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Lunch Break (lunch provided) + Youth Café - REGENCY

- Special Activity with Kelly Opot and Megan Davis, Harris County Youth Collective

2:10 P.M. - 2:55 P.M. Workshops

3:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. Workshops

3:50 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. Closing Interactive and Creative Session - REGENCY

- **FLY Dance Company** with Jorge Casco and Dance Crew

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. TNOYS Member Leadership Council Meeting (open to all members) - WINDOW BOX

## THURSDAY, JUNE 27: CONFERENCE DAY 2

*All sessions are open to all, professionals and youth*

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

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

- **LOCK HER UP OR LOVE HER UP?** with Alyssa Beck, Survivor Advocate
- Step Performance with Zeta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

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

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

- Special Performance by Christopher “YungChris” Thomas, Sonkiss’d Dance Theater
- A Word from Our Presenting Sponsor: Robert Ellis, CEO of Pegasus Schools Inc.

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

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

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. Residential Provider Networking Meeting (open to all) - COTTONWOOD

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## FRIDAY, JUNE 28: CONFERENCE DAY 3

*All sessions are open to all, professionals and youth*

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

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

10:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. Keynote + Performance - IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- Featuring Art Acevedo, Chief of Houston Police Department
- **THE POWER OF YOUR STORY** with Marlon Lizama, Spoken Word Artist, Iconoclast Artists

# BECOME A TNOYS MEMBER!

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TNOYS 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 discounts on trainings including this conference. We invite all members to join us in the Member Lounge that will be open throughout the conference, as well as at the Member Leadership Council meeting on Wednesday evening.

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](https://tnoys.org/become-a-member).

# WORKSHOP CHART



BUILDING ALLIANCES  
WITH YOUTH

TRACK A

TRACK B



EVIDENCE-BASED AND  
BEST PRACTICES

TRACK A

TRACK B

ARBORETUM 1

REGENCY

ARBORETUM 2

MESQUITE

WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 26

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

**Workshops -  
Professional Track**

4 Power Tools of  
Successful Youth  
Change Agents

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Whole Brain  
Parenting

-

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

**Workshops -  
Professional Track**

Assessment to  
Build Youth-Adult  
Partnerships

-

Giving a Fish a  
Bath: The  
Adolescent Mind

-



**Workshops - Youth Leadership Track**

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

Orientation + Icebreaker Activities - **IMPERIAL WEST**

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Core Workshop: Building a Lived Experience Resume - **IMPERIAL WEST**

2:10 P.M. - 2:55 P.M.

Banking 101: "With Great Power Comes  
Great Responsibility" - **MESQUITE**

Becoming You: Your Ultimate  
Superpower - **REDBUD**

3:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire  
(By Age 60)? - **MESQUITE**

Youth Trafficking Awareness  
Workshop - **REDBUD**

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

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

**Workshops - Open to All**

Supportive  
Youth-Adult  
Relationships

-

Protective Factors  
Against School  
Violence

Solution-Focused  
Brief Therapy:  
Part 1

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

**Workshops - Open to All**

Superhero  
Generations

Building Alliances  
Part 1

Identifying and  
Intervening: Risky  
Substance Use

Solution-Focused  
Brief Therapy:  
Part 2

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

**Workshops - Open to All**

Creative Problem  
Solving:  
It's a Wrap

Building Alliances  
Part 2

Collaboration is  
Key for Meaningful  
Connections

Positive Psychology  
in Adolescent  
Treatment

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

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

**Workshops - Open to All**

Speaking Up and  
Speaking Out

Positive Alternative  
Activities for Kids  
on the Edge

Sensory  
Sensitivities and  
Impact on Behavior

The Strengths Model:  
Enhancing Youth's  
Superpowers



MEDIA AND  
THE ARTS



PUBLIC POLICY



RESOURCES AND  
COLLABORATION



EQUITY AND SPECIAL  
POPULATIONS  
TRACK A TRACK B



PERSONAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

**ARBORETUM 3**

**ARBORETUM 4**

**ARBORETUM 5**

**DOGWOOD**

**WINDOW BOX**

**COTTONWOOD**

The Digital World  
and Implications  
for Self-Care

Updates on Family  
First Prevention  
Services Act

Child Sex  
Trafficking: Tools for  
Prevention

Trafficking in  
African-American  
Communities

Solutions for  
Sexually Abusive  
Youth

Burnout / Learned  
Helplessness

Marvel and  
Mental Health:  
Stories We tell  
Ourselves

DFPS Updates  
on Placement

Building a Trauma-  
Informed Child  
Welfare System

Providing Services  
to LGBT Youth  
in Foster Care

Gang-Involved  
Youth from a  
Trauma-Informed  
Perspective

Funding to  
Support  
Your Programs

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Risky Behavior Youth  
are Engaging in  
Online

Approaches to  
Community  
Based Care

Collaborative  
on Youth  
Homelessness

The Impact  
Adultification  
Has on Children

Identifying  
Pimp-Controlled  
Relationships

Strategies in  
Managing Today's  
Employees

Up-Beats!

Updates from  
Texas Juvenile  
Justice Dept

Post-Secondary  
Education for Foster  
Youth

Achieving Equitable  
Outcomes

Removing Barriers  
for Our Homeless  
Students

You Can't Pour  
From An Empty  
Cup

Reimagining  
Good vs Evil

Governor's Child  
Sex Trafficking  
Team

Human-Centered  
Ideation Session

Shattering of  
Stereotypes (SOS)

Effective Practices  
in Educating Highly  
Mobile Youth

Ethics of  
Self-Care

What Is Your Story?

Recap of Texas'  
86th Legislative  
Session

Foster Care  
Ombudsman/  
Normalcy

Amplifying  
Superpowers of  
Youth w/ Disabilities

YARC: Giving  
Homeless Young  
Adults a Fighting  
Chance

Basics of Public  
Speaking and  
Power of Words

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## FLOOR PLAN

Second Level

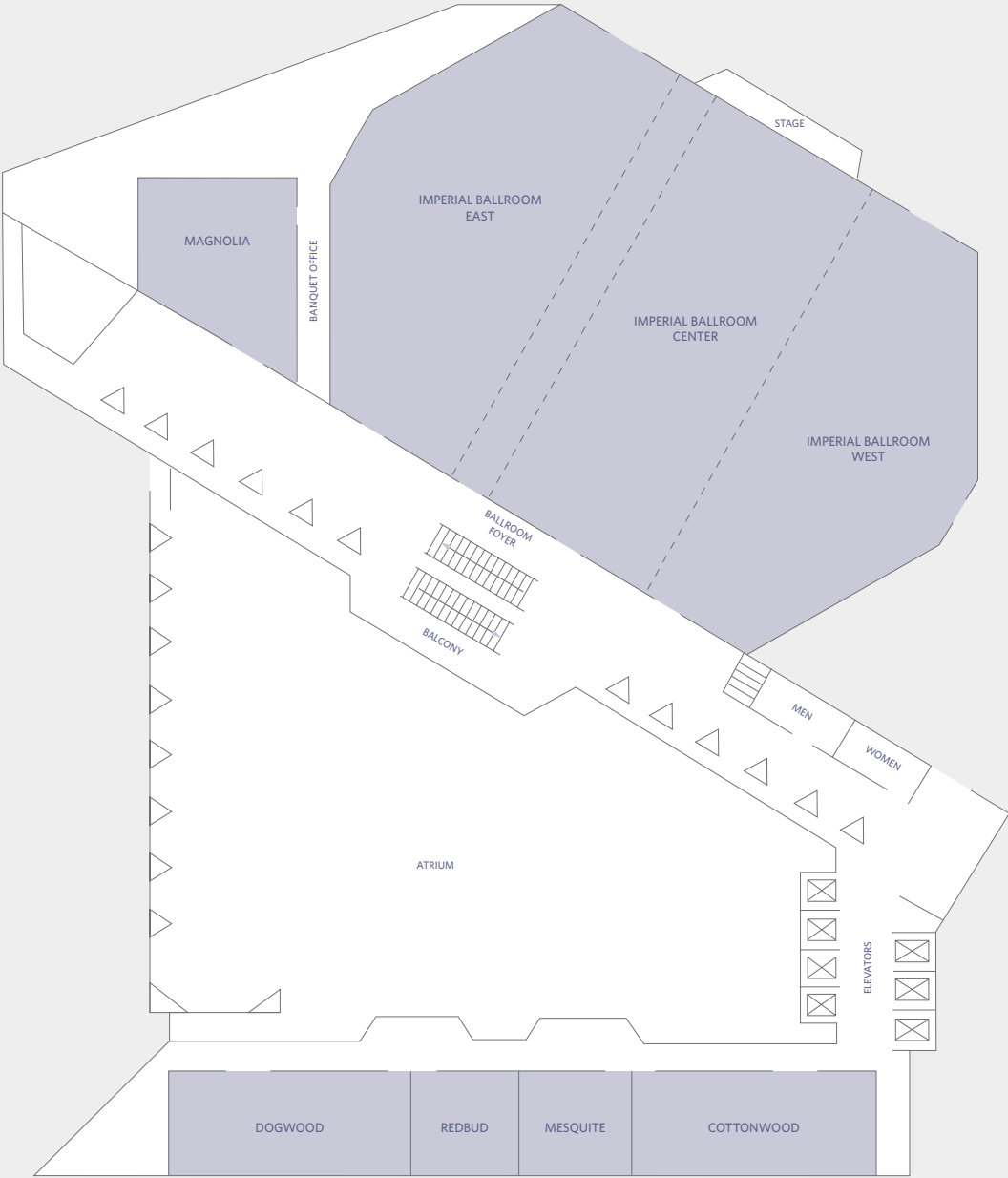




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FLOOR PLAN  
Third Level



# FEATURED PRESENTERS

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## 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.

## SPENCER TILLMAN



Spencer Tillman is a former NFL athlete, Super Bowl champion, college football analyst, best-selling author, and motivational speaker. Tillman is a master motivator, delivering relevant, powerful solutions on professional development for corporate and non-profit leaders and staff. After being drafted by the Houston Oilers in 1987, Tillman worked as an anchor and reporter at KPRC-TV in Houston for 10 years.

## FRANK KROS



Frank Kros, a worldwide speaker, focuses on "Helping Adults Help Kids" through an understanding of neuroscience and its application to everyday practices with children and youth. Kros has served as a childcare worker, child abuse investigator, children's home administrator, consultant, professor, attorney, and writer. He has been president of the Transformation Education Institute and Director of the National At-Risk Education Network.

## ALYSSA BECK



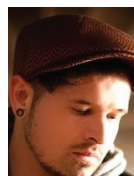
Alyssa Beck is a survivor advocate in the anti-human trafficking field. She shares her story with honesty, passion, and insight, and has been featured on 48 Hours, TEDx, and PBS. Beck advises leaders in the human trafficking and juvenile justice fields through her connections with the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council, and as a Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Youth Ambassador.

## ART ACEVEDO



As Chief of the Houston Police Department (HPD), Art Acevedo leads 5,200 sworn law enforcement officers and 1,200 civilian support personnel with an annual general fund budget of \$825 million in the fourth largest city in the United States. A proponent of community policing, Chief Acevedo refers to the proven practice as "Relational Policing," an opportunity to forge a relationship with each citizen an officer comes in contact with.

## MARLON LIZAMA



Marlon Lizama is a poet/artist who focuses on the cultural aspect of writing and the arts. Coming to the U.S. at the age of 9, he discovered himself in the sub-culture called hip hop. Lizama has been to over 40 countries through competition, performances, poetry shows, and work with the state department. He is currently creating a writing program for youth from across Houston.

## ZETA ZETA CHAPTER OF PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED



The men of the Zeta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated from the University of Houston will present a step performance, a dance incorporating complex rhythms and sounds and a mixture of footsteps and hand claps. Observe their skills, unwind to the beat, and allow them to inspire you to step into your superpower.

# ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

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## Exhibit Hall & Bingo / Raffle

**Wednesday, June 26 - Friday, June 28 - IMPERIAL EAST**

Visit our exhibit hall to learn about dozens of organizations that are working with youth, from health care companies to institutions of higher education. Fill out the bingo card in your registration packet by visiting different booths and turn in the completed card at the registration desk to be entered into a raffle for great prizes. Raffle winners will be announced by the conference emcee throughout the event.

## TNOYS Member Lounge

**Wednesday, June 26 - Friday, June 28 - REGENCY FOYER**

Individual TNOYS members and employees of TNOYS member organizations are invited to step into our conference member lounge to recharge your superpowers and your electronic devices.

## Photo Booth & Airbrush Tattoos

**Wednesday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - IMPERIAL EAST**

Join us in between conference sessions to take some keepsake photos with fellow attendees in our photo booth and get some fun airbrush tattoos!

## TNOYS Member Leadership Council Meeting

**Wednesday, June 26, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - WINDOW BOX**

TNOYS members are invited to join us for a meeting of the TNOYS Member Leadership Council, which aims to strengthen engagement with members and get their input on the needs of Texas youth, families, and the professionals and provider organizations that serve them. The group helps develop the TNOYS legislative agenda and advises TNOYS on its member benefits, training offerings, and other program work.

## Live Performance by Jose “Chapy” Luna

**Thursday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - IMPERIAL EAST**

Following Thursday morning’s general session, unwind and get moving to the beat of percussionist Jose “Chapy” Luna’s live musical performance!

## Caricature Artist

**Thursday, June 27, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - IMPERIAL EAST**

Join us in between sessions to have your portrait made by a caricature artist. Take it home with you to remember your time at the conference!

## Residential Provider Networking Meeting

**Thursday, June 27, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - COTTONWOOD**

Residential providers are invited to join us for light refreshments and a presentation by Jeff Johnson of Harris County Protective Services about the Harris County Child Sex Trafficking Coordinated Care Model. There will also be a group discussion on the Texas Legislative Session, Community Based Care expansion and FFPSA.

# TUESDAY, JUNE 25

Pre-Conference Institutes  
(separate registration required)

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## On-Site Registration for Institutes

8:00 A.M. - IMPERIAL FOYER

### Pre-Conference Institute #1

#### Trust-based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) in Youth Services

9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. - COTTONWOOD

This training will consist of an overview of Trust Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®), a holistic approach that is multi-disciplinary, flexible, attachment-centered, and challenging. It is an evidence-based, trauma-informed intervention that is specifically designed for children who come from hard places, including maltreatment, abuse, neglect, multiple home placements, and violence, but the principles apply to all children. TBRI® consists of three sets of harmonious principles: Connecting, Empowering, and Correcting Principles, which participants will learn about more in this module.

Presented by Jacob Huereca, LMSW, LCCA, and Sebastian Ramos, Connections Individual and Family Services

### Pre-Conference Institute #2

#### Trauma Responsive Care: TBRI® with Child Sex Trafficking Victims

9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. - DOGWOOD

Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) is a holistic, evidence-based, attachment-based, and trauma-informed intervention designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children and youth. Vulnerable children or children from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and belief systems. Commercially Sexually Exploited (CSE) youth often present with histories of complex developmental trauma that contribute to needs communicated through challenging behavior. TBRI® focuses on understanding the trauma-related needs of the population to better respond to their high-risk behaviors. Connecting with them is at the core of relationships, and relationships are vital to creating a safe space for a (CSE) youth to heal. TBRI® equips caregivers with practical tools that help them walk with youth through recovery and healing.

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

## Early Check-in / Conference Registration

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

### TNOYS Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation)

5:00 P.M. - 8:45 P.M. - MESQUITE

**8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - IMPERIAL FOYER**

**9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. WELCOME BY YOUTH PRESENTERS + KEYNOTE: Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution by Spencer Tillman - IMPERIAL BALLROOM**

Join us as one of the nation's top network sports broadcasters and Super Bowl champion Spencer Tillman offers his story and keys to achieving success in a fast-changing, hyper-competitive world. Participants will learn how to lead successfully when the pressure is on and how to effectively navigate — and come out on top — in an uncertain world.

## Professional Track

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



**The 4 Power Tools of Successful Youth Change Agents**

**Frank Kros, Transformation Education Institute; Youth Presenter**

### **ARBORETUM 1**

While it is true that change is constant, expected, and even necessary, that doesn't make it easy. This session will share with youth workers practical, research-supported strategies that successful change agents have used to create positive change in a wide variety of youth-service contexts. This inside knowledge about how the adolescent brain works and what tools lead to positive change will provide powerful insights into the change process and practical strategies to make change happen.



**Whole Brain Parenting**

**Amber Brackmann and Erin L. Riquelme, Centene Corporation**

### **ARBORETUM 2**

Participants in this workshop will learn about brain functioning, including implicit/explicit memory, the effect of mirror neurons, and brain hemispheres' impact on specific behaviors. Brain biology as it relates to thinking patterns and trauma response will be outlined. The course also discusses ways to help youth integrate thoughts, actions, and feelings as well as caregiver responses that support a child's self awareness of emotional or behavioral responses.



**Our Relationship with the Digital World and Implications for Self-Care**

**Shubhra Endley, Communities in Schools of Houston**

### **ARBORETUM 3**

In this workshop, participants will learn about the latest research on the impact of digital devices, smart devices, and other technologies on mental health and wellness. Participants will leave with simple strategies for self-care to more effectively manage the adverse effects of the digital world.



**Updates on the Family First Prevention Services Act**

**Lauren Rose, TNOYS**

### **ARBORETUM 4**

This workshop will deliver updates on the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and what it means for youth-serving organizations and programs. Lauren Rose, TNOYS' Director of Public Policy, will discuss analysis of how FFPSA will impact the important work that you do, and provide guidance on how service providers can prepare for implementation.



**Child Sex Trafficking: Tools for Prevention and Intervention**

### **ARBORETUM 5**

**National Human Trafficking Hotline: National Scope, Local Response with Caroline Diemar and Sam Gillis, National Human Trafficking Hotline**

The first half of this workshop will introduce the National Human Trafficking Hotline and the new partnership between the Texas Governor's Office and the Hotline. It will highlight the relationships between law enforcement, service providers, and child protective services that grew out of the partnership and enabled the Hotline to have a coordinated, local response to trafficking in Texas.

## **The Need for a Common Screening Tool: Introduction to the CSE-IT with Janet Kasper, Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Kerri Taylor, Unbound Now**

The second half of this workshop offers an introduction to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT), which aims to help professionals identify children and youth who have been, or are being, commercially sexually exploited.



### **The Intersection of Child Sex Trafficking and Sexual Abuse within African-American Communities**

**Shelia Kirksey, Jonathan's Place**

#### **DOGWOOD**

With an overwhelming percentage of sex trafficking victims being identified as African-American, it is especially important to address the underlying factors/contributions to this growing statistic. Participants in this workshop can expect to address an array of contributing factors relevant to this subcategory of sex trafficking.



### **Solutions for Sexually Abusive Youth**

**John Kubis, Family Services Center of Galveston County**

#### **WINDOW BOX**

This interactive presentation will demonstrate the relevance of youth service providers and other professionals along the continuum of care in the healing process of adolescents with sexual behavior problems. This workshop will teach early identification of inappropriate sexual behaviors, adolescent brain development research, and empirically supported intervention techniques that can bring about positive change for the victim, the offender, and the caregiver.



### **Escaping the Inescapable: Viewing Burnout through the Lens of Learned Helplessness**

**Patrick Harris, Two Laughing Chairs**

#### **COTTONWOOD**

Burnout is a leading cause of low productivity and high turnover that impacts non-profit work and jobs across the spectrum. This workshop will explore burnout through the lens of learned helplessness and offer a new way to view its effects. Participants will be guided through a more sustainable response to burnout that will help them escape the inescapable.

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

- **12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Safety Nets Subgrant Recipient Networking Lunch (by invitation) - IMPERIAL BALLROOM**

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



### **Utilizing Assessment to Build and Sustain Youth-Adult Partnerships**

**Gayle Gabriel, David Cabrera, Emily Naiser, Sophia Bradley, Riena Mishima, Jazmine Rodriguez, Arely Rojas, and Braulio Rojas, Texas A&M University, Public Policy Research Institute**

#### **ARBORETUM 1**

This workshop will detail the Organizational Readiness Assessment for Youth-Adult Partnerships, a tool that provides organizations with a holistic picture of strengths and weaknesses related to building and sustaining youth-adult partnerships across seven key capacity areas – youth-friendly environment, youth empowerment, organizational culture, evaluation & quality management, diversity, caring adults & mentors, and community connectedness.



### **Giving a Fish a Bath: The Untold Story of the Adolescent Mind**

**Frank Kros, Transformation Education Institute**

#### **ARBORETUM 2**

Recent discoveries in neuroscience offer exciting insights into how the brains of our teens really work and the special “brain-based” challenges facing adolescents as they mature. Learn the inside secrets of the teenage brain and boost your skills in teaching, guiding, mentoring, and motivating the adolescent mind.



### **Marvel and Mental Health: The Stories We Tell Ourselves**

**Patrick Harris and Joe Mele, Two Laughing Chairs**

#### **ARBORETUM 3**

Comic book heroes have dominated pop culture for decades, having recently made the leap to screens big and small. What started as fantastical stories of humans with inhuman abilities has quickly evolved to reflections of the very society that created them. In this dynamic presentation, Patrick and Joe will briefly discuss the history of social justice issues being depicted in comic books, and how superheroes have become metaphors for the strengths and limits to the psyche.





## DFPS Updates on Placement

Jenny Hinson, Shannon Brookfield, and Ingrid Vogel, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

### **ARBORETUM 4**

Are you tired of the old common application? Do you have questions about how or why placements are made? Do you know how to navigate the DFPS placements process and the tools available to help youth get the most out of their placements? Join DFPS for an update on all things placement, as well as an introduction to DFPS's new application for placement.



## Building a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System

Jocelyn Fowler and Judge Darlene Byrne, Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission; Youth Presenter

### **ARBORETUM 5**

Based on the work of 100+ child welfare stakeholders, the Children's Commission released "Building a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System: A Blueprint" in February 2019. This session will explain the core components of the Blueprint, including shifting the culture, embracing principles of equity, addressing secondary trauma, and engaging children, youth, young adults, and families in the decisions that impact their lives.



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

Artemio Garcia, Centene Corporation; Alex Polk, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council

### **DOGWOOD**

This training reviews basic terminology for discussing issues around sexual orientation and gender identity in a sensitive manner. It discusses the process that LGBT youth go through as they come to terms with their sexual orientation or gender identity in the context of a world that is not always welcoming. The training also presents some ideas on how to apply the Child Welfare League of America's best practices in serving LGBT youth in out of home care.



## Working with Gang-Involved Youth from a Trauma-Informed Perspective

Elizabeth Martinez and Youth Presenter, At-Promise Youth Solutions

### **WINDOW BOX**

This workshop examines the role of Adverse Childhood Experiences in putting children at risk for gang involvement. Participants will learn how gangs become stand-in providers for meeting basic needs of traumatized youth and how caring adults can intervene by building strong relationships with youth. The presenters will share tools to teach adults how to help youth use their own strengths to set and reach their goals.



## Finding and Analyzing Funding to Support Your Programs

Gayla Rawlinson Maynard, Harris County Department of Education

### **COTTONWOOD**

Gayla Rawlinson Maynard, a nationally certified grant professional with over 20 years of experience helping others acquire grant funds, will share tips and strategies for finding and analyzing funding to support your programs. She will discuss this topic in the context of specific funding opportunities, including Office of the Governor Grants currently available.

## **3:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. GENERAL SESSION: The Resilience Code: 5 Powerful Secrets To Building Resilience In Everyone by Frank Kros - IMPERIAL BALLROOM**

The trauma-informed movement has been enormously successful in educating the helping profession on the frequency of traumatic experiences and the often devastating impact of those experiences. Now what? How do we move from trauma-informed to trauma-responsive? This presentation will share the 5 secrets of building resilience in everyone you serve – and even in yourself.

## **5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. TNOYS Member Leadership Council Meeting – WINDOW BOX**

TNOYS members are invited to join us for a meeting of the TNOYS Member Leadership Council, which aims to strengthen engagement with members and get their input on the needs of Texas youth, families, and the professionals and provider organizations that serve them. The group helps develop the TNOYS legislative agenda and advises TNOYS on its member benefits, training offerings, and other program work.

# Youth Leadership Track

## **10:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. Orientation + Icebreaker Activities - IMPERIAL WEST**

### **11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Core Workshop**



Building a Lived Experience Résumé

Jessica Davis, Via Hope

**IMPERIAL WEST**

Jessi Davis will empower attendees to create a résumé utilizing their lived experiences. Participants will leave with a rough draft of their résumé, along with guidelines to edit their documents as needed. Jessi Davis is a 24-year-old who has successfully harnessed the power of her lived experiences to reach her dreams. Please bring a pen/pencil to this session.

### **12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Lunch Break + Youth Café**

Kelly Opot and Megan Davis, Harris County Youth Collective

**REGENCY**

In this youth-led process, young people will be asked a series of questions about options for housing, services, and community supports they would like to see. The session will focus on gathering input to support the development of projects to be included in the Plan to End Youth Homelessness. Lunch will be provided.

### **2:10 P.M. - 2:55 P.M. Workshops**



Banking 101: "With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility"

William Alvarez and Brande Reed, Chase Bank

**MESQUITE**

Come learn the basics of budgeting and money management. In this workshop, participants will learn about the importance of credit, saving, and effective budgeting. Eligible participants will also have the opportunity to open their own bank accounts with a starting gift from Chase Bank.



Becoming You: Your Ultimate Superpower

LaKeisha Hughes and Youth Presenter, Whole Life Solutions

**REDBUD**

Do you know the best practices for avoiding careless mistakes and what steps to take when problems arise? Whole Life Solutions will present an interactive workshop to help fine tune your superpowers. Have a problem? In this workshop, you'll break it into puzzle pieces, brainstorm, set goals, and piece your solution together with action steps.

### **3:00 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. Workshops**



Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (by age 60)?

Michael Lee, TransAmerica and Texas Association of Rural Schools

**MESQUITE**

Can you save \$5 per day? What about \$8 per day? Someone who is 20 years of age can start a savings plan to reach \$1,000,000 over the length of a career. All it takes is education, discipline, and good planning. This workshop will teach about different types of investment tools, basic terminology, and how to take reasonable risk.



Youth Trafficking Awareness Workshop

Au'Vonnie Alexander and Quin'Tara Spencer, United Against Human Trafficking

**REDBUD**

This workshop will educate youth about what constitutes human trafficking and exploitation and help develop skills to safely navigate potential and existing exploitative situations. Youth will learn how to access community resources when situations occur that increase their vulnerability and will be empowered to take action in the fight against human trafficking.

## **3:50 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. CLOSING INTERACTIVE AND CREATIVE SESSION: FLY Dance Company with Jorge Casco and Dance Crew - REGENCY**



## 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. Registration Open - IMPERIAL FOYER

### 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. KEYNOTE: Lock Her Up Or Love Her Up? by Alyssa Beck - IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- Featuring a Special Performance by Zeta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

This session will challenge participants to look at personal values regarding trafficking, particularly sex trafficking. The personal experience of a survivor will provide the context for how the system can help or further victimize those who have been trafficked. The question, do we lock her up or love her up?, will be broken down to help participants understand why it's important to L.O.V.E. a girl up.

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



#### Supportive Youth-Adult Relationships with HCYC Youth Advisory Board

Dieter Cantu, Program Manager, and Angel Fuentes, Angel Jackson, and Derrick Marks, Harris County Youth Collective Youth Advisory Board

#### ARBORETUM 1

This workshop will feature a panel on youth engagement strategies directed by the Harris County Youth Collective (HCYC) Youth Advisory Board (YAB). The panel will share their unique experiences with the organization and how they are using their lived experience to directly connect with communities and build community voice in our work to support families and youth.



#### Protective Factors Against School Violence

Vickie Rabino, Hitchcock ISD; Kim Vasquez, HCYC Youth Advisory Board

#### ARBORETUM 2

This presentation takes research on youth and violence and shares risk factors that increase the likelihood a young person could become violent, as well as protective factors that buffer students from the threat of becoming violent. Understanding risk factors and protective factors can help educators and others better meet the needs of students and their families and create a safer school environment.



#### Solution-Focused Brief Therapy: The 2nd Version of the Treatment Manual In Practice: Part 1

Jack Nowicki, Jack's Collaborative Counseling & Consulting

#### MESQUITE

By the end of this two-part, three-hour practice-oriented workshop, participants will be able to review the basic tenets that inform SFBT and its focus on clients' desired future rather than their problems; assess clients' strengths and resources that may be mobilized to facilitate constructive change; and review the basic standard manual components, specific active therapist ingredients and behaviors, and interview format and content parts.



#### Risky Behavior Youth are Engaging in Online and How to Prevent It

Meghan Zuraw, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Texas Regional Office; Youth Presenter

#### ARBORETUM 3

Unfortunately, youth are often unaware of the true risk of their online activity, and caregivers often feel left behind when it comes to the apps and websites their children are using. Participants will learn about risky behaviors youth are engaging in online based on analysis from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and how to implement prevention education with youth aged five to eighteen.



#### Innovative Approaches to Community Based Care

Anais Biera, Family Tapestry; Linda Garcia, Our Community Our Kids; Brandon Logan, 21Ngage

#### ARBORETUM 4

Community Based Care (CBC) continues to roll out across Texas. While the performance outcomes are similar for all Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC), the strategies and tactics each SSCC implements to achieve those performance measures vary according to the specific needs and resources of each region. Hear CBC providers from regions 2, 3b, and 8a share their innovative approaches to delivering high-quality foster care in their regions.



Christine Gendron, TNOYS; Charles Batiste, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council; Charles Rotramel, Houston reVision

## ARBORETUM 5

Join us for the quarterly meeting of the Statewide Workgroup on Youth Homelessness, which facilitates collaboration between state agencies, statewide organizations, and local efforts to strengthen services and supports for Texas' homeless youth. Charles Rotramel will share insight into Houston's work to develop a coordinated plan to end youth homelessness.



### Addressing the Impact Adulthoodification Has on Children with an Emphasis on Black Girls

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

## DOGWOOD

This training is designed to raise awareness of the impact adulthoodification has on children and their childhoods. Adulthoodification commonly leads children and youth down paths of school suspensions, teenage pregnancy, homelessness, substance use, the criminal justice system, and a multitude of health and social determinants.



### Identifying Pimp-Controlled Relationships: Is This Love That I'm Feeling?

Katie Watson, Youth Care Counselor at a Residential Treatment Center for Girls ; Annie Anthony, HCYC Youth Advisory Board

## WINDOW BOX

Frequently, youth are recruited into commercial sexual exploitation under the guise of a loving relationship by a pimp with ulterior motives. This presentation will uncover pimps' methods of manipulation: behavior, information, thought, and emotional control. By the end of this session, attendees will be able to identify and end pimp-controlled relationships before they become exploitative.



### To Manage or Not to Manage... Is That a Question? Strategies in Managing Today's Employees

Will Walker, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults

## COTTONWOOD

Studies have shown that the success of agencies/companies is predicated on direct managers' abilities to manage conflict, team build, and communicate effectively with their employees. This course is a comprehensive curriculum developed specifically for supervisors and other middle managers providing services in a wide variety of child welfare and behavioral health organizations. Participants will learn important strategies and techniques crucial to addressing employee issues.

## 12:15 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. - MEMBER AWARDS LUNCHEON + PERFORMANCE (open to all) - IMPERIAL BALLROOM

- Special Performance by Christopher "YungChris" Thomas, Sonkiss'd Dance Theater
- A Word from Our Presenting Sponsor: Robert Ellis, CEO of Pegasus Schools

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



### Superhero Generations

Sebastian Ramos, Elizabeth Veldboom, and Youth Presenter, Connections Individual and Family Services

## ARBORETUM I

This presentation will address the difficulties that come with having multiple generations — Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z — in one workplace. This workshop aims to assist with turnover rate, unfulfillment in employees, frustrations in supervisors and direct care, bridging the generation gaps, and creating a better work environment.



### Building Alliances Part I: Preventing Runaway through Positive Youth Development Strategies

Charles Batiste and Justin Hayward, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council; Scurry Miller, Covenant House Texas

## REGENCY

Hear directly from youth with lived experience in foster care on why they run from care and strategies for building alliances with youth to prevent runaway and other challenging behaviors. Learn about the "Struggle Me Not" approach, which emphasizes the importance of not entering into power struggles with youth receiving services. This workshop builds on trainings TNOYS has held for CPS caseworkers, residential service providers, and other stakeholders throughout the state.



## Identifying and Intervening: Risky Substance Use

Leah Davies, Strategic Health Alliance, University of Texas at Austin; Youth Presenters

### ARBORETUM 2

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) is an evidence-based model used to identify and intervene with individuals who have risky substance use behaviors. SBIRT depends on the establishment of rapport and a nonjudgmental approach. This presentation shares strategies to avoid stigmatizing substance use and to avoid judgment.



## Solution-Focused Brief Therapy: The 2nd Version of the Treatment Manual In Practice: Part 2

Jack Nowicki, Jack's Collaborative Counseling & Consulting

### MESQUITE

By the end of this two-part, three-hour practice-oriented workshop, participants will be able to review the basic tenets that inform SFBT and its focus on clients' desired future rather than their problems; assess clients' strengths and resources that may be mobilized to facilitate constructive change; and review the basic standard manual components, specific active therapist ingredients and behaviors, and interview format and content parts.



## Up-Beats!

Jose "Chapy" Luna, Musician with The Suffers

### ARBORETUM 3

In this hands-on workshop, participants will be able to engage with a variety of percussion instruments. Participants will learn basic techniques and collaborate in making beats. The purpose will be to encourage creative expression and collaboration.



## Updates from Texas Juvenile Justice Department

Jennifer Jones, Texas Juvenile Justice Department

### ARBORETUM 4

Hear agency updates and gain a larger context for work with youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Director of Contract Care & Halfway House will discuss how TJJD is integrating trauma-informed practices into its transitional and re-entry programs and improving services to youth as they prepare to return to their home communities.



## Super Resources for Current & Former Foster Youth to Get Their Post-Secondary Educations

Brandi Purswell, Claudia Martinez, Noel Martinez, and ShaLynn Andrews, BCFS Health and Human Services

### ARBORETUM 5

This session will help attendees understand the unique challenges that face youth who age out of foster care as they go through the post-secondary education process. Participants will discuss the potential barriers that prevent current and former foster youth from pursuing post-secondary education and explore the possible solutions.



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

Sheila Craig, Texas Health and Human Services, CEDD Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement

### DOGWOOD

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.



## Removing Barriers for Our Homeless Students

Darrin Cox, Abilene ISD; Youth Presenter

### WINDOW BOX

Darrin Cox will share how the Abilene community has raised awareness of student homelessness and created collaboration and increased access to services for students. He will also discuss the importance of knowing one's strengths and weaknesses and how utilizing our strengths can help us work in different ways to meet the same goals for our students.



## You Can't Pour From An Empty Cup: Leading with Intention and Purpose

Natalie Fikac, Mental Health America of Greater Houston

### COTTONWOOD

Do you find yourself running on fumes trying to get the job done? We all know it is important to take care of ourselves, but we often don't set aside time to make it happen. You will leave this session with tools to implement immediately to help you better take care of yourself so that you can take care of others.

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



### Creative Problem Solving: It's a Wrap

Rachel Francis, Nyela S. Bolden, Maria Campos, Shawn Carter, Dejay Johnson, Wykesha King, and Ana Sanchez, Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults, Justice of the Peace Court Wraparound Program

#### ARBORETUM 1

This presentation recognizes needs and strengths as keys to help individuals solve their problems more creatively. The root of a problem is often unrecognized by the individual and family involved, while strengths are neglected.



### Building Alliances Part 2: Experiential Deep Dive

Charles Batiste and Justin Hayward, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council; Scurry Miller, Covenant House Texas

#### REGENCY

Part 2 of this series on building alliances with youth takes a deeper dive into the engagement strategies discussed in Part 1. Participants will put the concepts into action through role play, case studies, and interactive exercises.



### Collaboration is Key for Creating and Sustaining Meaningful Connections

Anna McDonnell, Texas CASA; Youth Presenter

#### ARBORETUM 2

Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE) is an approach that creates and sustains meaningful connections for youth and their families involved in the foster care system. Learn about the 4Cs of CFE and walk away with tools and strategies you can use to increase collaboration and build connections for the children, youth, and families that need them the most.



### Integrating Positive Psychology in Adolescent Treatment: The I CAN Model

Kelly Aubry and Drew Dutton, Phoenix House

#### MESQUITE

This workshop will provide an overview of current adolescent substance abuse treatment challenges and approaches, introduce participants to the field of Positive Psychology, and teach participants how to incorporate the principles of Positive Psychology into alternative approaches to adolescent substance abuse treatment.



### Reimagining Good vs Evil

Sebastian Ramos, Elizabeth Veldboom, and Youth Presenter, Connections Individual and Family Services

#### ARBORETUM 3

This workshop will examine the impact of technology and media on youth. It will delve into the reflective image youth see in media across all platforms. It will address how youth identify with characters and social culture to process trauma through technology. Further, this workshop will encourage innovative ideas utilizing technology and media as proactive tools.



### Support for Specialized, Collaborative Services from the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team

Alan Schonborn, Office of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team

#### ARBORETUM 4

Hear about tools and resources from the Governor's Office to help you recognize and respond to exploited children, training and other support available to professionals, and a new collaborative model of care that is changing the game for these victims. This workshop will identify opportunities for providers to partner with the Governor's Office in this important work.



### Human-Centered Ideation Session: Discover Your Power To Battle Adversity

Ryan Park and Kyle Kerrigan, Upbring Innovation Lab

#### ARBORETUM 5

Tap into your superpowers to create innovative solutions for tricky problems. Learn how to engage your unique strengths to expand your point of view, reframe challenges, collaborate on ideas, and think from an entrepreneurial perspective.



### Shattering of Stereotypes (SOS)

Cherry Steinwender, The Center for the Healing of Racism

#### DOGWOOD

The best way to reduce racial stereotypes is to be conscious about the differences in groups of people. SOS will aid participants to understand the hurt of each stereotype in order to weed out those stereotypes and effect change.



## Effective Practices in Educating Highly Mobile Youth

Jeanne Stamp, Texas Homeless Education Office; Youth Presenter

### WINDOW BOX

Hear effective practices by public schools in aiding children in foster care, runaway and homeless youth to excel academically, gathered from information collected from over 25 years of subgrant recipients of the Texas Homeless Education Office. Formerly homeless students will also be interviewed for THEIR identified most helpful practices.



### Ethics of Self-Care

Don Forrester, Coalition of Residential Excellence

### COTTONWOOD

This workshop highlights the importance of self-care through stories the participants will find deeply personal and familiar. Without devoting time to the ethics of self-care, the best of intentions can fall short of effectively making a difference in the lives of those we serve. We can't run on empty.

## 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. - SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL PROVIDER NETWORKING MEETING (open to all) - COTTONWOOD

Join us for light refreshments and a presentation by Jeff Johnson of Harris County Protective Services about the Harris County Child Sex Trafficking Coordinated Care Model. Other topics include Texas Legislative Session, FFPSA, and more.

# FRIDAY, JUNE 28

All Workshops Open to  
Professionals and Youth

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

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



### Speaking Up and Speaking Out

April McWilliams, Foster Youth Advocate

### ARBORETUM I

Hear the perspectives of a CPS caseworker who has experience as a foster youth and with aging out of care. For youth, self-advocacy requires an understanding of being assertive vs. being aggressive and how to strategically share experiences to partner with the adults in their case planning. Adults will find this workshop helpful in trading ideas on how to empower young people.



### Positive Alternative Activities for Kids on the Edge

Rachel Brownlie, TNOYS; Charles Rotramel and Joe Trevino, Houston reVision

### REGENCY

Explore the power of positive peer experiences on the lives of disconnected youth. Discover how you can create safe spaces and opportunities to foster positive peer experiences in your organizations, agencies, and schools. The presenters will share how they created critical positive peer experiences for disconnected youth through sports and hip hop culture.



### Exploring Sensory Sensitivities and their Impact on Behavior

Renee Cameron, STARRY

### ARBORETUM 2

Are you sensory seeking or sensory avoidant? What does that even mean? Do you ever feel irritable in certain situations and you are unsure why? Or do you ever feel like you cannot sit still and your brain is telling you that you need to move? This could be a sensory sensitivity. Attend this segment to learn about sensory sensitivities and how to manage them.



### The Strengths Model: Applications for Enhancing Youth's Superpowers

Liz Schoenfeld, Brooke White, and Youth Presenter, LifeWorks

### MESQUITE

The Strengths Model is an evidence-based, recovery-centered approach to case management designed to leverage youth's strengths to help them develop and reach personal goals. This presentation will introduce the six core principles of the Strengths Model and provide recommendations for incorporating these principles into your practice.



### What Is Your Story?

**Marlon Lizama, Iconoclast Artists**

#### **ARBORETUM 3**

Come take part in a dialogue on what makes your story unique. You will create original poetry blueprinted by Marlon Lizama and share what you create. Workshop participants will celebrate each other's work and leave inspired to keep creating.



### Recap of Texas' 86th Legislative Session

**Lauren Rose, TNOYS; Justin Hayward, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council**

#### **ARBORETUM 4**

Join us for a discussion of policy changes made during the 86th Texas Legislative Session and how they will impact Texas' youth, families, and professionals who serve them. Lauren Rose will highlight major legislation and budgetary decisions relevant to youth services and Justin Hayward will discuss his experience advocating for policies during the session.



### Help for Children and Youth in Foster Care and a Discussion on Normlacy

**Clarice Rogers, Foster Care Ombudsman, and Zophelia Mays, Texas Department of Health and Human Services; Panel Discussion with Youth in Foster Care**

#### **ARBORETUM 5**

In this two-part workshop, participants will learn about the Foster Care Ombudsman program and take part in a paper doll exercise that shows how everyday words, choices, and interaction can positively or negatively impact a child or youth. Then, participants will review normalcy laws and discuss what more needs to be done for this cultural shift to come fully to fruition.



### Amplifying the Superpowers of Youth with Disabilities

#### **DOGWOOD**

**Patterns and Predictors of Recidivism for Incarcerated Youth with Disabilities with Jaekyung Willows, University of Texas at Austin, College of Special Education**

The first half of this workshop will focus on improving the relationship between youth incarceration and public school support for crime preventions, and on examining the impact of disabilities on reentry.

**Special Education Advocacy in Texas with Dustin Rynder, Disability Rights Texas**

The second half of this workshop will provide an overview of key legal rights in special education. The attorney will provide practical advocacy tips that can be used by parents and other professionals and an overview of special education in Texas.



### YARC: Giving Homeless Young Adults a Fighting Chance

**Kelsey Reynolds, Jermaine Harmon, Alyssa Kelly, and Youth Presenter, Salvation Army Young Adult Resource Center**

#### **WINDOW BOX**

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



### The Basics of Public Speaking and Power of Words

**Terri Jagers, Texas Foster Care Association**

#### **COTTONWOOD**

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.

**10:45 A.M - 12:15 P.M. CLOSING KEYNOTE + PERFORMANCE: The Power of Your Story by Marlon Lizama – IMPERIAL BALLROOM**

• **Featuring Art Acevedo, Chief of Houston Police Department**

Using storytelling and performance poetry, Marlon Lizama will share how he found himself and his career through hardships, traveling, and the arts. Hear how he came to the U.S. as a child, grew up in at-risk areas, and ended up a successful artist.



# TNOYS STAFF



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