

TNOYS

TEXAS NETWORK OF
YOUTH SERVICES

#TNOYS2024



41st Annual TNOYS Conference on
Services to Youth and Families



**BRIGHT STARS,
BOLD FUTURES**

Houston, Texas | June 4 - 7, 2024

WELCOME!

TNOYS' 41ST 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 TNOYS' 41st Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families. This year's theme *Bright Stars, Bold Futures*, reflects the power of each of us to set our sights above and beyond in the work of building brighter futures for young people in vulnerable situations. Over the next 2.5 days, our dynamic keynote speakers and innovative sessions will inspire us to learn, connect, and discover how we can create opportunity and remove barriers for Texas youth and young adults.

For over 40 years, TNOYS has been at the cutting edge of youth services and responsive to the field's most pressing challenges. We know that many youth, young adults (YYA), and professionals face daunting obstacles, from funding and resource constraints to policy challenges. Through it all, young people and providers continue to demonstrate tremendous resilience. Alongside our partners, TNOYS was proud this past year to advocate for influential policies during the 88th Texas Legislative Session, launch new trainings to strengthen youth-serving providers, invest in emerging YYA leaders, and much more.

We are honored to represent a strong community of youth-serving providers working across systems and in every Texas region. As we welcome more providers to our network, TNOYS remains committed to authentic partnership with communities, youth-serving providers, and the young people they serve. TNOYS applauds each and every one of you for your resilience, your perseverance, and your creativity to overcome the repeated hurdles placed in your paths and make progress toward a brighter future for Texas in which 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.

With 40+ workshops, this year's conference agenda includes valuable 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, connect, and enjoy yourself while you learn from and collaborate with our diverse group of members, stakeholders, and youth. If you or your organization is not yet a TNOYS member, we encourage you to join our expansive network this week.

Thank you for spending your week with us.



Sincerely,
Fedora Galasso
TNOYS Chief Executive Officer



FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS



Anna Runkle (she/her) | Keynote Speaker

Anna Runkle, also known as “The Crappy Childhood Fairy,” leads a movement to help people recognize and heal trauma symptoms to change their lives — whether or not they have access to professional help. With almost a million subscribers to her online platforms, Anna teaches practical strategies and techniques she has used to recover from her own Childhood PTSD. Her approach includes simple, self-directed exercises to calm emotional triggers and neurological dysregulation and to begin changing the self-defeating behaviors that are common for people who have lived much of their lives dysregulated. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *Re-Regulated: Set Your Life Free from Childhood PTSD and Change the Trauma-Driven Behaviors That Keep You Stuck*, to be released in October 2024.



Di Ciruolo (she/her) | Keynote Speaker

Di Ciruolo is a captivating author, dynamic speaker, and passionate justice advocate. Her latest book, *Indomitable: A Foster Care Story*, is a gripping memoir of her journey through the Massachusetts Foster Care System. Having grown up in the foster care system as a child with neurodiversity, Di possesses a unique perspective on the human experience that shapes her life's work. Her unwavering passion lies in empowering others to break free from the shackles of guilt and self-harm that often accompany trauma and loss.



Kathy Givens (she/her) | Keynote Speaker

As a dynamic public speaker and overcomer of human trafficking and gender-based violence, Kathy Givens is dedicated to advancing social justice and inspiring resilience in communities worldwide. In 2021, Kathy joined the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking by presidential appointment. During her time as a program director, Kathy developed a trauma-informed restorative care program for adult survivors of trafficking. Kathy intimately understands the transformative power of resilience, community, and leadership, and is committed to sharing this empowering message with audiences.



Michael Guinn (he/him) | Emcee

Michael Guinn is a published poet, actor, event host, and advocate for social justice who has performed all over the US and Canada. As a dynamic speaker and poet, Michael specializes in high-energy performance poetry and creative crowd engagement. His work focuses on healing and finding independence via poems and stories that are appropriate for all audiences. Michael believes that everyone should share their voice.



Son Kiss'd Dance Concepts | Performer

Under the artistic direction of Christopher Thomas, Sonkiss'd Dance Concepts productions are electrifying mash-ups of dance styles and musical genres brought fully to life on stage by a dynamic company of Hip-Hop and Contemporary dancers. In *Moving Mountains*, these visual musicians dazzle audiences as they tell stories of overcoming struggles and experiencing breakthroughs.



Meta4 | Performer

The Meta4 Youth Poetry Fellowship, an initiative under the umbrella of Writers in the Schools (WITS), stands as Texas' premier youth poetry slam series since its inception in 2007. Comprising the esteemed Meta4 fellows, this poetry slam team embodies the essence of Houston's vibrant youth poetry community. In 2023, Meta4 achieved international acclaim by clinching victory in the prestigious Brave New Voices competition held in San Francisco.

FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES

Exhibit Hall and Raffle Prizes

Wednesday, June 5 - Friday, June 7 - PREFUNCTION A

Visit our exhibit hall to learn about dozens of organizations that connect youth, young adults, and families to resources and support. By checking in with all booths during the conference, you will earn a raffle ticket to use toward prizes that include virtual scavenger hunts and escape rooms, wine tasting/classes, gift certificates and baskets, and more!



Scan to Purchase

How to Purchase Tickets and Enter the Raffle

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 6 for \$50! Scan the QR code to pre-purchase, or visit www.tfaforms.com/5121147. On-site purchases are available at the registration table via credit card or cash (please bring exact change). Winners will be announced by the conference emcee during the event!

TNOYS Member Lounge

Wednesday, June 5 - Friday, June 7 - WOODLAND HEIGHTS

TNOYS members are invited to step into our conference member lounge to recharge. Enjoy light refreshments each morning and coffee available each day.

Youth Lounge

Wednesday, June 5 - Friday, June 7 - MIDTOWN

Youth and young adult attendees are invited to take advantage of our youth lounge to connect with other young people, engage in youth-focused activities, and enjoy a restful space created for youth, by youth. Youth can also enjoy continental breakfast each morning and daily snacks in the youth lounge.

TNOYS Member Reception and Member Awards

Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm - GREENWAY BALLROOM

All TNOYS professional members and staff from member organizations are invited to this festive and fun reception. Join us to network with other members from across the state and enjoy appetizers and a cash bar.



Join Today

Grow Your Impact: Become a TNOYS Member!

Not yet a member of TNOYS? Join a diverse community of professionals and organizations who are building a brighter future for young people. Member benefits include advocacy at the Texas Capitol and with state agencies, access to TNOYS' members-only training portal, customized technical assistance, discounts on Annual Conference registration, and much more. Learn more at tnoys.org/become-a-member.

PROGRAM GUIDE & CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

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



Health, Trauma, & Resilience



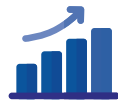
Youth Voice & Youth-Adult Partnership



Non-Profit Leadership & Innovative Solutions



Resources & Cross-Systems Collaboration



Research & Performance-Based Practices



Preventing & Addressing CSEY



Policy & Government

TNOYS' conference features programming and activities for both youth and professional attendees. On Wednesday, June 5, we strongly encourage youth to take advantage of and attend the youth-only workshops, specifically curated for youth attendees. On Thursday, June 6, and Friday, June 7, workshops are open to both professionals and youth to learn from and alongside one another. A limited number of workshops are only appropriate for professionals and will be marked accordingly.

The following symbol marks workshops that are restricted to professionals:



Conference attendees are eligible to earn up to 14 CEU hours throughout the 2.5-day conference and 4-6 additional CEU hours for participating in pre-conference institutes. To earn CEUs, please use the Whova app to check in at each session you attend. Next, please locate the document in your registration folder titled "Continuing Education (CEU)/Training Hours Tracking." Use this document to indicate all the sessions you attended during the event. Remember to sign the included certificate and submit it to your licensing board as appropriate for approval.

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 majority of sessions are approved for Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO), Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO), and Community Activities Officers (CAO) by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The majority of sessions are 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.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, June 4th: Pre-Conference Institutes (separate registration required)

8:00am – 10:00am	On-Site Registration and Check In for Pre-Conference Institutes - PREFUNCTION A
9:00am – 4:00pm	Building Alliances to Prevent and Address Children without Placement - BALLROOM A
9:00am – 4:00pm	Motivational Interviewing Skills for CSEY Advocates - BALLROOM B
9:00am – 2:00pm	Turning Down the Heat: Preventing Conflict & Counter-Aggression - BALLROOM C
2:00pm – 5:00pm	Early Check In/Conference Registration - PREFUNCTION A

Wednesday, June 5th: Conference Day 1

8:00am – 9:00am	Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A	
9:00am – 10:15am	TNOYS Welcome + Keynote - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG • The Singular Power of Healed Trauma with Anna Runkle, “The Crappy Childhood Fairy”	
10:30am – 12:00pm	Workshops	Professional Track
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lunch On Your Own	
1:45pm – 3:15pm	Workshops	
10:30am – 11:10pm	Youth Orientation & Icebreaker Activity	Youth Track
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Workshops	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Youth Lunch (Youth & Young Adults Only)	
1:15pm – 2:15pm	Workshops	
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Workshops	
3:45pm – 5:00pm	Performance + Keynote Panel - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG • Performance: Son Kiss'd Dance Concepts • Voices of Tomorrow: Illuminating Bright Futures for Youth with TNOYS' Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC)	
6:30pm – 8:30pm	Member Reception (Open to all TNOYS Members) - GREENWAY BALLROOM	

Thursday, June 6th: Conference Day 2








8:00am – 9:00am	Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A
9:00am – 10:15am	Performance + Keynote - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG • Performance: Meta4 • Exploring Intersectionality & Building Meaningful Partnerships with Youth Experiencing CSEY with Kathy Givens, Author, Speaker, and Advocate
10:30am – 12:00pm	Workshops
12:15pm – 1:45pm	Luncheon - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG • TNOYS' Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) Graduation and Youth Engagement Roadmap
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Workshops
3:45pm – 5:00pm	Workshops

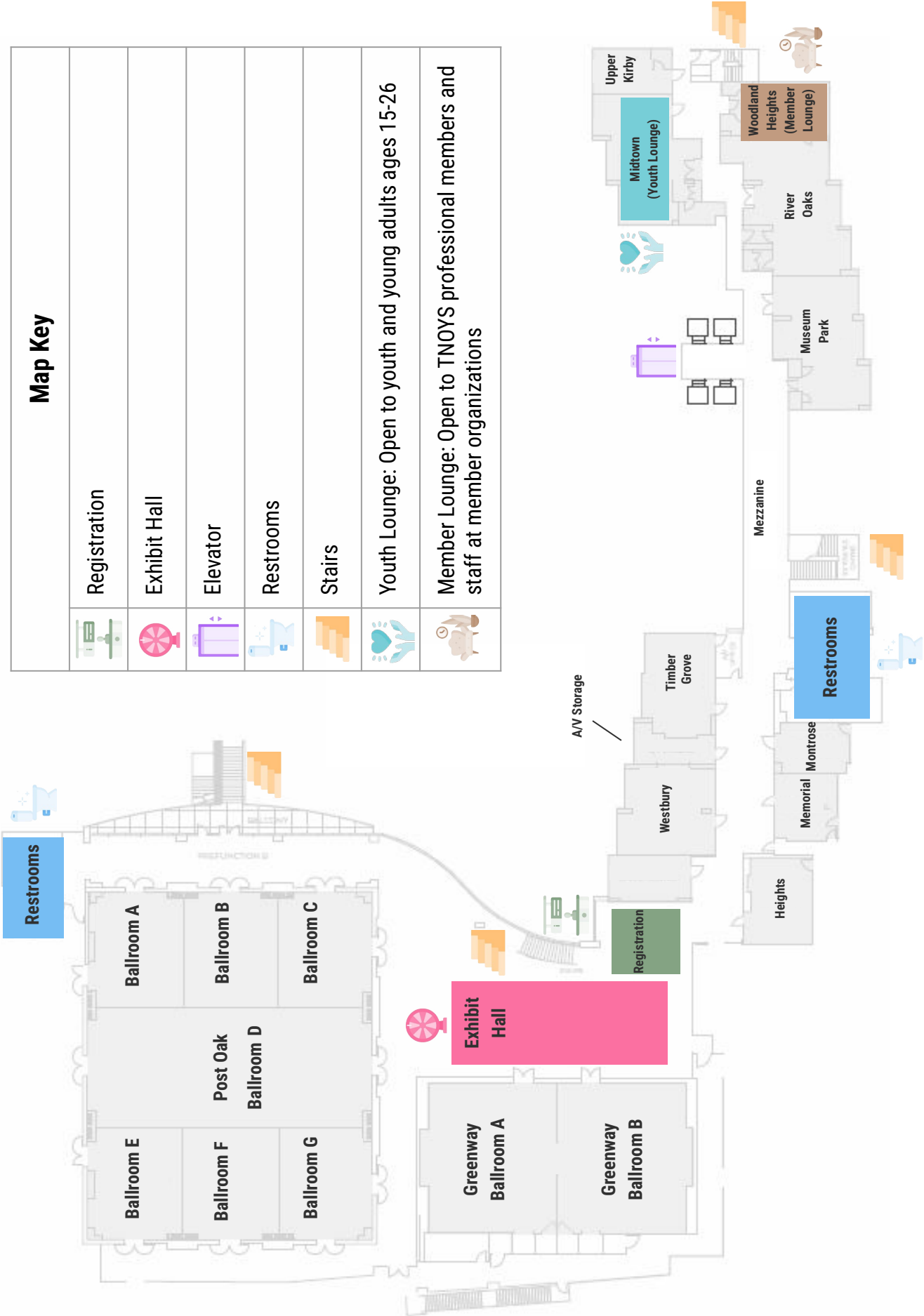
Friday, June 7th: Conference Day 3

8:00am – 9:00am	Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness Meeting & Breakfast (Invite Only) - BALLROOM EFG
8:30am – 9:15am	Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A
9:15am – 10:45am	Workshops
11:00am – 12:30pm	Closing Keynote - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG • Standing in the Gap: Neurodiversity with Di Ciruolo, Author, Speaker, and Advocate

HOTEL FLOOR MAP

OMNI HOUSTON HOTEL SECOND FLOOR

Map Key	
	Registration
	Exhibit Hall
	Elevator
	Restrooms
	Stairs
	Youth Lounge: Open to youth and young adults ages 15-26
	Member Lounge: Open to TNOYS professional members and staff at member organizations



WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE



Health, Trauma, & Resilience

GREENWAY BALLROOM A



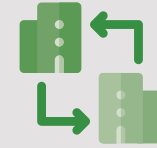
Youth Voice & Youth-Adult Partnership

GREENWAY BALLROOM B



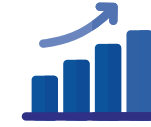
Non-Profit Leadership & Innovative Solutions

WESTBURY



Resources & Cross-Systems Collaboration

BALLROOM A



Research & Performance-Based Practices

BALLROOM B



Preventing & Addressing CSEY

BALLROOM C



Policy & Government

MUSEUM PARK

Wed, June 5

10:30am – 12:00pm

T-Care: A Trauma Informed, Skills-Based Approach

Applications from TNOYS' CSEY Manual on Youth Experiencing Homelessness

From an Old West Town to a Therapeutic Community

Unveiling Homelessness Through Multimedia / Examining Youth Homelessness Resources

Not all Fun & Games: Youth Gambling

Human Trafficking Training for Youth-Serving Professionals

Texas Teen Reproductive Rights

1:45pm – 3:15pm

Simple Techniques to Soothe Your Nervous System & Re-Regulate

LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness: Clearing Out the Fog

Embracing Equity: The Long Game

Solutions for Youth Who Have Committed Sexual Offenses

Innovations of Youth Navigation

Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Program Standards & Ethics

Developing TNOYS' Policy Agenda

Thurs, June 6

10:30am – 12:00pm

Addressing Mental Health in Homeless Students / Transition Resources for Students with Disabilities

Building Relationships Through FUN!

The Modern Nonprofit: The Next Generation of Leaders

Creating a Community of Justice Champions

Housing Insecurity Among LGBTQ+ Youth

Trafficking Prevention & Self-Generated Content

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Clients: Legal and Ethical Challenges for Providers

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Positive Psychology: Understanding & Promoting Well-Being

Increasing Health Equity / The Realities of Supporting Pregnant & Parenting Youth

Aligning Your Vision, Board, & Team for Dramatic Growth

College Resources for Youth with Foster Care Experience

Engaging Families to Overcome Resistance & Care for Kids

Cultural Considerations Working With African American CSEY Survivors

Human Trafficking Social Justice Advocacy Through Lived Experience

3:45pm – 5:00pm

The Importance of Evidence-Based Sexual Health in Schools

Amplifying Youth Voices Through Intentional Engagement & Partnerships

Employing Youth With Lived Experiences

Mobility Shuffle - Train the Trainer

The Role of Stability in Making Places for Youth

Combatting Human Trafficking with Transportation Professionals

The Role of Child Welfare Boards

Fri, June 7

9:15am – 10:45am

Navigating Trauma & Avoiding Burnout

Understanding Youth Mental Health / Shifting Youth Perspective

Public/Private Partnerships and Transitional Options Led by Youth Voice

Sensational Storytellers: Engaging Learners & Cultivating Creativity

Evaluating Services for Texas Opportunity Youth / Expanded Pathways Through Apprenticeship Programs

The Unseen Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Community Response Guide for Reporting & Supporting Families

TUESDAY, JUNE 4: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

(SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

On-Site Registration and Check-In for Institutes

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - PREFUNCTION A

Building Alliances to Prevent and Address Children without Placement (DFPS Personnel ONLY)

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. OR 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - BALLROOM A

In this interactive training, participants will discuss their more challenging experiences working with youth and explore the bases for difficult behaviors and situations such as refusing/running away from placements, disengagement, and conflict. Participants will gain perspective on the critical role of trust and transparency, humility and responsiveness, authentic relationship building, and youth voice. Through dialogue, first-hand reflections from youth, and scenario activities, participants will strengthen their framework for addressing and mitigating challenges and add tools to their strategic repertoire.

Presented by Sedoo Ijir, MPH, Jermaine Neblett, Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, MPAff, and TNOYS YALC

Motivational Interviewing Skills for CSEY Advocates

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - BALLROOM B

In this Pre-Conference Institute, participants will gain a robust introduction to the basics of Motivational Interviewing. Attendees will enhance their approach to relationships as they develop concrete tools that help guide others along a process of possible change. Designed for advocates of young people who have been traumatized, sexually exploited, or might be vulnerable to exploitation, this Pre-Conference Institute will equip attendees to demonstrate, practice, and move forward with change and growth conversations.

Presented by Dr. Greg Sumpter, Grayson County Juvenile Services, and Dr. David Pooler, LCSW-S, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work - Baylor University

Turning Down the Heat: Preventing Conflict and Counter-Aggression Chicken

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - BALLROOM C

As expected, many youth-serving professionals become irritated by the behavior of select, "challenging" youth. Though competent staff rarely initiate conflicts with young people, they often keep them alive through their unintended, counter-productive reactions. Turning Down the Heat documents the most common reasons that youth-serving professionals become counter-aggressive with select youth while offering dozens of targeted intervention skills to more effectively manage conflict in the service environment. Grounded in neuroscience and trauma-informed approaches, this unique training leads to powerful insights that will change the way you think and behave when you are angry.

Presented by Adrian Jackson, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch

Early Check-In/Conference Registration

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - PREFUNCTION A

TNOYS Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation)

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - HEIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5: CONFERENCE DAY 1

(SEPARATE PROFESSIONAL AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. TNOYS Welcome + Keynote: The Singular Power of Healed Trauma with Anna Runkle, "The Crappy Childhood Fairy" - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG

Let's kick off TNOYS' 41st Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families together!

To the outside world, people with a history of trauma are often seen as "trouble" – permanently damaged individuals who are helpless to change. But trauma is an injury, not an identity, and the possibility of recovery dramatically increases when we understand a core symptom of complex PTSD: Neurological dysregulation. With compassion and insight drawn from her own experience, Anna teaches us why "perfectly regulated" people can't model the act of re-regulation that is so crucial to forming connections and healing lives. Anna's keynote offers insights on navigating and healing personal trauma amidst the complexities of supporting youth in transition and providers' inherent power to positively impact young people.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMING

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Workshops



Supporting Personnel with T-Care: A Trauma-Informed, Skills-Based Approach

Kami Ochoa, Advanced Trauma Solutions Professionals, LLC
GREENWAY BALLROOM A

T-Care is a strength-based, person-centered, practical skill application to trauma-informed services for helping professionals and caregivers deployed in diverse systems like child welfare, juvenile justice, courts, homelessness, education, integrated health, and community-based services. This workshop will provide an overview of the 4 T-Care skills and empower individuals to make thoughtful choices rather than being driven by automatic reactions to stressors.



Practical Applications from TNOYS' CSEY Homelessness Manual

Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Alex Polk, TNOYS
GREENWAY BALLROOM B

In November 2023, TNOYS published a manual for youth housing and homelessness service providers with guidance on meeting the needs of children and youth at risk of CSEY. The manual includes 10 key findings and recommendations based on discussions with over 100 youth and providers. In this workshop, TNOYS will provide targeted support to address recommendations from the manual and put them into practice through case studies and real-life examples.



From an Old West Town to a Therapeutic Community

Adrian Jackson and John Hazle, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
WESTBURY



This training takes you on a journey through Cal Farley's history and culture, as well as obstacles and challenges to becoming a trauma-informed community. Cal Farley's is proud to have created a space for healing and growth through work that includes comprehensive training for staff, implementation of the Neurosequential Model, restructuring programs to prioritize emotional safety, and fostering a supportive environment that acknowledges the unique needs of each resident.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5: CONFERENCE DAY 1



Resources for Supporting Youth Experiencing Homelessness

BALLROOM A

Building Empathy: Unveiling Homelessness Through Multimedia Narratives

Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport, Cheryl Myers, Emily Smith-Buster, Carla Roberson, and Janette Johnson, ESC Region 13

This session is a call to action for participants to explore how the intersection of storytelling, video, and online learning can offer a more empathetic understanding of students and families experiencing homelessness. A diverse panel from various ESC Region 13 departments will share how they worked across departmental boundaries to break down stereotypes, challenge biases, and cultivate compassion for clients.

Mapping the Opportunities: An Examination of Youth Homelessness Resources in Texas

Martin Martinez and John Laycock, Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed created the Texas Homeless Youth Resource Map: an online tool that maps resources across the state by region, including emergency and drop-in shelters, counseling services, food pantries, medical services, transportation services, and more. In this workshop, we will demonstrate this tool, share lessons learned, and discuss the next steps to ensure youth across the state have access to life-saving services.



Not All Fun and Games: A Necessary Conversation on Youth Gambling

Saul Malek, Youth Speaker and Educator

BALLROOM B

In this workshop, advocate Saul Malek will share his personal experience, research, and observations on youth gambling and harm prevention. Additionally, attendees will learn to contextualize the causes and effects of youth gambling and better understand that while problem gambling leads to financial problems, it is in itself an emotional issue.



Human Trafficking Training For Education and Youth-Serving Professionals

Denise Mears, Christa Mayfield, and Youth Action Board Members, Project Protect Our Children

BALLROOM C

School personnel and those who work directly with youth are in an exclusive position to prevent human trafficking. This workshop is designed to equip education professionals and community stakeholders with the fundamental knowledge they need to understand the complexities of human trafficking, as well as how trauma-informed approaches can help them effectively respond to human trafficking in our communities.



Texas Teens' Reproductive Rights

Ariana Rodriguez and HK Gray, Jane's Due Process

MUSEUM PARK

This session will provide youth-serving professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the current reproductive rights of Texas teens, including minors' rights concerning contraception, pregnancy-related care, abortion access, and more. Attendees will learn to navigate legal and practical obstacles and explore evidence-based approaches and advocacy methods that empower youth to navigate and access these services.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5: CONFERENCE DAY 1

1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Workshops



The “Daily Practice”: Simple Techniques to Soothe Your Nervous System and Re-Regulate Quickly

Anna Runkle, “The Crappy Childhood Fairy”
GREENWAY BALLROOM A

Derived in part from 12-step practices, the “Daily Practice” aims to support traumatized people by bringing comfort on the spot and building inner calm and mental focus over time. In this workshop, keynote speaker Anna Runkle will discuss techniques to support healthy expression without retriggering, as well as a simple meditation approach for processing and re-regulation.



LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness: Clearing out the Fog

Kenny Easley, Nadeem Justice, Waiola Davis, Ernest Whipple, and Brandon Williams, Montrose Grace Place
GREENWAY BALLROOM B

This workshop will discuss homelessness through the lens of LGBTQ+ youth and their intersecting identities (e.g. race, foster care experience, juvenile justice, etc.). Presenters will highlight reasons why young people become unhoused, issues unhoused youth face, and how to support the goal of ending LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness through building resilience among these youth, amplifying their voices in decision-making, and putting our pride as service providers to the side to create impact.



Embracing Equity: The Long Game

Melanie Chaseteen and Paris Rangel, Healthy Futures of Texas
WESTBURY



In Fall 2022, Healthy Futures began work to center equity by addressing disparities in sexual health outcomes and ensuring policies and practices reflect equity principles. The organization hired equity consultants and formed a staff-led Racial Equity Work Group (REWG) tasked with championing equity across the departments and with partners, as well as tracking successes and challenges. In this session, members of the REWG will share lessons learned from this important work.



Solutions for Youth Who Have Committed Sexual Offenses... Where We Began and Where We Are

John Kubis, Family Service Center of Galveston
BALLROOM A



Historically, the treatment of adolescents with sexual behavior problems has been almost exclusively based on theory and treatment models used to treat adult sex offenders. The last 15 years have seen a much-needed paradigm shift to incorporate critical developmental differences and empirically guided clinical interventions in youth treatment. This presentation will examine past assumptions and focus on current approaches to working with these youth.



Innovations of Youth Navigation

Katelyn Davis and Stephanie Norton, Tarrant County MHMR
BALLROOM B

The Help Me Thrive system of care connects families and providers with an on-call or on-site navigator who can provide education, resources, and community-based information to meet families’ specific needs. This presentation will provide an in-depth look at how community providers and mental health care workers are connecting with youth to provide critical supports.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5: CONFERENCE DAY 1



Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth Program Standards and Ethics

Jennifer Hill, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
BALLROOM C



Building and maintaining safe and supportive relationships for commercially exploited youth victims plays a crucial role in survivor recovery. Through open discussion, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the ethical code and minimum program standards that guide victim service providers and prevent re-exploiting or re-victimizing survivors inadvertently.



Developing TNOYS' Cross-Systems Youth Policy Agenda

Lauren Rose, TNOYS
MUSEUM PARK

TNOYS is developing a statewide, cross-systems youth policy agenda to strengthen services and support for Texas youth and families. TNOYS has spent several months researching priority issues and listening to and learning from Texas providers, youth, and young adults across systems. Join us to hear what we have learned so far, and to provide your input on issues that TNOYS should address in our policy agenda.

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Performance: Son Kiss'd Dance Concepts + Keynote Panel: Voices of Tomorrow: Illuminating Bright Futures for Youth with Anaya Carter, Davi Garcia, De'Asia Wiggins, Kyren Jackson, Marvin Terry, and LaBraia Owens, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG

Join our panel discussion on why lived experience matters and how it contributes to youth empowerment. This dynamic discussion goes beyond storytelling: it's a call to shift perspectives. Explore with us how embracing diverse lived experiences can reshape perceptions, foster empathy, and power a collective commitment to transformative change.

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Member Reception + Member Awards (Open to all TNOYS Members) - GREENWAY BALLROOM

All TNOYS members are invited to this festive and fun reception. You will have the chance to network with other members from across the state and enjoy appetizers and a cash bar. Additionally, TNOYS Chief Executive Officer Fedora Galasso will present our annual member awards to recognize outstanding individuals and programs in the youth services field. If you are not yet a member and would like to RSVP for the member reception, we encourage you to join here: tnoys.org/become-a-member.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

10:30 a.m. - 11:10 a.m. Youth Orientation and Ice Breaker Activity - MIDTOWN

Join this session to get a breakdown of everything that's in store for our youth and young adult attendees. Meet other youth and young adults, break the ice with your peers through a fun get-to-know-you activity, and participate in an exclusive, youth-only meet and greet with the opening keynote speaker. Get ready for 2.5 days of learning and engaging alongside your peers and professionals!

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Youth-Only Workshops

The Write 2 Heal

Michael Guinn, CitySquare TRAC
MIDTOWN

Write To Heal is a highly interactive, award-winning performance art workshop that teaches participants the art of creative self-expression and encourages each individual to reach deep inside to discover their power and purpose. Facilitator Mike Guinn is an internationally renowned performance poet and social services veteran who has also been a victim of violent crimes. Now, Mike uses his life-changing experience to instill confidence and skills that promote respect for community, self, and others.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5: CONFERENCE DAY 1

The Game Clock Of Life

Marlon Berry, I AM I Can Foundation
RIVER OAKS

In this workshop, youth will gain perspective and insight on why it is important to move with urgency and execute their dreams and goals. Emphasizing the importance of trusting relationships, this workshop will improve young adults' social and emotional skills and arm them with important life skills that can help power their maximum potential.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Youth Lunch (Youth & Young Adults Only) - MIDTOWN

Join your fellow youth and young adult attendees for a youth-only lunch and hangout session in the youth lounge! Lunch is free for all registered youth and young adults.

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Youth-Only Workshops

How Identity and Diversity Shapes Our World

Kayla N. Allen, Dear Mixed Girl
MIDTOWN

Diversity plays a role in everyone's lives from birth, and it is critical to have open conversations on diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and acceptance. This workshop is designed to equip and empower the audience with empathy, compassion, and clarity. Participants will come away with individualized resource plans for generating positive change.

Human Trafficking: Youth Engaged, Educated, and Empowered

Denise Mears and Nicole Murillo, Project Protect Our Children (PPOC)
RIVER OAKS

At PPOC, we believe that an engaged, educated, and empowered youth is a safe youth. This presentation takes an empowering rather than a fear-based approach to what human trafficking is and what students need to know to keep themselves and their friends safe. This session will cover what human trafficking is, warning signs and red flags, staying safe, and making a difference to be part of the solution.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Youth-Only Workshops

Transforming Stress Into Well-Being

Teri Beckman, HIGOL
MIDTOWN

Stress happens when the body and mind do not function well together, and they send out signals that something needs attention. Join us for this highly experiential session where we will learn to recognize the physical and mental symptoms of stress and the signs of approaching burnout. We will develop the tools to counteract stress and create the circumstances to remain balanced and constantly revitalize ourselves.

Making Intentional Choices for a Bright and Bold Future!

LaKeisha Hughes, Harris County Resources for Children and Adults
RIVER OAKS

Do you do things on purpose with a purpose? When you are intentional you choose to make decisions and take action on what's really important to you. Being intentional means getting clear upfront about what you want to achieve. In this interactive workshop, we will discuss ways to make intentional choices that will lead to favorable outcomes in your life.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6: CONFERENCE DAY 2

(MOST SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Performance: Meta4 + Keynote: Exploring Intersectionality & Building Meaningful Partnerships with Youth Experiencing CSEY with Kathy Givens - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG

This presentation will use an intersectional lens to delve into the complex and interconnected issues surrounding commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY). Kathy will explore how race, gender, criminalization, homophobia, and other social dynamics intertwine to intensify challenges and increase vulnerabilities for youth, as well as steps to build meaningful partnerships with youth in the community. Attendees will come away with holistic strategies for establishing collaborative relationships that center the voices and experiences of exploited youth, promote trust and safety, and facilitate access to sustainable, lasting resources and support services.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Workshops



Health Resources for Special Student Populations

GREENWAY BALLROOM A

Addressing Mental Health Challenges in Homeless Student Populations

Cynthia Hernandez and Ellie Ross, ESC Region 20

This presentation will shed light on the unique mental health issues faced by students experiencing homelessness and explore avenues for effective intervention and support. Presenters will highlight best practices in mental health support, strategies for building trust and engagement within the homeless community, and the importance of collaboration between mental health professionals, social services, and community organizations.

Shining a Light on Bright Futures: Transition Resources for Students with Disabilities

Elizabeth Meza and Jasmine Hernandez, Workforce Solutions

This session will explore how "disability" is defined and the variety of disabilities included. Student HireAbility Navigators will provide an overview of Workforce Solutions resources and transition services available to support students with disabilities across Texas. Attendees will also learn about Texas Workforce Solutions' vocational rehabilitation services and how to connect with them.



Building Relationships Through FUN!

JJ Sanchez, Elena Martinez, Alan Uribe, Heidy Resendiz, and Breean Mansell, City of Austin - Austin Healthy Adolescent Program
GREENWAY BALLROOM B

Inserting games and icebreakers into programming helps to create a safe and inclusive environment for youth to open up and find their own voice. In this workshop participants will learn various interactive youth and adult-led games that help to build relationships between youth and adults. If you are looking for new ideas for your programming and want to see youth experts in action, this workshop is for you!



The Modern Nonprofit: The Next Gen of Leaders

Q. Olivia Rivers, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc.
WESTBURY



While diversity has been a focus of nonprofits for decades, most DEI efforts have failed to include generational diversity in their strategic planning. In this workshop, a millennial executive will guide participants in creating a sustainable, generationally diverse culture that champions inclusive spaces, supports emotionally intelligent leadership, and reflects the communities we serve, building tables that have enough seats for all ages.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6: CONFERENCE DAY 2



Creating a Community of Justice Champions

Jonathan Warre, Shanice Blair, Phylcia French, Cora Moore Brittany Key, Hannah Harber, and Toby Agnew, The Future is US/Family Service Center of Galveston County
BALLROOM A

Achieving critical consciousness is key to making the change from “doing nothing” to becoming “active.” The Future is US Galveston has engaged in a variety of methods to cultivate and empower youth and community voices, working to achieve critical consciousness to support the most vulnerable students. Hear from members of The Future is US as they share how we engage our community to become lifelong champions of justice.



The Family, Housing, and Me Project: Housing Insecurity Among LGBTQ+ Youth

Amy Stone and Otis McCandless-Chapman, Trinity University - Family, Housing, and Me Project
BALLROOM B

Family, Housing, and Me is an NSF-funded longitudinal research study focusing on data from youth in Texas and California. In particular, the study examines youth experiences of housing insecurity and support systems provided by non-parental family members. Presenters will discuss current research on the importance of extended family to youth and avenues for further investigating LGBTQ+ youth’s differential experiences.



Prevention and Self-Generated Content: Effective Messages for Children & Teenagers

Sofia Montes, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
BALLROOM C

One of the most challenging aspects of child online exploitation is when these crimes involve self-generated content. In this session, presenters will use a developmental perspective to explore these behaviors in youth and discuss how to apply trauma-informed approaches to prevention messages about self-generated imagery. We will also share free community resources to address issues of self-generated content with children from K-12.



Deaf/ Hard of Hearing Clients: Legal and Ethical Challenges for Providers

Detra Steward, ADA Compliance Experts
MUSEUM PARK

Most practitioners are unaware of their legal obligations when communicating with deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind people and are not adequately trained to communicate effectively. Therefore, many youth’s communication needs are not met and deaf children are more vulnerable to neglect and abuse than children in the general population. This workshop addresses legal rights and various strategies to ensure effective communication with deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children, youth, and families.

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Luncheon: TNOYS’ YALC Graduation and Youth Engagement Roadmap (Open to All) - Post Oak Ballroom DEFG

TNOYS’ Youth Engagement Roadmap supports young people with lived experiences in engaging with TNOYS at all levels. Members of our flagship Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) work alongside TNOYS teams to shape and inform services to youth. The Texas Emerging Leaders Board (TELB) provides consultation on how to engage young people for their long-term success. We invite you to celebrate the incredible work of our graduating YALC members and learn about the next steps on the roadmap to becoming a TELB member! Join us to connect over a meal and honor the next generation of young advocates and leaders.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6: CONFERENCE DAY 2

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Workshops



Positive Psychology: Understanding and Promoting Well-Being

Drew Dutton, Phoenix House Texas
GREENWAY BALLROOM A

This session will provide an introduction to positive psychology and offer a new lens for viewing health and mental health at large, all while challenging and highlighting the harms of more traditional approaches. Presenters will review innovative and updated research demonstrating the power of wellbeing strategies with relatable and applicable examples to help individuals and communities thrive.



Listening and Learning from Youth

GREENWAY BALLROOM B

Increasing Health Equity with Youth-Centered Approaches

Alex Polk, Grace Goetz, TNOYS

This workshop will explore a cross-systems approach to address complex trauma, health inequities, and their impact on the youth you serve. Gain insights from TNOYS' Healthcare Brief, *Equitable Health Care for Youth and Young Adults*, and discover actionable strategies to advance health equity within your organization.

The Realities of Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Youth in Their Daily Lives

Celise Tibbett, Davi Garcia, Marvin Terry, and Monique Talamantes, TNOYS YALC

In this workshop, participants will engage in youth-led interactive discussions and real-life scenarios to improve their knowledge and understanding of how they can support, maintain, and enhance the quality of life for pregnant youth and young expecting parents.



Your 50% Growth Plan: Aligning Vision, Board, and Team for Dramatic Growth in 1 Year

Teri Beckman, HIGOL
WESTBURY

In this interactive session, participants will discover their organization's missing links to developing a sustainable framework that measurably increases community and client impact while raising the revenue to support it. We will explore two case studies where trailblazing CEOs took bold steps to re-invent the culture and direction of their organizations to strengthen partnerships, gain revenue, and increase mission-driven impact.



College Resources for Youth with Foster Care Experience

Krystal Lopez and Drew Melton, BCFS Health and Human Services
BALLROOM A

The Texas Education and Training Voucher (ETV) is a federal benefit that provides funding for current and former foster youth attending post-secondary school. This workshop will explore challenges facing youth who age out of foster care and discuss resources that include the Texas State Tuition and Fee Waiver and eligibility requirements, accessing documentation for ETV funding, best practices for contacting ETV coordinators, and more.



Engaging Families to Overcome Resistance and Care for Kids

John Hazle, Adrian Jackson, and Telita Jackson, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch
BALLROOM B



Engaging families amid their struggles while caring for their kids can be difficult to navigate. This workshop will highlight efforts to overcome this gap and create more positive trajectories for both youth in care and their families. Presenters will share practical strategies to spur attendees' creative problem-solving and share plenty of examples from their combined experiences.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6: CONFERENCE DAY 2



One Size Doesn't Fit All: Cultural Considerations When Working with African American Youth Survivors of Sex Trafficking



Hannah Counter, New Friends New Life
BALLROOM C

African Americans are 1.5 to 10 times more likely than other races to be confirmed sex-trafficking victims. This workshop will provide relevant and up-to-date information on the intersectionalities of victimization among Black girls and how systemic injustices and barriers contribute to the issue. Within the intersectional and cultural context, presenters will discuss best practices for serving this population and ways to prevent victimization on a macro level.



Human Trafficking Social Justice Advocacy Through Lived Experience

Rhonda Kuykendall, Fort Bend County DA Human Trafficking Community Awareness Team
MUSEUM PARK

Drawing from their experiences with legislative advocacy in Texas, presenters will provide an overview of how youth and professionals can engage in the legislative process. Participants will also receive an overview of human trafficking legislation over the past two sessions and what is being proposed for the upcoming 89th Texas Legislative Session.

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Workshops



Math, Reading, Science and Sex: The Importance of Evidence-Based Sexual Health in Schools

Giselle Gonzalez, David Sierra, Saira Valero, and Kathleen Lemus, The Parenting Center
GREENWAY BALLROOM A

For today's youth, sexual health education, or miseducation, is around every corner, and misinformation can spread quickly and contribute to unsafe sex practices. Learn about The Parenting Center's Future First Program which brings evidence-based, judgment-free sexual health education directly to classrooms, educating students about healthy relationships, STDs, contraceptives, and self-empowerment.



Empowering Tomorrow: Amplifying Youth Voices Through Intentional Empowerment and Partnership

Jade Miller, Izabella Houida, and Anthony Williams, Collective Action for Youth
GREENWAY BALLROOM B

In this session, participants will engage in dynamic discussions, skill-building activities, and communication strategies that can foster meaningful partnerships with youth and young adults. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of the power of youth voices, enhanced collaboration skills, and tangible strategies for creating and sustaining impactful partnerships with young people.



Employing Youth with Lived Experiences

Fedora Galasso and Tyneisha Quarterman, and Grace Goetz, TNOYS
WESTBURY

Employing Youth and Young Adults (YYA) with lived experiences can help strengthen organizational practices and services overall. Join us to learn TNOYS' approach to incorporating YYA with lived experience into your organization and the impact for YYA, the organization, and its constituents.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6: CONFERENCE DAY 2



Mobility Shuffle - Train the Trainer

Christina Wilson and Jona Hinds, Belton Independent School District

BALLROOM A

McKinney-Vento liaisons and youth homelessness providers: are you in need of a new training idea? During this workshop, participate in an activity that you can use for your required annual training. Learn how to engage all school district staff and community members who serve students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care.



Pieces of Home: The Role of Stability in Making Places for Youth

Tim Packer, The Cove - Heart of Texas

BALLROOM B

Drawing on international research, doctoral research, and Dr. Packer's practice experience from delivering and funding housing and homelessness services over the last 20 years, this presentation will explore the various ways that the idea of "home" is constructed and their links to the concept of stability. Presenters will discuss how these ideas contribute to delivering effective interventions for youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability.



Combating Human Trafficking with Transportation Professionals

Troy Walden, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

BALLROOM C

Each state's Department of Transportation (DOT) and local public works and road departments are yet-to-be-fully-realized partners in combating human trafficking. This presentation will discuss the intersections of human trafficking counter-efforts with transportation, how the transportation industry can assist with disruption and tangible support for survivors' healing journeys.



The Role of Child Welfare Boards in Texas

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

POLICY & GOVERNMENT

Texas is the only state that has implemented county child welfare boards, with 193 in operation statewide. This workshop will explore the origin of child welfare boards in Texas and laws relating to their establishment and operation, as well as the relationship of county boards to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

FRIDAY, JUNE 7: CONFERENCE DAY 3

(MOST SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL)

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness Meeting (Invite Only) - BALLROOM EFG

The Statewide Collaborative on Youth Homelessness (SCYH) will hold an in-person meeting to bring together stakeholders for networking and information sharing. Staff and leadership from relevant state agencies will join to provide updates and network with other SCYH members. Breakfast will be provided.

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - PREFUNCTION A

9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Workshops



Navigating Trauma and Avoiding Burnout

Christa Mayfield, Good Sustained
GREENWAY BALLROOM A

In trauma-impacted spaces, caring for ourselves and our teams is essential. This interactive session will take a trauma-informed look at our work and experiences from a brain-based perspective, explore their impact on providers, and help providers utilize boundaries to approach their work “whole-hearted” rather than “over-extended.” Experience the compassion and hope providers extend to those they serve daily!

Youth Voice & Youth-Adult Partnership

GREENWAY BALLROOM B



The Importance of Understanding Youth Mental Health

Kirsten Comparetto, Kyren Jackson, and Ricko Cesar, TNOYS YALC

In this session, young adult presenters will explore trauma-informed care strategies and different ways providers can support youth experiencing mental health challenges. Presenters will highlight the importance of coping skills, letting youth have more autonomy over their treatment plans, and the ineffectiveness of disciplinary action towards behaviors rooted in mental health such as running away or self-harm.

Shifting Youth Perspective through Desired Connection

Anaya Carter, De’Asia Wiggins, and LaBraia Owens, TNOYS YALC

Youth presenters will explore the cause and effects of lack of connection, highlighting topics like homelessness, CSEY, and runaways. Participants will learn different strategies to cater to various youth situations, as well as tangible takeaways to achieve desired connection with youth and make a positive impact on their lives.



Public/Private Partnerships and Transitional Options Led by Youth Voice

Breanna Haile, Mary Green, and Katy Vittoria, The HAY Center
WESTBURY

For the last 19 years, The HAY Center has successfully assisted Transition-Age Youth (TAY), currently or formerly in foster care, into adulthood. In this workshop, attendees will learn about their private/public partnership model that allows them to amplify youth voice in every aspect of programming, ensure TAY have options that fit their individual needs, and combine youth-driven programming with intensive wraparound case management.



Sensational Storytellers: Engaging Learners and Cultivating Creativity

Tina Hayward, ESC 14; Cheryl Meyers and Jerretta Davenport, ESC 14
BALLROOM A

Countless studies prove the positive correlation between youths’ abilities to self-express in their acquired language and their self-esteem. Often, fear, intimidation, and unfamiliarity with vocabulary prevents necessary self-expression and involvement in writing and speaking activities. This session will break down this connection through a series of hands-on activities using art and illustration.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7: CONFERENCE DAY 3



Services and Supports for Opportunity Youth

BALLROOM B

Evaluating Services for Texas Opportunity Youth (ESTOY)

Cynthia Juniper, LBJ School of Public Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin

The ESTOY evaluation pursues a deeper understanding of the experiences of opportunity youth whose needs were not met by traditional education systems. This evaluation used community-based research to invite community voices to collaborate, including youth receiving workforce development services. Presenters will highlight key considerations for preparing for this research, engaging the community, and lessons learned from the process.

Expanded Pathways: Giving Students Brighter Futures Through Apprenticeship Programs

Melvin Meade and Keanda Fuller, Harris County Department of Education; Teshaye Berry, Sayra Coyotl, Katherine Del La Torre, Brynae Matthews, and Zacharay Sheriff, CASE for Kids

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of YOU Can, Harris County Department of Education's first workforce development program to research, teach, and implement innovative practices. By increasing for opportunity youths' participation in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs and demonstrating the impact of these programs on employment and earnings, the model empowers youth with choice through a number of pathways.



The Unseen Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Luke Sorrell, Ranch Hands Rescue

BALLROOM C

Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) affects any and all persons. In this workshop, the unseen survivors—specifically, male victims and other marginalized groups—are given space in the conversation surrounding CSE. Effective identification, engagement, and treatment strategies for these underrepresented populations will be covered. There will also be space for questions and discussion.



A Community Response Guide for Reporting and Supporting Texas Families

Amanda Frangu and Genesis Elizondo, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)

MUSEUM PARK



This session will provide the audience with key information about DFPS mandatory reporting laws, definitions, and examples of abuse and neglect allegations. The session will also discuss understanding who can be reported and how mandatory reporters can begin to position themselves as mandatory supporters.

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Closing Keynote: Standing in the Gap: Neurodiversity

with Di Ciruolo, Author, Speaker, and Advocate - POST OAK BALLROOM DEFG

Di Ciruolo describes herself as a "neurodiversity expert, ADHD-er and former foster youth". Di's keynote will leave participants with a solid understanding of what neurodiversity is, who is impacted, and the mosaic of behaviors and symptoms that fall under its umbrella. This talk will be especially relevant for attendees who have been stuck in the cycle of bureaucracy with a neurodivergent child—either at school or within programs. Participants who support and work with the neurodivergent community, especially children and young adults, will come away with strategies to navigate systems and help these young people thrive.

12:30 p.m. Adjourn

ABOUT TEXAS NETWORK OF YOUTH SERVICES

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.

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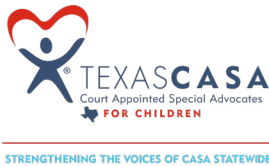
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