



UNEARTH YOUR
BRILLIANCE

40th Annual TNOYS Conference
on Services to Youth and Families



Virtual Day | May 18th



TNOYS
TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

#TNOYS2023

WELCOME!

TNOYS' 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

On behalf of Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS), I want to personally welcome each of you to the virtual day of TNOYS' 40th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families. We're thrilled you could join us this year to learn, connect, and celebrate a very special milestone: the 40th anniversary of this incredible event!

The theme Unearth Your Brilliance perfectly describes the incredible community at the heart of TNOYS and this year's 40th anniversary celebration. Since 1982, TNOYS has collaborated with thousands of dedicated stakeholders who are committed to building a brighter future for Texas youth, young adults, and families. Year after year, the professionals and young people who partner with us demonstrate that there is "brilliance in resilience" and all that is possible when we join together from across systems and in collaboration with young people.

TNOYS is thrilled to continue offering you cutting edge professional development to support you to dig deep and let your skills and expertise shine. The field of youth services has faced many pressures across systems, from funding constraints, personnel turnover, policy challenges, and more. Professionals and youth like you have demonstrated a capacity to harness this pressure, lean on and learn from each other, and radiate strength that elevates the field as a whole. In this year's legislative session, TNOYS has led a coordinated effort alongside our members to bring the needs of youth and providers to legislators who have the power to effect policy change for the better. Our youth programming has grown and their powerful stories and experiences are woven throughout the conference and all that we do at TNOYS. We hope that we can come together within a supportive community to inspire and learn from each other, and build the future of youth and family services in Texas.

Throughout today, you'll have the chance to shine bright while joining from anywhere. With 12 workshops available (for a total of 5 CEUs), opportunities to connect and collaborate with stakeholders in youth services, and fun games and activities for amazing prizes, there's something for everyone. Additionally, I encourage you to learn more about TNOYS today and how you can grow your impact at the annual conference and beyond. Through professional development, policy advocacy, and youth engagement, TNOYS partners with young people and 120+ professional and organizational members to influence stronger youth services. If you or your organization is not yet a TNOYS member, we encourage you to join our expansive network this week.

I hope you take advantage of this opportunity to reflect, connect, and enjoy yourself while you learn from and collaborate with our diverse group of participants. Thank you for choosing to spend the day with us.



Sincerely,

Fedora Galasso
TNOYS Chief Executive Officer



FEATURED SPEAKER



Dr. Jerry Milner (He, Him, His) | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jerry Milner is Co-director of the Family Justice Group. He began his career as a front-line social worker in Alabama, primarily working with teenagers in foster care and in prevention services for families. His prior work includes serving as state child welfare director in Alabama. From 2017 to 2021, he led the U.S. Children's Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services and for most of that time, was Acting Commissioner at the Administration for Children and Families. In his keynote, Dr. Milner will share insights from his work serving young people in the child welfare system, as well as his efforts to safely prevent child welfare involvement.

ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

Exhibit Hall and Bingo/Prizes

Visit our virtual exhibit hall to learn about dozens of organizations that connect youth, young adults, and families to resources and support. Navigate to each virtual exhibit booth to video chat with exhibitors, view pre-recorded videos and other materials, and share contact information. Visit all of the virtual booths to be entered into a drawing for great prizes!

Community Boards

Navigate to the "Community" page on the conference desktop app to participate in valuable discussions and network with attendees. View existing topic threads or add new ones to learn from your peers and young people who have lived experience with systems-involvement. If you wish to add a new topic, please double-check that the topic has not already been added.

Photo Contest

Participate in the photo contest by sharing a picture of yourself that you feel best reflects this year's theme, *Unearth Your Brilliance*. To add or like photos, click "Photo Contest" under "Win A Prize" on the Whova conference desktop app, or under "Additional Resources" in the app. Attendees with the top photos will have the chance to win great prizes!

PROGRAM GUIDE

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



HEALTH, TRAUMA,
AND RESILIENCE



YOUTH VOICE AND
YOUNG ADULT PARTNERSHIP



RESOURCES AND
CROSS-SYSTEMS COLLABORATION



RESEARCH AND
PERFORMANCE-BASED PRACTICES

TNOYS' conference features programming and activities for youth, young adults (YYA), and professional attendees. In most cases, workshops are open to both professional and YYA attendees to learn from and alongside one another. A limited number of workshops are only appropriate for professional attendees and will be marked accordingly.

The following symbol marks workshops that are restricted to professionals:



Workshops that are restricted to professionals

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, May 18: Full Virtual Conference Day

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

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

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Keynote

- **Dr. Jerry Milner**

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshops

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Workshops

3:50 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. Closing

CONTINUING EDUCATION

TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. Conference attendees are eligible to earn up to 14 CEU hours throughout the 2.5-day in-person conference. Attendees are eligible to earn 4-6 additional CEU hours for participating in pre-conference institutes, and another 5+ CEU hours for participating in the virtual conference day. TNOYS is 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). The conference is approved for Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO), Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO), and Community Activities Officers (CAO) by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. This conference is also approved for Licensed Child Care Administrator (LCCA) and Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrators (LCPAA) licenses. This conference is also typically approved for CEUs for the following substance abuse professional licenses: LCDCs, Associate Prevention Specialists (APS), Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS), and Peer Mentor/Peer Recovery Coach Designation (PM/PRC) through our partnership with Connections Individual and Family Services.

WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE



HEALTH, TRAUMA,
& RESILIENCE



YOUTH VOICE &
YOUNG ADULT PARTNERSHIP



RESOURCES &
CROSS-SYSTEMS
COLLABORATION



RESEARCH &
PERFORMANCE-BASED
PRACTICES

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Session #1
9:20am - 10:50am

Empowering Today's Youth to
Combat Human Trafficking

The Importance of Normalcy
for Transition-Age Youth with
Lived Experience

Making Child Welfare
Systems Inclusive
Communities

Introduction to Youth
Driver Education Funding
Program Initiative

Session #2
1:00pm - 2:30pm

Improving COVID-19
Vaccine Confidence
Among Young People

Texas Emerging
Leaders Board

Ensuring All Students
Experiencing Housing
Instabilities Connect

Talk Saves Lives:
A Practicum on Suicide
Prevention

Session #3
2:45pm - 3:45pm

Neurodiversity, Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities, and
Justice Involvement

TNOYS Young Adult
Leadership Council Panel

Connecting with Youth
Through Transformative
Mentoring

A Participatory &
Equity-Focused Approach
to Outcome Measurement

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

Let's kick off TNOYS' 40th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families together! Hear a welcome message from TNOYS Chief Executive Officer Fedora Galasso and learn about the exciting sessions in store, how to maximize your time on the virtual platform, and fun ways to win prizes and network with your peers!

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



Empowering Today's Youth to Combat Human Trafficking

Kallie Matheny, Project Protect Our Children

The Youth Action Board (YAB) was developed to engage, educate, and empower today's youth working against Human Trafficking. YAB members are given the opportunity to collaborate, brainstorm, and reflect on solutions to raise awareness about human trafficking amongst their peers, educators, and community. Join us to learn about tools and resources to implement Human Trafficking Awareness events and activities and how to bring this club to your school or youth program.



In Their Own Words: The Importance of Normalcy for Transition-Age Youth with Lived Experience

Fedora Galasso, Sedoo Ijir, TNOYS

This workshop will discuss the transition into adulthood including factors that increase the risk of youth systems involvement. After reviewing recent TNOYS efforts to listen to and learn from youth, participants will learn how they can develop more robust preventive strategies and interventions by centering the voices of transition-age youth. Participants will also discuss how normalcy is an important factor to foster resilience during this critical period.



Making Child Welfare Systems Inclusive Communities: Eliminating "Isms" that Promote Discriminatory Behavior & Exclusion

Kinda Abdus-Saboor, Equitably Speaking

Disparity and disproportionality are wreaking havoc on our child welfare systems. This workshop will explore the role of implicit bias, microaggressions, and intersectionality in developing a solution to disparity and disproportionality. Within the session, participants will unpack conscious and unconscious ways that we discriminate, reflect on how they intersect with personal identity, and explore ways to counteract discrimination in their work.



Introduction to Youth Driver Education Funding Program Initiative

Chris Caballero and Katherine Martinez, Texas Workforce Commission

In this session, participants will learn about eligibility for the Youth Driver Education Funding Program and use of the youth driver education funds. Additionally, TWC will discuss the application process, how to refer youth to the program, and other resources. This introductory session is relevant to everyone who works with young people, including child welfare system administrators, foster youth liaisons, caseworkers, and staff at private agencies and nonprofits.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Keynote: Dr. Jerry Milner

Jerry Milner is co-director of the Family Justice Group. He began his career as a front-line social worker in Alabama, working primarily with teenagers in foster care and in prevention services for families. His prior work includes serving as state child welfare director in Alabama. From 2017 - 2021 he led the U.S. Children's Bureau, and for most of that time was Acting Commissioner for the Administration of Children and Families.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshops



We Are Vaxxed TX: Collaborating with Young People to Build COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence

Mary Bergeron and Jo Truong, TNOYS

COVID-19 is less visible in the news lately, but the virus is still having an outsized impact for many young people affected by homelessness, child welfare involvement, and other systems. Learn how TNOYS engaged young people to better understand vaccine hesitancy and barriers to access. Attendees will hear about effective communication techniques that both young people and providers can use to talk about sensitive topics, as well as youth-friendly resources to build vaccine confidence and health equity.



Texas Emerging Leaders Board: Opportunity Youth Landscape in Texas

Kennedy Huerta Quintanilla and TNOYS TELB Members, TNOYS

Members of TNOYS' newest youth engagement program, the Texas Emerging Leaders Board (TELB), will come together in this panel discussion to talk about the unique intersection of Opportunity Youth status and systems-involvement. They will reflect on their experiences on their lived systems experiences, their time in the TELB, and the need for providers to center youth voice in conversations surrounding Opportunity Youth, 16-24 year olds who are disconnected from work and school.



Ensuring All Students Experiencing Housing Instabilities Connect

Jerretta Davenport and Cheryl Myers, Region 13 Education Service Center

This session will explore liaisons' identification and case management styles, and assess liaison or LEA policies that may create barriers for students seeking the resources for which they are eligible. Participants will review the McKinney-Vento Liaison responsibilities, discuss best practices from McKinney-Vento Liaisons and programs across the region, and work through scenarios and tools that Region 13 staff have encountered in their work to support all students experiencing homelessness.



Talk Saves Lives: A Practicum on Suicide Prevention

Ned Strauss, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

This session will discuss effective methods to bring hope to those affected by suicide. Participants will learn the scope and causes of clinical depression, understand the progression of suicidal thoughts from inception to tipping point, learn the warning signs and risk factors associated with depression and suicide, and learn strategies to save the life of someone who may be at risk for depression and/or suicide.

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Workshops



Neurodiversity, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Justice Involvement

Ann-Charlotte Proffit and Alex Polk, TNOYS

Texas has witnessed a recent increase in high-acuity youth across systems, making it even more difficult to provide the appropriate services youth need to thrive. Join us to strengthen your understanding of, and services to, children and youth with neurodiversity, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, especially as they intersect with the justice system. Participants will also learn key tools and youth-centered strategies to strengthen their services.



Shine Bright Like a Diamond: Uncovering Opportunities for Youth & Young Adults to Shine

Ronald Smith, Marlayna Gallegos, Sarah Duke, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) Members; Jermaine Neblett, TNOYS

In this panel discussion, youth leaders will reflect on their lived expertise across systems to uncover the strengths, challenges, and opportunities that have guided them through their journey and into their transition to adulthood. Panelists will also speak on the ways providers can uplift young people to build capacity and effect systems change. Systems lived expertise includes youth homelessness, child welfare, juvenile justice, healthcare access, and more.



Credible Messengers: Connecting with Youth Through Transformative Mentoring

Charles Rotramel and Carlos Hernandez, Houston re:Vision

The credible messenger movement is an innovative approach to restorative justice that leverages the unique relationships that adults with lived experience of the justice system form with justice-involved youth. Credible messengers connect with and motivate the most vulnerable young people to challenge and transform destructive thinking, attitudes, and actions, ultimately helping to modify behavior and strengthen disadvantaged communities. In this session, participants will receive an overview of the credible messenger movement and strategies to implement a credible messenger program.



Making Measurement Meaningful: A Participatory and Equity-Focused Approach to Outcome Measurement

Liz Shoenfeld and Krystan Farnish, LifeWorks

More often than not, the desired outcomes of social service organizations are developed with little input from those receiving or providing services. This presentation will demonstrate how a large non-profit in Austin, Texas, aligned its approach to outcome measurement with the perspectives of service recipients and program staff. Presenters will discuss a variety of methodological approaches and strategies to better center the perspectives of clients, particularly clients of color.

3:50 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. Closing

Fedora Galasso, TNOYS Chief Executive Officer

4:05pm Adjourn

ABOUT TNOYS

The mission of Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is to strengthen services and support for Texas youth, young adults, 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.

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

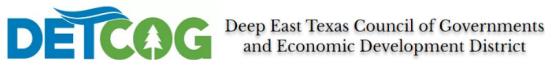
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