

ROOTED
IN
POWER

38th Annual
TNOYS Conference

on Services to Youth and Families

June 8-11, 2021

TNOYS
TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

#TNOYS2021



WELCOME!

TNOYS' 38TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

This year, for our 38th annual conference, we hope to remind you that you are “Rooted in Power.” When you dig deep into your unique strengths and ground yourself in your truth, you can build concrete skills to grow and thrive. My first year as Executive Director of TNOYS has defied all my expectations as the need for services and support increased amidst the pandemic, the winter storm, and their ongoing consequences. Young people faced new obstacles to achieving their goals, and providers and communities were asked to do more with less. TNOYS members faced significant challenges and are preparing for a more challenging future. 2020 also shined a light on the profound inequities within systems, especially the racial inequities felt by young people of color, which have lifelong impacts on young people's outcomes. In this time of crisis and awakening, we hope we can come together to build just communities and support systems where all young people are safe and treated with dignity, and they too can harness their power to grow and thrive in a more equitable society with systems that support them instead of harm them.

As we reflect on the changes and chaos of the past year and a half we continue to hope for a brighter future. TNOYS is proud to see how our members and the staff at youth-serving organizations have stepped up to prioritize and serve Texas' most vulnerable youth and families despite mounting challenges. We have seen young people demonstrate profound resilience in the face of obstacles and a determined commitment to achieve their goals and aspirations. TNOYS applauds each and every one of you for your resilience, your perseverance, and your creativity to overcome the repeated hurdles that have been put in your paths and make progress toward our vision of a 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.

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 reflect, ground, and hopefully have fun while you learn from and collaborate with our diverse group of participants and use this time to share your own expertise and power with others.

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,
Fedora Galasso
TNOYS Executive Director

THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ERICKA HUGGINS | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ericka Huggins is a human rights activist, poet, educator, Black Panther leader, and former political prisoner. Her extraordinary life experiences enable her to speak personally and eloquently on issues relating to the physical and emotional well-being of women, children, and youth, whole-being education, over incarceration, and the role of the spiritual practice in sustaining activism and promoting change. In 1968, at age 18, Huggins became a leader in the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party. From 1973-1981, Huggins was Director of the Oakland Community School, a groundbreaking community-run child development center and elementary school founded by the Black Panther Party. In 1976, she became both the first woman and the first Black person to be appointed to the Alameda County Board of Education. She continues to work with incarcerated youth and adults, and to teach in homes for foster and adopted children and pregnant teens. For the past 20 years, she has also taught relaxation and mindfulness in California youth correctional facilities, public school districts, and community colleges. Huggins also developed a unique volunteer support program for women and children with HIV in the Tenderloin and Mission districts of San Francisco, as well as citywide programs for the support of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, and questioning youth with HIV/AIDS.



ANNA SMITH, MSW | PANEL FACILITATOR

Anna has spent the majority of her career collaborating with leading trauma experts to develop innovative approaches to care for boys and men who've exited the life of sex trafficking.. Compelled by the lack of education pertaining to male sex trafficking, Anna and Chris teamed up with Producer Kartal Peel to co-produced a full-length film, Boys Documentary, as an educational tool concerning the sex trafficking of boys and men. Today, Anna enjoys using her knowledge and personal experience to strengthen and stand in freedom with others through speaking, writing, teaching, and consulting., She serves survivors of trauma and abuse through counseling and trauma-informed yoga through her business, Hope Bound Yoga and Counseling LLC. Journeying through her own recovery process, Anna understands that healing is a painful yet beautiful path we must take to receive freedom. She believes healing is possible for everyone, no matter age, gender, or situation - it is possible.



NATHAN EARL | PANELIST #1

Nathan Earl is an anti-trafficking pioneer, subject-matter expert and visionary leader with a passion for building resilient communities immune to exploitation. Mr. Earl creates impact across systems by leveraging prior lived experiences involving commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, incarceration and addiction to develop and lead transformational initiatives aimed at preventing violence experienced by boys and men.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



JUDGE ROBERT LUNG | PANELIST #2

Judge Robert Lung currently presides over a Domestic Relations docket in the 18th Judicial District of Colorado. Judge Lung provides presentations nationally & internationally on issues such as human trafficking, childhood trauma, & resiliency. He previously served as the Judicial Representative and the Vice-Chair on the Colorado Human Trafficking Council and the Chair of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Judge Lung currently serves on the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States. He also provides consultation to the Department of Justice, the Administration for Children & Families, the State Department, & NCMEC. In his “free time” Judge Lung works on his first book, and he endeavors to keep up with his two adopted sons in hiking and downhill mountain biking.



MARQ TAYLOR | PANELIST #3

Marq Taylor is the CEO and Founder of the Buddy House. Mr. Taylor made the journey from victim to survivor to overcomer and advocate. He participates in the Georgia Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and collaborates with national organizations, such as Shared Hope International and the Nation Center for Missing and Exploded Children, to provide training and leadership from a survivor’s perspective in the effort to protect children from sex slavery. He speaks at various conferences and churches across the country raising awareness and telling his story.



TOSHIA SHAW, MBA, MSW | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Toshia Shaw is a human services professional specializing in behavioral health, holistic mental health, energy-mind-body healing, and social justice. Toshia founded Purple W.I.N.G.S., a trauma-informed mentoring program specifically for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) and adolescent survivors of sex trafficking and violence. Toshia is also CEO of Empress of Om, an energy healing and trauma-informed life coaching company. Additionally, as the Program Director for the Embracing Project, Toshia operates Las Vegas’ only drop-in center for survivors of CSEY and violence ages 12-21. She is also in the process of opening a transitional home for CSEY survivors ages 16-21 years old. Toshia holds a Bachelor’s degree in Human Services, an MBA in Healthcare Administration, and a Master’s degree in Social Work. In her downtime, you can find her leading a hiking meditation in the mountains of Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. She currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

PROGRAM GUIDE

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



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION



CROSS-SYSTEMS COLLABORATION



UNDERSTANDING COMMERCIAL
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH



RESEARCH AND
PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN PRACTICE



SPECIAL TOPICS



POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATES



YOUTH VOICE AND
YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIP



TRAUMA, BRAIN DEVELOPMENT,
AND MENTAL HEALTH



PERSONAL AND 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 8: Pre-Conference Institutes and Networking

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Institute #1 The Equity Chair for Leadership Teams

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Institute #2 Introduction to Youth Thrive

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Institute #3 CSE-IT User Training

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Institute #4 TBRI: Practical Applications

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Networking Event

Thursday, June 10: Conference Day 1

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. TNOYS Welcome

9:20 a.m. - 10:50 p.m. Workshops

10:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall

11:10 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Opening Keynote

- **Ericka Huggins, Black Panther Party Leader, Human Rights Activist, Educator, and Poet**

12:05 p.m. - 1:05 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:05 p.m. - 2:35 p.m. Workshops

2:35 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Short Break

2:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. Workshops

3:50 p.m. - 4:10 p.m. Short Break

4:10 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Featured Screening + Panel Discussion

- **Boys Documentary**, Produced by Anna Smith and Chris Smith, and Directed by Kartal Peel
- **Panel Discussion** with Nathan Earl, Judge Robert Lung, and Marq Taylor

Friday, June 11: Conference Day 2

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Workshops

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshops

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Keynote + Activity

- **Meditation and Breath Work Activity** with Fedora Galasso, TNOYS
- **Mindfulness & Self-Care to Prevent & Combat Vicarious Trauma for Direct Service Providers**
with Toshia Shaw, MBA, MSW, Purple W.I.N.G.S., The Embracing Project, Empress of Om

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Short Break

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Workshops

WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE



DIVERSITY, EQUITY,
AND INCLUSION



UNDERSTANDING
CSEY



SPECIAL TOPICS



YOUTH VOICE AND
YOUTH-ADULT
PARTNERSHIP



CROSS-SYSTEMS
COLLABORATION



RESEARCH AND
PERFORMANCE-
DRIVEN PRACTICE



POLICY AND
REGULATORY
UPDATES



TRAUMA, BRAIN
DEVELOPMENT,
AND MENTAL HEALTH



PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY JUNE 10

Session #1
9:20am – 10:50am

Affirming Spaces for
TGNCNB Youth

Online Safety
Education for Kids

P

Adolescent
Addiction: Part 1

P

Promoting Youth
Leaders

Y

CSEY Care
Coordination Teams

–

Education
Transformed

Building Capacity:
Safety in
Relationships

Self-Care: Compassion
Fatigue & Secondary
Traumatic Stress

Session #2
1:05pm – 2:35pm

Listening and
Learning from Youth

Y

The Cool Aunt
Sex Trafficking Talk

Y

Adolescent
Addiction: Part 2

P

Building Youth Voice

Resources for Youth
in Foster Care

Y

Motivational
Interviewing: Part 1

P

Recap of Texas’ 87th
Legislative Session

Can you Dig It? SEL
through the Arts

Y

Centering Youth Voice,
Trauma Approaches

Session #3
2:50pm – 3:50pm

Scarcity: Manage Time
w/Little Bandwidth

P

CSEY & the FAYS
Intake Process

Virtual
Communication &
Engagement

Youth-Led Workforce
Dev. & Repro. Health
Strategies

Y

Using SMS to Help
Teens Access Family
Planning Services

Strategies for Family
Engagement

P

A New Congress &
Administration

Trauma Informed
Care and Transition
Aged Youth

Mind Matters:
Adversity &
Resilience

FRIDAY JUNE 11

Session #4
9:00am – 10:30am

Adultification &
COVID-19 Lens

Data from CSEY
Providers & CSE-IT
Scores

Needs of Teens
on the Autism
Spectrum

Youth Voice is Change:
Homelessness & YAB

Y

Help! I Need
an ID

The CARE Model:
Part 1

P

Texas Education for
Homeless Children &
Youth

Gang-Involved Youth,
Trauma-Informed
Perspective

Leadership, Resiliency,
and Accountability

Y

Session #5
11:00am – 12:30pm

Racial Bias & the
Child Welfare
System

Debunking Myths of
CSEY

Let’s Talk
About Sex

Y

Engaging Youth in
Research

Child
Welfare
Boards in
Texas

College
Resources
for Foster
Care
Alumni

The CARE Model:
Part 2

P

CSEY Collaborations:
Residential Programs &
Specialized Advocates

Connecting with
Kids: Spark, Passion,
Purpose

Yoga & Self-Care for
Professionals

Session #6
3:00pm – 4:30pm

Disrupting Teacher
Socialization

Meeting Kids Where
They Are: CSEY Drop
In Centers

Services to LGBTQ
Youth in Care

Youth Peers in
Residential Settings

Teamwork Makes the
Dream Work

Texas Disasters and
Emergencies

Round Robin
Discussion with State
Agencies

De-Escalation
Techniques

The Resilient Youth:
Self-Care and
Success

Y

TUESDAY, JUNE 8 Pre-Conference Institutes (separate registration required)

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The Equity Chair for Leadership Teams

The Equity Chair Workshop is a dynamic workshop designed to help participants take active roles as inclusive leaders. With a focus on leading through a cultural conscious perspective, participants will learn how to bring forward diversity, equity, and inclusion practices and values within their organizations and leadership circles, and better navigate leadership structures that are in need of cultural transformations. Main topics include: culturally relevant leadership, speaking your truth, confronting tokenism, racial equity and why it matters, navigating majority culture, and leaving your legacy on an organization. **This training is intended for leadership teams, and we encourage participants to attend in teams of 3 or 4 including an executive level staff, a higher-level staff, & a board member.**

Presented by Sharon Vigil and Paulina Artieda, The New Philanthropists

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Introduction to Youth Thrive

Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), Youth Thrive™ is an approach that uses the latest science to identify protective and promotive factors that increase the likelihood that adolescents can develop into healthy, thriving adults. Youth Thrive™ is an approach that is relevant to everyone who works with young people including: public child welfare system administrators, supervisors & caseworks, teachers, staff at private agencies & nonprofits, judges & legal advocates, parents, caregivers, & more. This session will offer an introduction to the Youth Thrive curriculum. TNOYS will offer the full three-day training in fall 2021.

Presented by Josue Rodriguez, Prince Hayward, and Lyric Wardlow, TNOYS

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) User Training

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is a research-based screening tool that helps improve early identification of commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY). The tool is appropriate for use by any provider serving youth, including child welfare workers, probation officers, mental health clinicians, & first responders. In Texas, CSE-IT is integrated within Lighthouse, an innovative software platform that enables users to complete screenings online & access & analyze CSE-IT data at any time. In this training, participants will become certified users of both the CSE-IT & the Lighthouse platform.

Presented by Christian Benavides, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Dana Hill, Alex Polk, and Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, TNOYS; Becky Austen, Allies Against Slavery

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®): Practical Applications

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. Connection is at the core of relationships which are vital to creating a safe space for a child/adolescent to heal from trauma. This session will focus on practical applications of TBRI® principles in a variety of settings, including drop in centers/outreach, emergency shelters, transitional care, & the juvenile justice sector.

Presented by Ally Matteson, LCSW, Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, Texas Christian University; and providers from the field

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Networking Event (Optional)

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. TNOYS Welcome

Let's kick-off TNOYS' 38th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families together! Don't miss this session where you'll hear about all the exciting sessions and events in store, learn how to maximize your time on the virtual platform, and discover fun ways to win prizes and network with your peers!

9:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Workshops



Creating Affirming Spaces for TGNCNB Youth

Corey Kempster and Ronan Tuggle, Ali Forney Center

This workshop will explore the unique experiences and challenges of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Non-Binary (TGNCNB) young people, with a focus on TGNCNB young people experiencing homelessness. The presentators will unpack the crisis of LGBTQ youth homelessness and consider strategies for how providers can create and provide affirming services for gender diverse youth.



Online Safety Education for Kids

Tina Bigdeli and Belinda Swan, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

As the centralized reporting mechanism for suspected child exploitation, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children offers a unique perspective and important insight into online risks to children. NCMEC data show that children under the age of 12 are often victims of online enticement, sextortion, and child sexual abuse imagery. Join us for a discussion of the most recent trends and a first look at NCMEC's new online safety web series, *Into the Cloud*. The series topics include sextortion through videos, discussion guides, and presentations – all FREE and easy to use!



Understanding and Treating Adolescent Addiction: Overview and Innovative Approaches: Part 1



Drew Dutton and Stephanie Grogan, Phoenix House Texas

This workshop will detail the problem of adolescent addiction and best practices for engaging teenagers in treatment and recovery. Content will include an overview of the neuroscience of adolescent addiction, an overview of the current national and global state of addiction, current barriers to addiction treatment and successful outcomes, and the impact of COVID-19 on addiction and treatment. Attendees will also learn about a variety of innovative approaches for counseling addictions, including accurate empathy, positive psychology, and solution-focused counseling. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training.



Engaging and Promoting Youth Leaders

**Youth Homelessness Prevention with Britney Dollison,
Desirae Perales, and Shaylynn Wylie, TNOYS YALC**

In this workshop, participants will learn about the all too common issue of youth entering into homelessness after leaving care, including common risk factors and challenges that can lead to

homelessness, resources and tools to help youth navigate accessing services, and an analysis of three distinct pathways into homelessness.

Resilience in Action: Building Authentic Youth-Adult Partnerships with Josue Rodriguez and Alex Polk, TNOYS

This interactive workshop will provide strategies on how to engage authentically with youth and create a mutually respectful, safe environment to build youth-adult partnerships. Hear directly from youth and young adults as they share their lived experiences and learn how to provide support to meet the unique needs of a young person. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with their peers to apply what they've learned.



CSEY Care Coordination Teams and You

Debbie Solcher, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Helen Browning, Bexar County Care Coordination Team for Human Trafficked Youth; Dr. Julie Strentzsch, Roy Maas Youth Alternatives

Are you already serving Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY)? Do you want to be a CSEY service provider? What is Care Coordination? Is Care Coordination happening in your backyard and you don't know it? Learn about the latest collaborations between DFPS, juvenile departments, CACs, law enforcement and service providers from the Office of the Governor Child Sex Trafficking Team as they work together to develop strategies for recovery and long-term healing of CSEY.



Education Transformed: Assessing the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic and the 87th Legislative Session on Education Justice for Young Texans



Andrew Hairston, Esq. and Dr. Vicky Sullivan, Esq., Texas Appleseed

During this workshop, presenters will discuss Texas Appleseed's advocacy within its Education Justice Project over the past year, including the publication of a report called *Education Transformed* and their advocacy at the Texas Legislature. Participants will assess relevant bills passed during session and discuss how they will impact efforts to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure equal educational opportunities across Texas in 2021 and beyond.



Building Capacity: From Fight, Flight, Freeze to Finding Safety in Relationships

Vanessa Barahona and Miriam Jansky, Center for Child Protection

This workshop will address how complex developmental trauma impacts basic brain development and capacity for relationships, and how to recognize and intervene appropriately. Participants will discuss basic brain development and the impacts of abuse and neglect on a person's feelings of safety, the intimacy barrier, and their capacity to form and maintain relationships. This workshop includes interventions to target regulation and relationships that can be modified for a child of any age and adapted to any environment.



Self-Care: Preventing Compassion Fatigue and Secondary Traumatic Stress

Cindy Downey, Centene

Compassion fatigue or secondary traumatic stress is a condition characterized by a gradual lessening of compassion over time. This session identifies its symptoms, consequences of not addressing them, and development of self-care techniques.

10:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall

This year's conference features over a dozen exhibitors in the virtual exhibit hall. At each exhibit booth, you'll be able to connect with exhibitors via video chat, view pre-recorded videos and other materials, and share contact information. Earn points for a chance to win prizes when you visit exhibit booths and participate in community boards.

11:10 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Opening Keynote by Ericka Huggins, Black Panther Party Leader, Human Rights Activist, Educator, and Poet

Join us for an interactive discussion with Ericka Huggins about the parallel pandemic, practicing empathy and bravery, and your hopes and vision for a more equitable future.

12:05 p.m. - 1:05 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

12:15 p.m. - 12:55 p.m. Youth Hangout Session (Youth Only)

Connect with other youth just like you about the ins and outs of being a leader and advocate as well as chatting about how the conference is going. Get ready to learn new skills, network with peers, and ultimately strengthen your advocacy goals to address system challenges we need to fix!

1:05 p.m. -2:35 p.m. Workshops



Listening and Learning from Youth

Dear Providers, Youth are Slipping through the Cracks with Zane Ocon, Kedrick Spivey, and Brenda Woolley, TNOYS YALC



In this workshop, providers will gain insight into supporting youth who are involved in various systems. Attendees will hear from youth themselves who have experiences within these systems and will highlight the importance of transparency, stability, and accountability when working with youth. We will discuss how collaboration and capable leadership affect how the vision of the organization is carried out.

What to Expect as a Youth Transitioning into Higher Education with Sally Amara Uzomba, Sabrina DeBreau, and Jorge Leyva, TNOYS YALC

This workshop, presented by & for young people with experiences in homelessness & the foster care system, will explore the transition into college & what to expect as youth with lived experience. Participants will learn about the obstacles those youth with lived experience face when entering college, walking away with tips, tools, and resources to access.



The Cool Aunt Sex Trafficking Talk with Auntie Rachel

Rachel Thomas and Kayla Stern, The Cool Aunt Series



In this workshop, participants will learn about the seven risk factors that lead to sex trafficking, solicitation into commercial sexual exploitation, & the methods of solicitors and traffickers. The presentation provides resources to help youth avoid and overcome risk factors, solicitation, & manipulation tactics.



Understanding and Treating Adolescent Addiction: Overview and Innovative Approaches: Part 2



Drew Dutton and Stephanie Grogan, Phoenix House Texas

This workshop will detail the problem of adolescent addiction and best practices for engaging teenagers in treatment and recovery. Content will include an overview of the neuroscience of adolescent addiction, an overview of the current national and global state of addiction, current barriers to addiction treatment and successful outcomes, and the impact of COVID-19 on addiction and treatment. Attendees will also learn about a variety of innovative approaches for counseling addictions, including accurate empathy, positive psychology, and solution-focused counseling. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training.



Building Youth Voice in Youth-Adult Partnerships

Ronda Jackson and Kristina Waller, Texas A&M University Public Policy Research Institute

In this workshop, participants will learn about the characteristics and skills an organization needs to build youth voice into its programming, as well as the positive impacts that youth-adult partnerships can have on an organization and on youth. Participants will have the opportunity to learn and practice methods to encourage and amplify youth voice in their organizations, and they will leave with skills to develop or improve effective collaboration with youth.



Resources for Youth in Foster Care



Developing Networks of Nurture: TWC Foster Care Resources with James Golsan and Laura Villarreal, Texas Workforce Commission

Youth in foster care and those who age out are one of Texas Workforce Commission's highest priority service populations. Unfortunately, many times they are unaware of valuable resources that will strengthen their employment opportunities. This workshop will provide a high level overview of services available through TWC and will outline how to access Vocational Rehabilitation Services available to students with disabilities with an emphasis on work readiness and post-secondary opportunities.

FCO: Past, Present, and Future with Raven McKinley, Zophelia Mays, Erica Brewington, and Traneice Sutton-Edwards, Texas Health and Human Services Commission Foster Care Ombudsman

In this workshop, participants will learn about the Foster Care Ombudsman (FCO) program and how FCO's statute ensures youth's needs are met when interacting with various service providers in the Department of Family and Protective Services, Health and Human Services, and other agencies.



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



Erin Espinosa and Charlene Taylor, Evidence Change

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 is Part 1 of a three-hour training. Learn about how to complete Part 2 during the workshop!



Recap of Texas' 87th Legislative Session

Lauren Rose and Prince Hayward, TNOYS

Join us for a discussion of policy changes made during the 87th Texas Legislative Session and how they will impact Texas' youth and families and the professionals who serve them. Lauren Rose will highlight major legislation and budgetary decisions relevant to youth services and Prince Hayward will discuss his experience advocating for policies during the session.



Can You Dig It? Excavating Social-Emotional Learning Through the Arts



Gina Moore and Youth Presenters, Crosswalk USA

This interactive session is all about using creative exploration and therapeutic self-discovery with adolescents. Participants will engage in creative activities and leave with unique artwork and written instructions to facilitate the activities in their own programs. The session will combine current research, large and small group activities, facilitated discussion, a guided art project, and a time for reflection and evaluation.



Centering Youth Voice within Your Trauma Approaches

Lyric Wardlow and Dana Hill, TNOYS

In this workshop, participants will learn a cross-systems approach to addressing and responding to complex trauma, including the impacts of trauma and how it manifests in behaviors. Participants will leave the workshop with strategies to identify and respond to trauma behaviors, create healthy youth-adult relationships, avoid retraumatization, and help youth develop healthy coping skills.

2:35 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Short Break

2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m. Workshops



Scarcity: How to Help Clients Manage Time with Little Bandwidth



Libby Woolverton, Janaye Easter, and Nicole Price, Our Friends Place

People living in poverty may feel that there are too many problems, not enough time. When this happens, the most urgent problem must be worked on first which pushes other less urgent tasks to the side, no matter how important those tasks are. Because important things are put off, they often become urgent problems and the never ending cycle continues. This session will help providers think creatively about ways to help clients overcome this scarcity to plan ahead and manage their time effectively.



Hidden Opportunities in Your FAYS Intake Process:

Preventing and Recognizing Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth

Christian Benavides, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Erin Guarnero, BCFS Health and Human Services

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) is the only screening tool that has been validated for use by youth services agencies. The tool's key indicators assess Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through a trauma-informed lens, which impact health, emotional development, and vulnerability for sexual exploitation. The FAYS program through BCFS Health and

Human Services (BCFS HHS) has tailored their intake process to determine when the CSE-IT should be utilized. Results of those screenings inform FAYS services, including referrals to other programs in their agency or the community. Find out what early lessons BCFS HHS has realized to help you implement the CSE-IT in your FAYS program.



"You're on Mute!" – Virtual Communication & Engagement

Josue Rodriguez and Natalie Ferguson, TNOYS

COVID-19 has made us reimagine the way that we interact with each other, from eating at restaurants, going to school online, to double checking—keys, phone, wallet... oh, and a mask. With this drastic change, our workplace communication and engagement strategies have also changed, sometimes not for the better. Join us as we navigate the changes, challenges, and areas of opportunity within our virtual workplaces as we kindly remind each other, "you're on mute."



Plugging Youth Voice into Workforce Development and Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategies for Youth in Care



Carolina Salmeron, the Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy; Angel Jackson, Harris County Youth Collective

This workshop will provide an overview of the Collaborative for Youth in Care's youth-led peer mentoring and workforce development program which takes an innovative approach to creating individual and interpersonal connections needed for building trust amongst youth in the foster care system. Presenters will cover successes, lessons learned, and challenges encountered in the delivery of critical sexual and reproductive health information to those wanting to prevent pregnancy, provide workforce development, and offer supports for pregnant and parenting youth in the child protective system.



Using SMS to Help Teens Access Family Planning Services

Graci D'Amore and Emily Espinosa, Jane's Due Process

In this session, participants will hear from a youth activist about the 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 ensures their reproductive freedom. Facilitators will present a live-demonstration of Jane's Due Process's helpline and educate participants on how to support young people who need to make an appointment for confidential family planning services. Facilitators will also provide information about judicial bypass for abortion, referral resources for teens who reside in contraceptive deserts, and how to safety plan with young people around sexual shame.



Evidence-Based Strategies for Family Engagement



Natalie Beck, St. Edward's University

Addressing an entire family system can be challenging, which leads some practitioners to focus solely on the youth in front of them. When providers ignore the larger context in which youth operate, however, they miss the opportunities for additional support and lasting change. Research demonstrates the positive impact that familial involvement has on outcomes and provides concrete strategies that practitioners can use for engaging families. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the evidence and examine their attitudes about working with families.



A New Congress and Administration: Opportunities for Policy Change

Darla Bardine and Youth Presenter, National Network for Youth

With a new administration and a new congress, there are now many unprecedented opportunities to move positive policy reforms to prevent and respond to youth and young adult homelessness. In this workshop, participants will hear the latest updates on NN4Y's legislative and administrative policy agenda as well on the current political landscape in Washington, DC. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn how they can get more involved.



Trauma-Informed Care and Transition Aged Youth: HCE, DEI, and Youth Voice Considerations

Rob Thurlow, Rebecca Chavez, and Youth Presenter, LifeWorks

LifeWorks is a community partner in Austin's initiative to end youth homelessness, which is part of HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. LifeWorks provides wraparound support to youth in their transition from homelessness to being housed, including counseling, peer support, and psychiatric services. In this presentation, LifeWorks will share fundamental principles of Trauma-Informed Care, Healing Centered Engagement, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; discuss the role of research and evaluation in determining appropriate evidence-based practices; and share lessons learned in their efforts to end youth homelessness in Austin.



Mind Matters: Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience

Michele Wilson and Youth Presenter, The Dibble Institute

As more youth who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are identified, how can you help them build skills to heal and thrive? In this workshop, participants will learn and practice key research-based skills for trauma recovery to help young people self-regulate. Participants will learn fun ways to teach young people self-soothing, emotional regulation, and other neurobiological skills for self-management and recovery.

3:50 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. Short Break

4:10 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Featured Screening: Boys Documentary, Produced by Anna Smith and Chris Smith, Directed by Kartal Peel

• Featuring a Panel Discussion with Nathan Earl, Judge Robert Lung, and Marq Taylor

Join us for an exclusive screening of Boys, a documentary that brings awareness to male survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. Chris and Anna Smith joined forces with Kartal Peel to travel across the United States to film Boys Documentary and bring validity to the truth that males are survivors of sex trafficking. Boys Documentary tells the narrative of male sex trafficking through the voices of four brave men and a collection of allies who stand with them in solidarity.

• 4:10 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Screening: Boys Documentary

• 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

6:30 p.m. Adjourn

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Workshops



A Glimpse at Adulthood through the COVID-19 Lens

Jacqueline Miller, Healthy Actions Intervening Responsibly

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, new sets of children are being introduced to adulthood, an issue that can lead to system involvement, behavioral challenges, and similar negative outcomes. The pandemic presents ethical dilemmas that are likely to push marginalized groups farther away from access to vital resources and services. Workshop participants will learn about adulthood and its relationship to the pandemic, as well as frameworks to enhance resilience among the youth and families they serve.



Seek and Find: Using Screenings to Take the Guesswork out of Identifying Texas Children Who May be Experiencing CSEY

Tomi Grover, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Becky Austen, Allies Against Slavery

The seek-and-find game of "Where's Waldo?" is impossible to play without knowing a few pieces of information about Waldo. His signature red and white striped hat and his large round glasses for instance are clues to finding him. Much like Waldo, children/youth may be more easily recognizable if we know how to put together information about them in a way that will help identify their level of potential exploitation. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) helps to compile information from 8 key indicators in a systematic way to be able to recognize children who may be experiencing exploitation. The Lighthouse platform enables us to see trends and patterns, and more readily identify youth who are most at risk in Texas.



Getting to Know the Needs of Teens on the Autism Spectrum

Aimee Kellogg, Michael Ota, and Kate Fitzpatrick, Autism Society of Texas

This workshop will highlight the timelines for many individuals on the spectrum who move through a continuum of services from ECI all the way through transition-aged youth and how these stages can impact overall self-determination. The presentation will be framed around the potential and varying needs of teens with AST and why best practices that are person-centered are so important.



Youth Voice is Change



Suyapa Munoz, Nina Lockwood, and Benjamin Franklin, South Alamo

Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) and the Youth Action Board of San Antonio

This presentation will emphasize the power youth possess to improve our communities. The workshop focuses on the importance of youth voice in informing federal and local policies, the impact of empowering youth, and the benefits of creating authentic space for youth voice. YAB members will share their experiences and accomplishments working to prevent and end youth homelessness in San Antonio. Participants will learn strategies to engage youth virtually and in-person to successfully eradicate youth homelessness in their communities.



Help! I Need an ID

Mary Christine Reed, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, and Prince Hayward, TNOYS

Without a birth certificate, Texas ID card, or license, and Social Security card you cannot function in our society. But many youth experiencing homelessness and foster care enter adulthood without their critical documents. The requirements and processes to obtain these documents is overwhelmingly complex, but a new 2019 law provides that young people who are experiencing homelessness or are in foster care can get a free Texas birth certificate, state ID, or driver's license and bypass many of the strict requirements. The presentation will highlight these new provisions, the basic requirements for applying and what supporting documents might be most readily available to a youth, the procedures at agencies, and how to help youth prepare to apply. Then, participants will hear about the issue from a young person with lived experience in the child welfare system and his recent advocacy efforts to improve access for future generations of youth.



The CARE Model: Skills to Enhance Caregiver Child Relationships: Part 1



Robin H. Gurwitch, Center for Child & Family Health, Duke University Medical Center;
Cindy Downey, Chad Sedam, and Roy Van Tassell, Centene

Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions between any adult and child/adolescent. Based on evidence-based parent training programs including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), this intervention can support other services provided to families. This training is appropriate for anyone working with children and youth including but not limited to: parents, caregivers, residential staff, frontline staff, CASA workers, and more. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training. This workshop is limited to 20 participants.



Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Implementation to Support Equitable Outcomes for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Cal Lopez, Texas Education Agency

During this session, participants will be provided with resources and strategies to implement a multi-tiered level of McKinney-Vento Program services and supports. We will discuss systemic processes and procedures to increase awareness, develop staff capacity, and improve observable academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness.



Reaching Gang-Involved Youth from a Trauma-Informed Perspective

Liz Martinez and Youth Presenters, At-Promise Youth Solutions

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



Personal Leadership, Resiliency, and Accountability



Cynthia O'Neal and Patrice Buckley, zGen Project

Now more than ever teens are having to step up and provide personal leadership, resiliency, and accountability for themselves, their friends, and their families. This workshop will lay the foundation of what it means to have these character traits and how to implement them through an interactive

session that includes a series of videos, small group discussions, real life scenarios, personal reflection, and the development of a personal leadership and resiliency pledge.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall

This year's conference features over a dozen exhibitors in the virtual exhibit hall. At each exhibit booth, you'll be able to connect with exhibitors via video chat, view pre-recorded videos and other materials, and share contact information. Earn points for a chance to win prizes when you visit exhibit booths and participate in community boards.

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshops



Racism, Racial Bias, & the upEND Movement to Abolish the Child Welfare System

Alan Detlaff, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, and Kristen Weber, Center for the Study of Social Policy

The child welfare system disproportionately harms Black children and families through systemic surveillance, separation, and the resulting adverse outcomes associated with foster care. Ending this harm will only be achieved when the forcible surveillance and separation of children from their parents is no longer viewed as an acceptable form of intervention. In this session, we will discuss the upEND movement, a collaborative movement aimed at ending the harm caused by the child welfare system and reimagining how we as a society support child, family, and community safety and well-being.



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth: Debunking Myths of Human Trafficking to Create Survivor-Centered Services

Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Prince Hayward, TNOYS

There is not one common picture of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY). The victims, traffickers, type of exploitation, and means of control can vary widely from one situation to the next, making it difficult for the anti-trafficking field to identify and disrupt CSEY. In particular, certain populations tend to be overlooked in discussions of CSEY, including cisgender and transgender males, Black males, youth engaging in survival sex, and youth ages 18 to 24. In this session, participants will learn about the realities of CSEY from underrepresented viewpoints. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion about ways to improve services to CSEY victims and brainstorm on strategies to build trust with youth.



Let's Talk About Sex: Why Sexual Health Matters for Personal Success

Lori Kuykendall, Medical Institute for Sexual Health



Sexual health is a topic we are often afraid to address when helping youth set personal goals and achieve life success, yet it is a key factor in moving youth closer toward or further from their desired future. This session reviews the factors that influence sexual decision making and their outcomes, as well as public health information on teen sexual activity, and data on mental, emotional, and relational impacts of sexual activity. Prevention of and intervention for sexual abuse, dating violence, trafficking, exploitation and pornography are addressed. The focus of this positive session is on healthy relationships and personal health and wholeness.



Engaging Youth in Research

In Their Own Words: Understanding the Needs and Experiences of Young Adults in Mental Health Services with Laura Stevens, Sara Mansoorshahi, and Velta Brenya, Center for Youth Mental Health, Dell Medical School

Data show that transition-age youth are the least engaged in mental health services. This presentation will discuss the unique needs of young adults, as well as why it is important for providers to engage and improve service provision for this age group. The presentation will also share takeaways from interviews with young adults who were receiving services while experiencing housing insecurity and/or mental health challenges.

Building Capacity to Include Youth with Lived Expertise as Partners in Research with Sarah Narendorf, Aly Jacobs, and Youth Presenter, University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work has been working with youth with experiences of housing instability to develop research training to build capacity for youth to participate as partners in research projects. We call this the Health Fellows Program, and its goal is to build leadership and research skills for youth with lived expertise. In this presentation, a panel of adults and youth will share their experiences developing this program, including lessons learned and best practices.



The Role of Child Welfare Boards in Texas

George Ford and Tim Allen, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards

Texas has 191 county child welfare boards and is the only state having a state administered state supervised child protective system with a provision for local involvement through county child welfare boards. This workshop will explore the origin of county child welfare boards and laws governing their operation and the relationship of county child welfare boards to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.



College Resources for Foster Care Alumni

Brandi Purswell, Drew Melton, and Youth Presenter, BCFS Health and Human Services Cross-Systems Collaboration

This workshop will explore the challenges facing 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.



The CARE Model: Skills to Enhance Caregiver Child Relationships: Part 2

Robin H. Gurwitch, Center for Child & Family Health, Duke University Medical Center; Cindy Downey, Chad Sedam, and Roy Van Tassell, Centene



Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions between any adult and child/adolescent. Based on evidence-based parent training programs including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), this intervention can support other services provided to families. This training is appropriate for anyone working with children and youth including but not limited to: parents, caregivers, residential staff, frontline staff, CASA workers, and more. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training. This workshop is limited to 20 participants.



Tapping Support from New Partners: Trafficking Survivors Served by Residential Programs and Specialized Advocates at the Same Time

Veronica Lowenberg, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Katie Caddell, SJRC Texas; Iris Resendez, BCFS Health and Human Services

Young survivors of commercial sexual exploitation need a team of support. Residential providers and Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) Advocates will show you how supporting each other's work with shared survivors has magnified what any of them could achieve alone. Participants will learn about the minefields, gold mines, and even the oil well gushers when working so closely with another agency that shares your commitment to meeting the CSEY survivor's needs at any hour of the day or night. The work is challenging, yet more rewarding when we streamline our efforts and reach consensus about responding in the best interests of the CSEY survivor!



Connecting with Kids to Unleash their Spark, Passion, and Purpose

Tara Brown, Learner's Edge Consulting

Now more than ever, youth need advocates to support and encourage their individuality and uniqueness. This session will examine the power of connections and how those connections can lead to kids of all ages discovering their gifts and talents. Research from Search Institute regarding Spark's will be shared and attendees will learn 5 critical keys to help kids identify their Spark and gain the confidence to embrace their special gifts, talents, and passions.



Shameless Self-Care for Professionals

Fedora Galasso and Dana Hill, TNOYS

Too often those of us in the helping profession forgo our own self-care in order to take care of others. This workshop is intended to discuss why self care is important for professional development, to equip you with various techniques to love yourself well, and create boundaries for your own self-care and healing. You'll learn about restorative practices such as pranayama (breath work), linking breath to movement, and Yin Yoga to promote greater physical flexibility, organ health and peace of mind. We will then end our session with a short Yoga Nidra, a deep relaxation practice that induces a state of wakeful calm and deep rest. These practices have been shown to be effective for stress management and in treating PTSD, insomnia, depression, and anxiety.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

12:40 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Youth Hangout Session (Youth Only)

Connect with other youth just like you about the ins and outs of being a leader and advocate as well as chatting about how the conference is going. Get ready to learn new skills, network with peers, and ultimately strengthen your advocacy goals to address system challenges we need to fix!

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Activity + Keynote: **Mindfulness & Self-Care to Prevent & Combat Vicarious Trauma for Direct Service Providers** by Toshia Shaw, MBA, MSW, Purple W.I.N.G.S., The Embracing Project, Empress of Om

• **Featuring a Meditation and Breath Work Activity with Fedora Galasso, TNOYS**

According to the American Counseling Association (ACA), secondhand, or vicarious, trauma is a condition that affects individuals who interact with those who have experienced a traumatic event. Direct care service providers can suffer from physical and mental disorders, such as burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), due to “experiencing repeated or extreme exposure to aversive details of the traumatic event(s).” Join us to learn what secondhand trauma is, the impact it has on working professionals, and how to “check-it” to combat it, treat it, and prevent it.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Short Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshops



Disrupting Teacher Socialization: Empowering Youth to Call for Change within their Communities

Erica Glover and Kenny Smith, Disrupter University, LLC

To create equitable and inclusive learning environments and communities, we must move beyond the traditional ways of supporting marginalized youth. Through a participatory-action research project (PAR) involving students, pre-service teachers, veteran teachers, community activists and members, presenters will share strategies and practices that illustrate the ways in which youth, parents, community members, and educators can collaborate and learn with each other. Through discussions around the process, this presentation will provide participants with methods to disrupt the inequitable experiences of oppressed youth, while also disrupting the assumptions and beliefs of PAR members.



Truly Meeting Kids Where They Are... On the Streets and in Between: CSEY Drop In Centers

Janet Kasper, Office of the Texas Governor’s Child Sex Trafficking Team; Anthony Goulet and Charles Paul, Roy Maas Youth Alternative

Drop-In Centers provide a needed refuge for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEY) as they navigate challenges along the journey towards healing and stability. An effective drop-in center meets youth in the messiness of housing instability while working collaboratively with the various systems of support to best meet the youth’s needs. This session explores the nuances of working with law enforcement, child welfare, juvenile justice, and other service providers to achieve the best possible outcomes for CSEY.



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

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

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.



Incorporating Youth Peers in Residential Settings

Apryl Rosas, Texas Health and Human Services Commission; Sarah Strang and Arianna Mellinger, Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD; Linda Gonzalez, Burke Center for Mental Health

Youth peers are individuals with lived experience who provide support and advocacy services to other youth dealing with mental health issues, out-of-home placement, child welfare involvement, the juvenile justice system, and/or substance use disorders. This panel discussion will explore the role of youth peers in supporting the mental health of youth and young adults and share best practices and opportunities to incorporate youth voice and peer support for youth in residential treatment centers.



Teamwork Makes the Dream Work: Breaking Down Silos & Building Connections

Simone Sawyer and Chera Tribble, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

In this workshop, participants will discuss the importance of building partnerships with other child-serving agencies and share ways we can all work together to reduce silos and strengthen the support system around children and youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement. Participants will also discuss ways to connect youth and families to community organizations and resources that can help support them after they graduate or discharge from their formal state supported services.



Texas Disasters and Emergencies: Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families

Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Lyric Wardlow, TNOYS

Texas has declared more major disasters than any other state in the country. These events can cause long-term harm for the state's vulnerable youth and families, many of whom lack the safety nets, social supports, and other resources needed to successfully recover. TNOYS recently released a report, influenced by conversations with over 50 providers and youth, that highlights how natural disasters and emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities and increased the need for services. In this session, participants will unpack key findings from the report, discuss TNOYS' recommendations to improve child and youth safety and well-being during and after emergencies, and learn what young people had to say about how we can better serve them during and after disasters and emergencies.



Round Robin Discussion with State Agencies

Sara Underwood, Texas Health and Human Services Commission CRCG; Hector Ortiz, Texas DFPS Child Protective Services; Claire Hall, Texas DFPS Prevention and Early Intervention; Kali Adams, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; James Golsan, Texas Workforce Commission

Join us for a facilitated, interactive round robin discussion with youth-serving regulatory agencies to hear policy and program updates, ask questions, and learn what these updates mean for youth-serving organizations and programs across the state.



De-Escalation: Turning Down the Heat so Nobody Boils Over

LaCresha Van, Marina Dewberry, and Tamar Ambers (Youth Presenter), Our Friends Place

Conflict resolution is often discussed as a one-time situation that concludes with a happy ending and everyone being friends. In reality, conflict may be messier and last longer. We may have multiple conflicts in our lives, whether with peers, our boss, our families, or even our clients or case managers. This session will help all participants develop new ways of thinking about and resolving conflict without the inevitable explosion that happens when emotions boil over. Of course, not all conflicts are solvable, but the techniques in this session will help participants overcome barriers or save time and pain during future conflicts.



The Resilient Youth: Cultivating Intentional Self-Care & Resilience to Ensure Youth Success



Deanna Jones, Deanna J. Speaks!

In this workshop, participants will learn how to assess when they need a “resilience reset”, including identifying their personal rubric for resilience, implementing the “one thing” tool, and strengthening their commitment to self-care. Participants will leave with the tools needed to become a more resilient student, provider, caregiver, employee, and leader.

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

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

Fedora Galasso, Executive Director
Lauren Rose, Director of Public Policy
Dana Hill, Mental Health Policy Fellow
Prince Hayward, Policy Specialist
Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, Director of Practice
Lyric Wardlow, Program Coordinator
Lauren Dimitry, Grants Consultant

Mary Bergeron, Director of Communications
Alex Polk, Communications Specialist
Josue Rodriguez, Engagement Manager
Natalie Ferguson, Operations Manager
Alex Pryor, Design Consultant
Manfred Veizaga, Storytelling Consultant

TNOYS YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Brenda Woolley, Denton
Britney Dollison, Odessa
Desirae Perales, Corpus Christi
Jorge Levya, El Paso
Kedrick Spivey, Houston

Sabrina DeBreau, Lubbock
Sally Amara Uzomba, Corpus Christi
Shaylynn Wylie, San Angelo
Zane Ocon, San Antonio

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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Brook Bulcha, Cirrus Logic, Austin

CONTINUING EDUCATION

TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. Conference attendees are eligible to earn up to 12.5 CEU hours throughout the two-day virtual conference. Attendees are eligible to earn 4-5 additional CEU hours for participating in pre-conference institutes. We are an approved CEU provider for Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), and Continuing Professional Education Providers (CPE). All sessions are approved for Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO), Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO), and Community Activities Officers (CAO). The majority of sessions (unless noted in the CEU Certificate) are approved for Licensed Child Care Administrator (LCCA) and Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrator (LCPAA) licenses. 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.

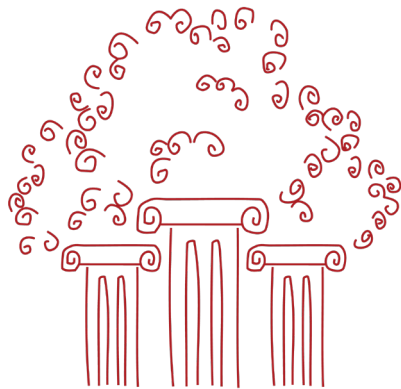
CSEY SURVIVOR PARTNERSHIP

TNOYS is grateful for its continued partnership with the Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team (OOG CST Team) to build Texas' capacity to provide high-quality, specialized services for survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY). Through their support, TNOYS' 38th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families features dozens of sessions dedicated to strengthening services for survivors of CSEY, including a full workshop topic track focused on understanding CSEY, a documentary screening and live panel discussion that brings awareness to CSE of boys and young men, a Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) User Training, and numerous sessions on evidence-based interventions and performance-driven practices such as Motivational Interviewing, Youth Thrive, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and more.



**Office of the Texas Governor
Child Sex Trafficking Team**

THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS:



Texas
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children
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Speaking Out + Driving Change for Children



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texas council of child welfare boards

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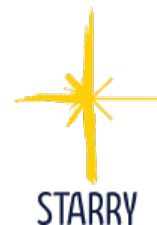
Youth Advocate



Youth Ally



Youth Engager



Exhibitor

