



TEXAS NETWORK OF  
YOUTH SERVICES



**33<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**TNOYS Conference on Services  
to Youth and Families  
June 22 & 25-26, 2020**

**#TNOYS2020**



# WELCOME!

## TNOYS' 37TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

We're excited to kick off TNOYS' 37th Annual Conference! Over the next three days, our dynamic presenters, speakers, and sessions will encourage you to "Make Your Mark" by tapping into your unique strengths to build resilience and overcome adverse situations. This year's conference once again reflects TNOYS' commitment to advancing equity, youth-adult partnership and youth voice, integration of research into policy and practice, and collaboration across systems.

After nearly 40 years, TNOYS continues to be at the cutting edge of the youth services field. This year's conference agenda includes opportunities to learn from and alongside young people with lived experience, with time set aside for specialized training, experiential learning, networking, and reflection. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity to have fun while you learn from and collaborate with our diverse group of participants, and use this time to share your own expertise and experiences with others.

This year TNOYS is grateful for the collaboration of our conference partners, Children at Risk, National Network for Youth, Texas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Texas Appleseed, Texas CASA, The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Texas Homeless Network, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards, and United Way of Texas. We are also grateful to the many sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and volunteers, as their collaboration and support are integral to the success of this event.

True to TNOYS' mission and to the missions of our member organizations, our focus continues to be on ensuring the most vulnerable but resilient Texas youth and families have opportunities to succeed. If your organization is not yet a TNOYS member, we encourage you to join this week.

Thank you for choosing to spend your week with us.

Sincerely,  
The TNOYS Team

**THEIR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS.**

# PROGRAM GUIDE

---

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



ADVANCING EQUITY



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE



SPECIAL TOPICS



POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATES



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH  
VOICE AND CHOICE



ACCESSING RESOURCES ACROSS SYSTEMS



RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED  
PRACTICES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



NUTS AND BOLTS FOR YOUTH

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 22: PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES

---

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #1** Now More than Ever: TBRI® in the Midst of the Community- Wide Trauma of COVID-19

9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #2** Strengths-Based Clinical Supervision

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. **INSTITUTE #3** Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Humility: Together We Can Achieve It!

## THURSDAY, JUNE 25: CONFERENCE DAY 1

---

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

- **LIBERATING STRUCTURES** with Lynda Frost JD, PhD, LynFro Consulting, and Nakia Winfield, MSW, Political Social Worker and Anti-Racist Trainer

10:15 A.M. - 10:35 A.M. Short Break/ Exhibit Hall

10:35 A.M. - 11:35 A.M. Workshops

11:35 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Workshops

2:00 P.M. - 2:15 P.M. Short Break

2:15 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Keynote

- **EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: USING A COLLABORATIVE ANALYTIC DECISION-MAKING MODEL TO DE-POLITICIZE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** with Judge Steve Teske, Chief Judge, Juvenile Court of Clayton County, GA

3:00 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. Adjourn

3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M. Networking Event (Optional)

## FRIDAY, JUNE 26: CONFERENCE DAY 2

---

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

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Short Break/ Exhibit Hall

10:30 A.M. - 11:35 A.M. Keynote + Performance

- **ADDRESSING INEQUITY IN SYSTEMS: THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA, BIAS, AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE SAFETY FOR HEALING** with Monique W. Morris, Award-Winning Author and Social Justice Scholar
- **SLAM POETRY** with Meta-Four Houston Youth Slam Team

11:35 A.M. - 12:35 P.M. Lunch on Your Own

12:35 P.M. - 12:55 P.M. **DANCE BREAK** with YoungChris, Sonkiss'd Dance Theater

12:55 P.M. - 1:05 P.M. Short Break

1:05 P.M. - 2:35 P.M. Long Workshops

2:35 P.M. - 2:45 P.M. Adjourn/ Short Break

2:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M. Long Workshop Part 2 (Optional)



# FEATURED SPEAKERS

---

## LYNDA FROST, JD, PHD



Lynda Frost runs Lynfro Consulting, which is committed to helping foundations, nonprofits, and other agencies maximize their impact through clarifying mission-consistent goals, implementing effective programs, and optimizing internal operations. Lynda's skills have been honed through 25+ years in the nonprofit sector working to improve health, human services, education, and criminal justice outcomes for vulnerable communities. She is passionate about using Liberating Structures to design fair and effective processes to reach each client's goals, and is recognized for facilitating effective in-person and virtual meetings that inspire participants and deliver results.

## NAKIA WINFIELD, MSW



Nakia Winfield is a political social worker and antiracist trainer who uses an interdisciplinary lens to examine power dynamics across social systems. Her research in leadership development and complexity theory made her fall in love with Liberating Structures when she discovered it two years ago as a Mental Health Policy Fellow for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-TX) and has been using it in space creation and business strategy work ever since.

## JUDGE STEVEN C. TESKE



Judge Steven C. Teske is the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Georgia. Judge Teske has testified before Congress and several state legislatures on detention reform and zero tolerance policies in schools. He has written several articles on juvenile justice reform, including his model on school justice partnerships. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, notably the 2018 Juvenile Law Center Leadership Prize.

## MONIQUE W. MORRIS, Ed.D



Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is an award-winning author and social justice scholar with 30 years of experience in the areas of education, civil rights, and juvenile and social justice. Dr. Morris has authored several books, including *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. She has written and lectured widely on addressing juvenile justice, educational, socioeconomic, and trafficking issues for Black girls, women, and their families.

## CHRISTOPHER "YUNGCHRIS" THOMAS












Christopher Thomas has visited 24 countries around the world as a dance teacher, choreographer, and performer. Thomas spent a year in Bangkok, Thailand training local pop stars and performing at events throughout Southeast Asia before he moved back to Houston in 2011 to start his own dance company, Sonkiss'd Dance Theater. Thomas' students have gone on to work and tour with major artists, including Taylor Swift and Beyoncé.

## META-FOUR HOUSTON



Meta-Four Houston is the face of the youth poetry slam scene, representing Houston to the world at the international Brave New Voices festival. Each year hundreds of teens from across Houston come together at the Space City Slam Series, vying for a spot on the Meta-Four team. This opportunity transforms lives, builds community, elevates writing, and takes the voices of youth to powerful heights.

# WORKSHOP CHART

	<div> ADVANCING EQUITY</div>	<div> SPECIAL TOPICS</div>	<div> YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH VOICE &amp; CHOICE</div>	<div> RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES</div>	<div> TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE</div>	<div> POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATES</div>	<div> ACCESSING RESOURCES ACROSS SYSTEMS</div>	<div> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</div>	<div> NUTS AND BOLTS FOR YOUTH</div>	
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3	ROOM 4	ROOM 5	ROOM 6	ROOM 7	ROOM 8	ROOM 9	ROOM 10
THURSDAY, JUNE 25										
10:35 - 11:35 A.M. <b>Workshops - Open to All</b>	<div>Y</div> Addressing the Issue of Adulthoodification	<div>P</div> Children’s Mental Health	<div></div> Say What?! Services to Persons with Hearing Loss	<div></div> Normalcy & Child Welfare Professionals	<div></div> Motivational Interviewing: Part 1* (10:15 - 11:45 a.m.)	<div></div> Building Bridges and Strategies for Reduc- ing Seclusion and Restraints	<div></div> Specialized, Collabo- rative CSEY Services	<div></div> Navigating McKinney-Vento	<div></div> Compassion Fatigue & Secondary Traumatic Stress	<div>Y</div> Shift Happens: Making Your Mindset Work for You
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. <b>Workshops - Open to All</b>	<div></div> Innovative Programs and Equity	<div></div> Nurturing Environments for Trafficking Victims	<div>P</div> Ending the Game: Psychological Coercion in CSEC	<div></div> The Impact of Disasters and Other Emergencies on Youth	<div></div> Motivational Interviewing: Part 2* (12:30 - 2:00 p.m.)	<div></div> TJJD: Building and Maintaining a Culture of Connection	<div></div> Federal Policy Updates	<div>Y</div> Using SMS to Help Teens Access Family Planning Services	<div></div> Reduce Burnout	<div>Y</div> Health and Human Services (HHSC) Foster Care Ombudsman
FRIDAY, JUNE 26										
9:00 - 10:00 A.M. <b>Workshops - Open to All</b>	<div></div> The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Adolescents	<div></div> CST and Online Be- havior: Risk Factors, Recognition, and Response	<div></div> Sucessfully Working with Birth Families	<div></div> Resistance in Youth and Young Adults	<div></div> Adolescent Brain Development	<div></div> Gang-Involved Youth, Trauma-Informed Perspective	<div></div> Round Table Discussion on Cross- System Policy Agenda: Part 1	<div>Y</div> College Resources for Foster Care Alumni	<div>Y</div> Mind Matters: Overcoming Adversity, Building Resilience	<div>Y</div> Art(is)facts
1:05 - 2:35 P.M. <b>Long Workshops - Open to All</b>	<div></div> Race, Equity, and Cultural Competency in the Child Welfare System	<div>Y</div> Services to LGBTQ Youth in Care	<div>Y</div> The VOICE Project: Supports of Formerly Homeless Youth	<div></div> Contraceptive Counseling for Youth Experiencing Homelessness	<div></div> Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT)	<div></div> Vulnerabilities of Children & Families During Disasters	<div></div> Round Robin Discussion with State Agencies	<div></div> Resources and Supports for Youth and Families	<div></div> Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 1	<div>Y</div> Making Your Mark: Mindsets and Empowerment
2:45 - 4:15 P.M. <b>Optional Workshops (Second half of 3- hour trainings)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<div>Y</div> Round Table Discussion on Cross- System Policy Agenda: Part 2	-	<div></div> Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 2	-

\*Please Note: The Motivational Interviewing Training is three hours in total and spans two workshops (Part 1 and Part 2). As such, these workshops have different start and end times than all other conference workshops. Motivational Interviewing: Part 1 is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Motivational Interviewing: Part 2 is scheduled for 12:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# MONDAY, JUNE 22

Pre-Conference Institutes  
(separate registration required)

---

## **10:00 A.M - 3:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #1: Now More than Ever: TBRI® in the Midst of the Community-Wide Trauma of COVID-19**

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." As a community, we have and still are journeying through a pandemic. It is said that as we are weathering the same storm and are in this together, we all have different boats we are traveling in. Children/Youth from hard places have changes in their bodies, brains, behaviors, and beliefs systems. Building connections and healthy relationships are vital to creating a safe space for a child/adolescent to heal from trauma. The Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development created TBRI, a practical, trauma responsive approach for those working with children and youth. Now more than ever, we are in need of hope and healing. This workshop equips participants with tools based in the connecting, empowering and correcting principles to not only help those we serve but also takes us on our own journey towards health and healing.

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

## **9:30 A.M - 4:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #2: Strengths-Based Clinical Supervision**

Join us to learn strategies that can assist social work supervisors during advanced clinical supervisions. The workshop will prepare supervisors to use collaboration, strengths-based approaches, and other best practices when working with supervisees. Upon completing this workshop, participants will be able to use strengths-based conversations with supervisees to develop measurable goals for supervision, engage supervisees in discovering clinical strategies to use in their work with clients, reinforce supervisees' strengths while addressing their challenges, and more.

Presented by Jack Nowicki, LCSW, Jack's Collaborative Counseling & Consulting

## **10:00 A.M - 3:00 P.M. PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE #3: Equity, Inclusion, and Cultural Humility: Together We Can Achieve It!**

Issues of equity and inclusion have a critical impact on the lives of the youth we serve. Join trainer Mia Williams of Melanin Marketing to help enhance your understanding of these issues and learn how to incorporate such principles into your work. Through immersive and engaging professional development activities, this institute aims to change the way organizations operate and the way people communicate relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace. Attendees will dive into how history develops, shapes, and influences our core values, discuss the differences between cultural competency and cultural humility, and develop strategies for normalizing discussions that influence and generate inclusive policy.

Presented by Mia Williams, Melanin Marketing Management

## 9:00 A.M. - 10:15 A.M. WELCOME + KEYNOTE: Liberating Structures by Lynda Frost and Nakia Winfield

Liberating Structures are facilitation tools for engagement and collaboration that make meetings more fun and effective!

## 10:15 A.M. -10:35 A.M. SHORT 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.

## 10:35 A.M. -11:35 A.M. WORKSHOPS



### Addressing the Long Misunderstood Issue of Adultification

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

#### ROOM 1

This workshop explains the long misunderstood issue of adultification on children, which commonly leads children and youth down paths toward homelessness, the criminal justice system, substance use, school suspensions, teenage pregnancy, and a multiple of health and social determinants.



### Children's Mental Health

Lauren Pursley, Mental Health America of Greater Houston

#### ROOM 2

This presentation will cover the signs and symptoms of mental illness and how to have a conversation with a young person about it. We will also discuss behavior modification and de-escalation techniques, and share information about medication and its uses with youth. Attendees will leave feeling empowered with accurate information they can share with the young people they serve.



### Say What? Legal Obligations and Services to Persons with Hearing Loss

Detra Stewart, Assistive Technology Unlimited

#### ROOM 3

Many health, medical, and social service providers are unaware of their legal obligations when communicating with deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, and deaf/blind individuals. This workshop addresses current medical, health, and social service practices that present new legal and ethical challenges to those who serve clients (and their companions) with hearing loss. Join us to learn more about how the spectrum of services offered by medical, health, and social service providers can significantly impact the lives of youth with hearing loss.



### Youth Perspective on How Child Welfare Professionals Can Prioritize Normalcy

Sarah Crockett, Texas CASA; Panel of Youth

#### ROOM 4

Youth are filled with passion, knowledge, insight, and fresh ideas that adults often overlook because of their age. When youth-adult partnerships are developed appropriately and youth are included in decision-making, youth can become valuable resources and assets to communities, organizations, and society. Adults benefit by gaining more relevant and responsive ways to serve youth, and they become more competent in their work with youth by seeing them as crucial contributors.





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

**Erin Espinosa, National Council on Crime and Delinquency**

### ROOM 5

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 three-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions. Please plan to attend both sessions in order to receive credit for this training. *Please Note:* Because the Motivational Interviewing Training is three hours, both the Part 1 and Part 2 workshops have different start and end times than all other conference workshops. Motivational Interviewing: Part 1 is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Motivational Interviewing: Part 2 is scheduled for 12:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



## Overview of Building Bridges and Six Core Strategies for Reducing Seclusion and Restraints

**Jason Drake, Regional Executive Director, Upbring; Elizabeth Aleman, Clinical Program Manager, Upbring, New Life Children's Center**

### ROOM 6

The Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) works to ensure that services and supports for youth are family-driven, youth-guided, strengths-based, culturally and linguistically competent, individualized, and evidence-based and practice-informed. The Six Core Strategies for Reducing Seclusions and Restraints is an evidence based model designed for congregate care. Learn about BBI strategies integrated with the Six Core Strategies for Reducing Seclusions and Restraints followed by a discussion about opportunities and challenges for implementation in your own programs.



## Bells and Whistles for Specialized, Collaborative CSEY Services

**Alan Schonborn, Office of the Texas Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team; Lauren Rose, TNOYS**

### ROOM 7

Find out about tools, training, and resources from the Governor's Office to help recognize and respond to exploited children. Determine if you should be participating in a new collaborative model of care that is changing the game for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) survivors, and learn about opportunities for providers to partner with the Governor's Office.



## Navigating McKinney-Vento

**Jerretta Jimmerson Davenport, Education Service Center Region 13**

### ROOM 8

This workshop will provide an overview of the McKinney-Vento Act, followed by a discussion on the rights of homeless students, best strategies for serving this population, and resources to improve outcomes for homeless youth.



## Compassion Fatigue and Secondary Traumatic Stress

**Crystal Sepulveda, Upbring**

### ROOM 9

Attendees will gain a better understanding of how to combat, recognize, and treat themselves for compassion fatigue, bettering their mind, body and soul. This workshop features an interactive activity and take-away swag promoting self-care.



## Shift Happens: Making Your Mindset Work for You



**Marina Dewberry & Youth Presenter, Our Friends Place**

### ROOM 10

The great kung fu master Bruce Lee once said "as you think, so you shall become." This quote rings true in every aspect of our lives. If we believe we will fail, more than likely we will fail—not because we were destined to fail, but because we didn't try hard enough to overcome that initial belief. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. If we shift our thinking and look at failure as an opportunity to learn and grow, we will always be working toward success. In this workshop, we will take participants through an interactive exercise to determine which mindset frames their perspectives, how to overcome the trap of the fixed mindset, and how to reach their goals. *Please Note:* this workshop is restricted to youth only.

**11:35 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

**1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. WORKSHOPS**



## Innovative Programs Addressing Equity: A Facilitated Discussion

**Alexandra Vargas, City of Austin; Tisha Wilson, Houston reVision; Christina Beeler, Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project**

### ROOM 1

Join us for a facilitated discussion about innovative projects across Texas that address equity. You'll have the opportunity to hear from the following programs: First Generation Youth and Traffic Court with Alexandra Vargas, City of Austin; Positive Alternative Activities for Disconnected Youth with Tisha Wilson, Houston reVision; Legal, Educational, and Support Services for Justice-Involved Youth with Christina Beeler, Juvenile Children's Advocacy Project.



## Creating and Maintaining a Nurturing Environment for Trafficking Victims

**Crystal Sepulveda, Upbring**

### ROOM 2

This workshop reviews evidence-based data on the mental health need of victims of human trafficking. Attendees will gain an understanding of service provider goals and youth goals for providing and maintaining a nurturing environment.



## Ending the Game: Understanding the Problem & Process of Psychological Coercion in CSEC P

**Rachel Thomas and Youth Presenter, Ending the Game**

### ROOM 3

One disturbing trend among victims of human trafficking cannot be ignored: victims often exhibit strong attachments to their traffickers and/or the lifestyle of commercial sexual exploitation. Ending The Game© (ETG) is a first-of-its-kind "coercion resiliency" curriculum that reduces feelings of attachment to traffickers and/or a lifestyle characterized by commercial sexual exploitation, thereby reducing the rate of recidivism among sex trafficking survivors.



## The Impact of Disasters and Other Emergencies on Youth

**Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Prince Hayward, TNOYS**

### ROOM 4

Natural disasters are on the rise, and Texas tops the nation in frequency of natural disasters. The COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the resounding impact that emergency situations can have on Texas' most vulnerable populations, and it threatened to destabilize the progress many young people have made in achieving their goals. Children, youth, and families who are impacted by natural disasters and emergencies experience trauma and instability that heighten their risks of victimization, exploitation, and mental health crises. Join us to hear the youth perspective on how to address the long-term impacts of disasters and emergencies, strengthen your services for future emergencies, and build community resilience.



## Motivational Interviewing: An Introduction to Application and Skill: Part 2

**Erin Espinosa, National Council on Crime and Delinquency**

### ROOM 5

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 three-hour training will take place over two workshop sessions. Please plan to attend both sessions in order to receive credit for this training. *Please Note:* Because the Motivational Interviewing Training is three hours, both the Part 1 and Part 2 workshops have different start and end times than all other conference workshops. Motivational Interviewing: Part 1 is scheduled for 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Motivational Interviewing: Part 2 is scheduled for 12:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



## Texas Model of Juvenile Justice: Building and Maintaining a Culture of Connection

**Emily Knox, Ph.D., Texas Juvenile Justice Department**

### ROOM 6

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department is currently undergoing comprehensive, agency-wide change. "The Texas Model" is TJJD's version of trauma-informed corrections, focusing on connection, empowerment, and felt-safety. These reforms not only affect the type of care that youth receive, but also present a dynamic shift in the interactions and responsibilities of direct-care staff. This presentation is an overview of the Texas Model and its evaluation. Broadly, it focuses on connection, including the myriad ways in which social connection impacts TJJD youth, direct-care staff, and what factors contribute to building and sustaining a meaningful and safe culture of connection.



## Federal Policy Updates

Jo Ann Paanio and Youth Presenter, National Network for Youth

### ROOM 7

Hear what's new in federal policy and implications for Texas youth, families, and professionals who serve them. Topics will include the Family First Prevention Services Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.



## Using SMS to Help Teens Access Family Planning Services (Y)

Eleanor Grano, Graci D'Amor, and Samantha Sorsby-Jones, Jane's Due Process

### ROOM 8

In this session, participants will hear from a youth activist about 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 ensuring their reproductive freedom. Facilitators will present a live-demonstration of Jane's Due Process's helpline and also provide information about judicial bypass for abortion, referral resources for teens that reside in contraceptive deserts, and how to safety plan with young people around sexual shame.



## Reduce Burnout

Jose Garcia-Cuellar, Own Your Happiness

### ROOM 9

In this interactive presentation you will become aware of symptoms of burnout, and reenergize yourself to become present with your clients. Mindfulness techniques will allow you to reduce stress and gain awareness of your physical, mental, and emotional state so you can continue to find enjoyment and fulfillment in your career and lifestyle.



## Foster Care Ombudsman: Who Are We and How Can We Assist? (Y)

Raven McKinley, Erica Brewington, and Zophelia Mays, Health and Human Services Commission Foster Care Ombudsman

### ROOM 10

Participants will learn about the development of the Foster Care Ombudsman program and what the FCO statute means for youth in foster care, DFPS, Health and Human Services, and other services providers who interact with youth in care.

## 2:00 P.M. - 2:15 P.M. SHORT BREAK

## 2:15 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. KEYNOTE: Effective Criminal Justice Reform: Using a Collaborative Analytic Decision-Making Model to De-Politicize Crime and Punishment by Judge Steve Teske

Hear about how Judge Teske convened local stakeholders in Atlanta to improve the juvenile justice system using an analytic decision-making model to remove the political rhetoric that often results in "Get Tough" policies as opposed to what works to improve public safety. The keynote will take a deep dive into the counter-intuitive and discuss the four phases of the collaborative analytic decision-making model and how they work to overcome the politicizing of criminal justice issues.

## 3:05 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. ADJOURN

## 3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M. NETWORKING EVENT (OPTIONAL)

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



#### The Impact of Socioeconomic Status on Adolescents

**Libby Woolverton, Nicole Prince, and Youth Presenter, Our Friends Place**

##### **ROOM 1**

Take an in-depth look at how socio-economic status (specifically poverty and middle class) impacts the lives of adolescents. Through interactive activities, participants will explore the resources, perceptions, and hidden rules within each socio-economic class. We will discuss how these areas impact adolescent-adult interactions, relationship building, and beliefs, and how issues youth face compound their developmental stages such as neglect, homelessness, poverty, and abuse.



#### Child Sex Trafficking and Online Behavior: Risk Factors, Recognition, and Response

**Elysse Kusse and Youth Presenter, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

##### **ROOM 2**

This workshop teaches about preventing child sexual exploitation by discussing grooming, sexting, and meeting new people online. It also covers crimes such as sextortion and sex trafficking, including how traffickers recruit and control victims.



#### Successfully Working with Birth Families

**Amber Brackmann, Centene**

##### **ROOM 3**

The majority of children in foster care return home to their parents. How can we develop healthy relationships with birth parents to increase the likelihood of success when children go home? Join us to hear the advice of foster/adoptive parents, birth parents, case managers, and counselors who have had success working with birth families.



#### Resistance in Youth and Young Adults

**Jessica Davis, Via Hope**

##### **ROOM 4**

This workshop will explore different aspects of "resistance" found when working with youth and young adults, and will identify key techniques and tangible strategies for working with the youth towards a common goal. Participants will leave with tangible strategies that can be implemented immediately.



#### Adolescent Brain Development

**Meera Beharry, McLane Children's Medical Center**

##### **ROOM 5**

An abundance of research exists on infant and child brain development, but the adolescent brain seems to receive significantly less attention. This workshop will share knowledge and insight into the adolescent brain, youth behavior, and how to understand, respond to, and motivate youth and adolescents.



#### Reaching Gang-Involved Youth From a Trauma-Informed Perspective

**Liz Martinez and Youth Presenter, At-Promise Youth Solutions**

##### **ROOM 6**

This workshop examines how Adverse Childhood Experiences can put children at risk for gang involvement. Attendees will learn how gangs become stand-in providers for meeting basic needs of traumatized youth and how caring adults can intervene. Tools will be shared to teach caring adults how to help youth use their own strengths to set and reach their goals.



## Round Table Discussion on Cross-System Policy Agenda: Part 1

Lauren Rose, Prince Hayward, and Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, TNOYS

### ROOM 7

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is developing a statewide, cross-systems youth policy agenda and wants your input. Please join us for a meeting of youth service providers to share and discuss your ideas to improve supports for Texas youth across systems including juvenile justice, education, housing, workforce, and more.



## College Resources for Foster Care Alumni (Y)

Brandi Purswell, Drew Melton, and Youth Presenter, BCFS Health & Human Services

### ROOM 8

This workshop will explore the challenges for 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.



## Mind Matters: Overcoming Adversity and Building Resilience (Y)

Janet Pozmantier and Youth Presenters, The Dibble Institute

### ROOM 9

As more youth who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are identified, we need an innovative approach to reach young people with self-soothing skills and other healthy habits so they can heal. In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and practice innovative research-based tools from the Mind Matters curriculum that are effective in overcoming the barriers created by trauma. Youth attending the session will leave with self-soothing skills they can immediately use.



## Art(is)facts (Y)

Torrina Harris, ACEs to Assets Collaborative

### ROOM 10

This workshop explores how youth voice expressed through art can be interpreted as qualitative data and give insight into past and present experiences as well as future goals. Attendees will engage in several creative, hands-on activities, and the group will discuss how thematic analysis has been implemented to address racial inequity in school discipline.

## 10:00 A.M. -10:30 A.M. SHORT BREAK/ EXHIBIT HALL

This year's conference features over 20 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.

## 10:30 A.M. -11:35 A.M. PERFORMANCE + KEYNOTE: ADDRESSING INEQUITY IN SYSTEMS: THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA, BIAS, AND STRATEGIES TO CREATE SAFETY FOR HEALING by Monique W. Morris, Award-Winning Author and Social Justice Scholar

### • Featuring a Special Performance by Meta-Four Houston Youth Slam Team

Research suggests that children who are heavily system-involved experience more trauma and exhibit more challenging behavior than their non-system involved counterparts. When this behavior shows up in various environments, implicit bias drives disproportionate punitive disciplinary practices which has an even greater impact on Black, Brown, and Indigenous girls. Social justice expert Monique W. Morris will share her research and advocacy work centered on the unique challenges facing Black and Brown girls and provide guidance for how you can support girls in your work and provide the environment they need to thrive.

## 11:35 A.M. - 12:35 P.M. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

## 12:35 P.M. -12:55 P.M. DANCE BREAK with YoungChris, Sonkiss'd Dance Theater

## 12:55 P.M. -1:05 P.M. SHORT BREAK



## 1:05 P.M. -2:35 P.M. LONG WORKSHOPS



### Race, Equity, and Cultural Competency in the Child Welfare System

Judge Aurora Martinez Jones, Travis County District Courts

#### ROOM 1

This workshop will discuss the institutional inequities within the child welfare system and ways in which professionals, advocates, and caregivers can work towards equitable processes, policies, and procedures while also deepening cultural competency both on the individual and systemic level.



### Providing Services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth in Care (Y)

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

#### ROOM 2

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.



### The VOICE Project: Building the Social Supports of Formerly Homeless Youth (Y)

Rhie Azzam Morris, Franklin Fisher, Elizabeth Schoenfeld, Krystan Farnish, and Lea Kokenes, LifeWorks

#### ROOM 3

To address the sense of social disconnection and lack of community integration reported by youth transitioning from homelessness to housing, LifeWorks implemented Venturing On Into Community Engagement (VOICE). This workshop includes an overview of this youth-led project, including accomplishments, opportunities and challenges, and future goals.



### Contraceptive Counseling for Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Meera Beharry, McLane Children's Medical Center

#### ROOM 4

Youth Experiencing Homelessness (YEH) and youth exiting foster care have higher teen pregnancy rates. This workshop will include a review of current contraceptive methods, special concerns for YEH, and resources for use when educating youth.



### Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Identification Tool (CSE-IT)

Kerri Taylor, Unbound Houston

#### ROOM 5

This workshop will provide an overview of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT), including how and why to use it. The CSE-IT aims to help professionals identify children and youth who have been, or are being, commercially sexually exploited.



### Vulnerabilities of Children & Families During Disasters

Joy Paluska and Meagan Clark, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

#### ROOM 6

This presentation will provide an overview of the resources available through the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Presenters will also discuss the issues of Shelter Safety, Child Sex Trafficking, and Online Safety, particularly in the COVID-19 environment.



### Round Robin Discussion with State Agencies

Sara Underwood, Health and Human Services Commission CRCG; Jenny Hinson, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Child Protective Services; Brooke King, Texas DFPS, Prevention and Early Intervention; Naomi Cantu, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Benjamin Holquist, Texas Workforce Commission

#### ROOM 7

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.

## ROOM 8

### **Exploring Youth Voice and Choice in the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver and Wraparound with Simone Sawyer, Chera Tribble, Chelsea Haley, Edith Turner, and Youth Presenters, Health and Human Services Commission**

Learn about the YES Waiver, a 1915(c) Medicaid program that partners with families and the community to ensure qualifying Texas youth have access to a wide range of community-based services and supports.

### **Residential Treatment Initiative to Prevent Parental Relinquishment with Apryl Rosas, Health and Human Services Commission-Children's Mental Health**

Learn about the Residential Treatment Center Initiative to prevent parent relinquishment and provide mental health services for high-needs youth, including a review of the referral process and partnership with families who access treatment.



### **Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 1**

**Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth**

## ROOM 9

This 3-hour training (broken into two workshop sessions) will familiarize practitioners with the Standards for Practice of North American Child and Youth Care Professionals and its application to practice. This course focuses on teaching participants the process of 'doing ethics' and bridging the gap between professional ethical standards and daily practice applications. Participants will earn CYC certification continuing education credits in the Professionalism Domain. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 sessions in order to receive credit for this training.



### **Making Your Mark: Mindsets and Empowerment**



## ROOM 10

### **Making Your Mark, Like a #BOSS with Janeka Watson and Youth Presenters, Cultivating Young Minds**

This workshop will acknowledge trauma and generational curses that keep us from being our best selves. Attendees will learn how to think like a #BOSS, what positive and negative self-worth looks like, and how to identify mindsets that keep us from reaching goals. There will be an interactive activity using Q&A, props, and examples from audience.

### **Make Your Mark While Creating LANDMARKS! with LaKeisha Hughes and Youth Presenters, Whole Life Solutions**

On Your MARK! Get Ready! Set! Go Live Your Whole Life Being Your Best Self! This conversation provokes us to explore the excuses we make about why we are not experiencing life at our greatest potential. You will be empowered to move past distractions and excuses.

**2:35 P.M. -2:45 P.M. ADJOURN/SHORT BREAK**

**2:45 P.M. -4:15 P.M. OPTIONAL WORKSHOPS**



### **Round Table Discussion on Cross-System Policy Agenda: Part 2**



**Lauren Rose, Prince Hayward, and Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, TNOYS**

## ROOM 7

Join us for Part 2 of the Cross-System Policy Agenda Round Table Discussion. Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is developing a statewide, cross-systems youth policy agenda and wants your input. Please join us for a meeting of youth service providers to share and discuss your ideas to improve supports for Texas youth across systems including juvenile justice, education, housing, workforce, and more.



### **Ethics for Child and Youth Care Professionals: Part 2**

**Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth**

## ROOM 9

This 3-hour training (broken into two workshop sessions) will familiarize practitioners with the Standards for Practice of North American Child and Youth Care Professionals and its application to practice. This course focuses on teaching participants the process of 'doing ethics' and bridging the gap between professional ethical standards and daily practice applications. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 sessions in order to receive credit for this training.

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

---

TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. Conference attendees are eligible to earn up to 10 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 Child Care Administrators (LCCAs), Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrators (LCPAAs), licensed social workers and licensed professional counselors (LPC Program Provider #2420; Social Work Provider #6875), continuing professional education providers (CPE provider #902-679), Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) certification hours/CEUs for Juvenile Probation Officers, Juvenile Supervision Officers and Community Activities Officers, and our credit hours are typically approved for LMFTs. This conference is also approved for CEUs for the following substance abuse professional licenses: LCDCs, Associate Prevention Specialists (APS), Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS), and Peer Mentor/Peer Recovery Designation (PM/PRC).

# 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

Christine Gendron, Executive Director  
Lauren Rose, Director of Public Policy  
Prince Hayward, Policy Specialist  
Sarah Prager, Program Director  
Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, Program Manager

Lyric Wardlow, Program Specialist  
Mary Bergeron, Communications Director  
Alex Polk, Communications Specialist  
Anna Geismar Hallmark, Media  
Beth Duke, Office Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel Levine, Harris County Protective Services, Houston - Chair  
Kellie Stallings, Connections Individual & Family Services, Inc., New Braunfels - Vice Chair  
Melissa Opheim, ACH Child and Family Services, Fort Worth - Secretary  
Erin Whelan, LifeWorks, Austin - Treasurer  
Celeste Garcia, BCFS Health and Human Services, San Antonio  
Beth Senger, El Paso Center for Children, El Paso  
Leslie Bourne, Covenant House Texas, Houston  
Charles Wolford, Promise House, Dallas  
Richard Singleton, STARRY, Inc., Round Rock  
Candreas Jones, Andrews Center Networks Star, Tyler  
Robert Ellis, Pegasus Schools, Inc., Lockhart  
Allicia Frye, Jonathan's Place, Garland  
Jeffrey Reed, Deep East Texas Council of Governments, Jasper  
Charles Rotramel, Houston reVision, Houston  
Kym Olson, Lonestar Government and Public Affairs, Austin  
Sarah Narendorf, University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work, Houston  
Diane Santa Maria, UT Health School of Nursing, Houston  
Noelita Lugo, Consultant, Austin  
Randy Turner, Consultant, Fort Worth

# THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS:



**GREAT FUTURES START HERE.**





# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS:

