

# **WELCOME!**

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

Dear attendees,

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

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

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

Throughout today, you'll have the chance to shine bright. With over 40 workshops available (for a total of up to 25 CEUs), opportunities to connect and collaborate with stakeholders in youth services, and fun games and activities for amazing prizes, there's something for everyone. Additionally, I encourage you to learn more about TNOYS today and how you can grow your impact at the annual conference and beyond. Through professional development, policy advocacy, and youth engagement, TNOYS partners with young people and 120+ professional and organizational members to influence stronger youth services. If you or your organization is not yet a TNOYS member, we encourage you to join this week.

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



Sincerely,

Fedora Galasso TNOYS Chief Executive Officer



# FEATURED SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS



Jama Shelton (they/them) | Keynote Speaker

Jama Shelton is an Associate Professor at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and the Associate Director of the Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender. Dr. Shelton's program of research focuses on cisgenderism in social services and social work education, as well as LGBTQ+ youth homelessness and structural inequity. Having worked for years as a direct service provider with unstably housed LGBTQ+ youth, Dr. Shelton prefers to work on participatory projects with young people directly impacted by housing instability and houselessness. Most recently, they contributed to a participatory research project in collaboration with True Colors United.



Michael Guinn (he/him) | Performer

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.



Ellisa Brown (she/her) | Performer

Ellisa Brown is a Texas native, author, poet, and innate storyteller. Fond of wordplay, extraneous commas, and adventures, she graduated from The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, and Sciences Po in Paris, France. Ellisa spins tales and poems featuring both the mundane and extraordinary, but always warps the lens or shifts the perspective.



Jose Alfaro (he/him) | Keynote Speaker

Jose is a consultant and lived experience expert on domestic child sex trafficking, as well as a public speaker, author, advocate, and activist. He is a board member of The Human Trafficking Legal Center (HEAL), and has worked with several anti-trafficking organizations around the globe to spread awareness on trafficking, specifically within the LGBTQ+ community and as this issue relates to males. He has been featured in several publications and has worked with law enforcement, DHS, and the DOJ to name a few.



Christopher "Yungchris" Thomas (he/him) | Keynote Speaker

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.



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.

# FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT

#### **Exhibit Hall and Raffle**

Wednesday, June 14 - Friday, June 16 - ATRIUM LOBBY

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 a fly fishing program in Argentina, jewelry from Kendra Scott, and admission to Six Flags Over Texas or Hurricane Harbor. Tickets may be pre-purchased via credit card for just \$10 each, or six for \$50 at bit.ly/40thraffle. We will also sell raffle tickets on-site by credit card or cash (please bring exact change). The conference emcee will announce raffle winners throughout the event.

#### **Relaxation Room**

Wednesday, June 14 - Friday, June 16 - SALON 7

Need a moment to yourself to escape the hustle and bustle of the conference? Step into our relaxation room to enjoy a quiet space of zen and relaxation!

#### **TNOYS Member Lounge**

Wednesday, June 14 - Friday, June 16 - CAMPOBELLO

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

#### **Youth Lounge**

Thursday, June 15 - Friday, June 16 - GALILEO I & II

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.

#### **TNOYS 40 Years of Brilliance Anniversary Gala and Member Awards**

Wednesday, June 14 (6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.) - DONATELLO

TNOYS' 40 Years of Brilliance Gala is bringing our community together to celebrate more than four decades of TNOYS history! Join us to recognize the changemakers who have made our work possible since 1980. Don't miss the chance to win over \$45,000 in raffle and silent auction prizes to benefit TNOYS' work to invest in youth and strengthen systems that support them. Visit the registration desk to learn how you can register for the Gala, or purchase raffle tickets at bit.ly/tnoys40gala.



# PROGRAM GUIDE

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















PREVENTING & ADDRESSING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH (CSEY)

TNOYS' conference features programming and activities for both youth and professional attendees. On Wednesday, June 14, we strongly encourage youth to take advantage of and attend the youth-only workshops specifically curated for youth attendees. On Thursday, June 15, and Friday, June 16, 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:



Workshops that are restricted to professionals

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

#### Tuesday, June 13: Pre-Conference Institutes (separate registration required)

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. On-Site Registration and Check In for Institutes Only - DONATELLO PREFUNCTION/FOYER

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Is Compassion Really Fatiguing? Going Beyond Self-Care - SALON 1

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

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) User Training - SALON 3

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. TNOYS Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation only) - SALON 5

#### Wednesday, June 14: Conference Day 1

Separate professional and youth programming

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - ATRIUM LOBBY

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. TNOYS Welcome + Keynote (open to all) - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

• Jama Shelton; Do You See What I See?

#### Professional Programming

Featuring select sessions designed for youth services providers and stakeholders

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

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on your own

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

#### Youth Programming

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

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Youth Orientation & Icebreaker Activity - GALILEO I & II

12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. Youth Lunch (youth & young adults only) - GALILEO I & II

1:20 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Workshops - GALILEO I & II

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Workshops - GALILEO I & II

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Performance + Keynote Panel (open to all) - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

- Performance: Michael Guinn and Ellisa Brown
- Keynote Panel: TNOYS' Young Adult Leadership Council Members; Shine Bright Like a Diamond

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 40 Years of Brilliance Gala (registration required) - DONATELLO

#### Thursday, June 15: Conference Day 2

All sessions are open to professionals and youth unless otherwise indicated

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Child Welfare Stakeholder Breakfast (Member exclusive; RSVP required) - DONATELLO

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - ATRIUM LOBBY

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Keynote - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

• Jose Alfaro; A Survivor's Experience: Creating Supports for Marginalized Communities

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

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Luncheon (open to all) - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

• TNOYS' Youth Engagement Roadmap and Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) Graduation

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

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshops

#### Friday, June 16: Conference Day 3

All sessions are open to professionals and youth unless otherwise indicated

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CSEY Stakeholder Breakfast (RSVP required) - DONATELLO

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - ATRIUM LOBBY

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Workshops

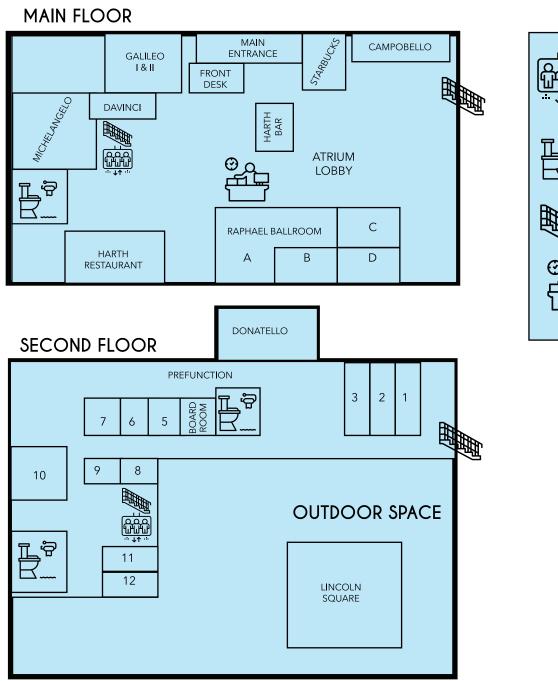
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Closing Keynote - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

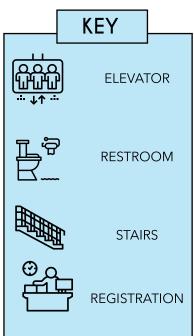
• Chris Thomas; Winners Make It Happen
Special Performance by Members of Son Kiss'd Dance Concepts

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

TNOYS provides continuing education credit hours for professionals. Conference attendees are eligible to earn up to 14 CEU hours throughout the 2.5-day in-person conference. Attendees are eligible to earn 4-6 additional CEU hours for participating in pre-conference institutes, and another 5+ CEU hours for participating in the virtual conference day. TNOYS is an approved CEU provider for Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), and Continuing Professional Education Providers (CPE). This conference is approved for Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO), Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO), and Community Activities Officers (CAO) by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. This conference is also approved for Licensed Child Care Administrator (LCCA) and Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrators (LCPAA) licenses. The majority of sessions are 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 Coach Designation (PM/PRC) through our partnership with Connections Individual and Family Services.

# HOTEL FLOOR MAP





# WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE



HEALTH, TRAUMA, & RESILIENCE



YOUTH VOICE & YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIP



NON-PROFIT LEADERSHIP & INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

# WEDNESDAY JUNE 14

SALON C

SALON D

SALON 1

Session # 1 10:30am - 12:00pm Neuroscience of Adolescent Addiction Meets Positive Psychology Effective Strategies for Non-Traditional Youth

Dare to Lead

Session #2 1:45pm - 3:15pm Increasing
Access to
Transition Services
for Students with
Disabilities

Achieving Health Equity through Youth Engagement

Youth Homelessness Advocacy Strategies

Building an Inclusive Brand

# THURSDAY JUNE 15

Session #3 10:30am - 12:00pm Health Disparities | Increasing | Health Equity | with | Youth-Centered | Approaches

Building Bridges for Transitional Youth

Nonprofit Leadership: Innovative Strategies for Survivor-Led Teams

Session #4 2:00pm - 3:30pm Talk Saves Lives: A Practicum on Suicide Prevention What Does Mentoring Have to Do With It? Supporting Diversity and Mental Health in the Workforce

Session #5 3:45pm - 5:00pm The Intersection of Trauma, Suicide, and Grief Employing Youth with Lived Experiences

Diversity, Equity, and Engagement

#### FRIDAY JUNE 16

Session #6 9:15am - 10:45am Strategies to Remain Calm in the Home, Workplace, and Community

Supporting Youth and Young Adults' Youth to Pave Transition into Adulthood To Success

Leading from the Ground Up









SALON 2

SALON 3

SALON 10

SALON 11

Youth Homelessness and the Transition to Adulthood Implementing a School-Community Guidance Center Non-Profit Lobbying for Lasting Change

Managing Anti-Trafficking Teams

Texas Opportunity Youth Network Innovation Fund Model ASCENDing over Obstacles: Supporting McKinney-Vento Students Building
Stability
for Youth
Experiencing
Homelessness

Understanding
DFPS and HHSC
Divisions and
Responsibilities

Community Response for Reporting and Supporting Families

CSEY, Youth Homelessness, & LGBTQ+ Youth

Strategies to Re-Engage Opportunity Youth The Unique Population of Unaccompanied Youth The Role of Child Welfare Boards in TX

The Foster Care Online Dangers
Ombudsman's and Child Sex
Program Trafficking

Understanding Risk Factors for LGBTQ+ Youth Connecting with Youth Through Transformative Mentoring Recap of the 88th Texas Legislative Session Introduction to Human Trafficking Prevention and Response

Introduction to Youth
Driver Education
Funding Program
Initiative

A Participatory and Equity-Focused Approach to Outcome Measurement Understanding the Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Youth Homelessness Meeting the Needs of Texas Youth Experiencing CSEY

College Resources for Youth from Foster Care From Tots to Teens and In-Betweens Across North Texas McKinney-Vento Transportation Intersection of Substance Abuse and Human Trafficking

# TUESDAY, JUNE 13 Pre-Conference Institutes (separate registration required)

#### **On-Site Registration & Check-In for Institutes**

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - DONATELLO PREFUNCTION/FOYER (second floor)

#### Is Compassion Really Fatiguing? Going Beyond Self-Care

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - SALON 1



Have you ever come away from helping someone else and felt energized? If so, then acting compassionately is not always draining! However, the impacts of work-related compassion fatigue, AKA secondary traumatic stress, are well documented in child helping services and shown to play a major role in job turnover. So, what do we do? Come learn how to practice a new evidence-informed model called Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma (CE-CERT) to combat compassion fatigue and secondary trauma to reignite your passion for your work.

Presented by Roy Van Tassell, M.S., LPC, Director for Trauma and Evidence-Based Interventions, Centene

#### Introduction to Youth Thrive™



9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - SALON 2

Youth Thrive™ is a research-based approach that is relevant to everyone who works with young people. It identifies protective and promotive factors to increase the likelihood that adolescents develop into healthy, thriving adults. This session will provide an introduction to Youth Thrive™ and cover select protective and promotive factors from the curriculum. TNOYS will offer the full curriculum in a distinct training series later this year.

Presented by Sedoo Ijir, MPH, Program Manager, and Kennedy Huerta Quintanilla, Partnerships Manager, TNOYS

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



9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - SALON 3

The CSE-IT is a research-based screening tool that helps improve early identification of commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY). The tool is appropriate for use by any provider serving youth, including child welfare workers, probation officers, mental health clinicians, and first responders. In Texas, CSE-IT is integrated within Lighthouse, an innovative software platform that enables users to complete screenings online and access and analyze CSE-IT data at any time. In this training, participants will become certified CSE-IT users and learn next steps to access and use the Lighthouse platform. \*Please note that this training does not meet the requirements for DFPS personnel.

Presented by Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, MPAff, Director of Practice, and Alex Polk, Program Coordinator, TNOYS

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

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

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open – ATRIUM LOBBY

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. TNOYS Welcome + Keynote: Jama Shelton; Do You See What I See? - RAPHAEL BALLROOM

Let's kick off TNOYS' 40th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families together!

Drawing from their experience as a service provider and participatory researcher, Jama Shelton will share key insights from their work alongside LGBTQ+ young people experiencing housing instability and houselessness. In this keynote, Jama will encourage attendees to think deeply about how structural and individual level changes can lead to systems and services in which all young people can thrive.

#### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMING:

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



Neuroscience of Adolescent Addiction Meets Positive Psychology Drew Dutton, Phoenix House Texas SALON C

This workshop will detail the issue of adolescent addiction and best practices for engaging teenagers in treatment and recovery. Workshop participants will learn an overview of the neuroscience of adolescent addiction, the current national and global state of addiction, barriers to addiction treatment, and successful outcomes. Presenters will discuss a variety of approaches for counseling addictions including accurate empathy, positive psychology, solution-focused counseling, and more.



**Living in the Margin: Effective Strategies for Non-Traditional Youth**Renika Atkins, Resources Inspiring Success and Empowering (RISE)
SALON D

Funding has heavily influenced who we deem as the target population in youth-serving organizations. This influence can cause systems to overlook youth who need low to moderate intervention to prevent them from experiencing foster care or homelessness. This workshop will explore cost-effective strategies to service youth who are in the margins of the target population.



#### **Dare to Lead**

Suzanne Hughes, CASA for Children, Inc. SALON 1

This workshop will address how to re-energize the workplace by tapping into the talents and strengths of staff, board members, and community partners. Attendees will also discuss working with youth to build a successful youth advisory board that broadens your audience, captures attention, and taps into our youth's potential and talents.



#### Youth Homelessness and the Transition into Adulthood

Tim Packer, The Cove - Heart of Texas SALON 2

This session presents findings from doctoral research in the UK of youth's experiences of homelessness, the transition to adulthood, and how social policy and developmental psychology can inform interventions at different life stages. Dr. Packer's presentation combines his research with his work funding nonprofits and leading The Cove's team, and highlights the importance of linking research concepts to solutions that meet young people's needs.



The Development and Implementation of a School-Community Guidance Center

Scott Harper, Christa Hitt, Joyce Cole, Pam Williams, and Michelle Martin, Gatesville Independent School District

SALON 3

This workshop explores how a school-community guidance center (SCGC) was created to better serve students at-risk of not finishing school as defined by the Texas Education Code. This SCGC model assists students while they attend their home campus with peers, in contrast to approaches that foster isolation or separation from school. Join to learn how schools and communities can work together to provide individual answers to school-wide problems.



Lobbying in the Lone Star State: How the Tax Code and State Law Affect Nonprofits When Lobbying for Lasting Change

Victor Rivera and Monika Graham, Alliance for Justice SALON 10

True: Nonprofits can safely, legally, and effectively engage in local and state-level advocacy and lobbying work in Texas. But Texas nonprofits need to understand the rules that apply to their lobbying activities under state and federal law. This training is designed for all tax-exempt organizations doing state-level policy work in Texas. Participants will learn about relevant definitions, laws, and regulations, in order to make the most out of lobbying activities.



Managing Anti-Trafficking Teams

Charlie Tebow, KVC Health Systems SALON 11

Survivors of human trafficking often face seemingly insurmountable barriers resulting from their exploitation. Due to these barriers, survivors need the support of a TEAM of individuals who can help them establish a new foundation and learn to thrive. This session will provide an overview of the unique needs of human trafficking survivors and demonstrate evidence-based and trauma-informed methods for utilizing teamwork approaches to care for survivors.

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

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



**Advancing Health Equity for Special Populations** SALON C

Increasing Access to Transition Services for Students with Disabilities with Jasmine Hernandez and Elzie Martinez, Workforce Solutions

Did you know that one in four individuals have a disability? In this session, attendees will gain perspective into how "disability" is defined and the variety of disabilities. Student HireAbility navigators will provide an overview of Workforce Solutions resources and transition services available to support students with disabilities. Attendees will also learn about Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services and how to connect with them.

Achieving Health Equity through Youth Engagement with David Auzenne, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and Hackett Center for Mental Health; and Marcy Melvin, Hackett Center for Mental Health

In this session participants will gain an operational understanding of health equity. Presenters will highlight current health inequities for today's youth, discuss the importance and power of youth engagement, and demonstrate the ways in which stories and experiences can influence policy and current practice. Participants will learn strategies to engage youth in this process while preparing adults to support youth in this space.



#### Roar: Strategic Storytelling - Advocacy Strategies & Tactics

Andrew Palomo and Liam Spady, National Network for Youth SALON D

Policymakers should listen to our recommendations about how policies and systems should change. As people who work in the social service field or people with system experience, our recommendations can change systems so that fewer young people experience homelessness and more young people who experience homelessness are served appropriately and quickly. In this session, participants will learn ways of telling their stories safely and effectively to achieve an advocacy goal.



#### To New Heights: Building an Inclusive Brand

Mary Bergeron and Alex Pryor, TNOYS SALON 1

Oftentimes, organizations need their brand and marketing to resonate with a range of audiences across age, gender, race, ethnicity, and ability. This workshop will explore strategies to make an impact among diverse audiences, from youth clients to potential funders and partners. We'll discuss branding 101, inclusive marketing tactics, and best practices to amplify the voices of youth and young adults.



#### **Texas Opportunity Youth Network Innovation Fund Model**

Hannah Gourgey, Aspen Institute SALON 2

In 2021, the Aspen Institute's Opportunity Youth Forum launched the Texas Opportunity Youth Network (TOYN) to help communities build expertise and capacity to re-engage young adults who are not in school, work, or postsecondary education or training. Additionally, the TOYN Innovation Fund launched to assist programs that support opportunity youth (OY) with developing sustainable revenue models. This session shares preliminary lessons learned, allowing participants to discuss their experiences and strategies to develop blended funding models and consider barriers that inhibit access to public funding.



### Supporting Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

ACENDing Over Obstacles: Developing an Impactful Program to Support McKinney-Vento Students with Julie Engelking and Melissa Soto, Brazosport Independent School District



In this workshop, presenters will share how Brazosport ISD used grant funding to create the ASCEND Program (Acquiring Strength, Character, Employability and Networking skills with Determination), adding additional support for secondary students facing homelessness. ASCEND students benefit by having caring and committed professionals providing mentoring, college and career readiness activities, and social emotional learning opportunities.

**Building Stability, Hope, and Connection for Youth Experiencing Homelessness** with Kimberly Bobbitt and Shaun Lee, The Cove - Heart of Texas

Since 2016, The Cove Heart of Texas, a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project funded service, has supported high school aged youth experiencing homelessness. Presenters will share about the steps they take to provide a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for highly mobile youth through one or more of their drop-in, school-based outreach, and afterschool programming.



# **Child Welfare Agencies Services and Requirements for Supporting Families** SALON 10



Who Does What? A System Overview to Understanding RCCR, RCCI, CPS, RCC, CC & SSCC with Jillian Bonacquisti and Cameron Garza, DFPS; Jenny Hinson, Toni Cantu, Laura Castillo, and Christina Harvey, Texas Health and Human Services Commission

In a joint-agency effort between the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), this session will give providers and other stakeholders an overview of the roles and responsibilities of HHSC divisions: Residential Child Care Regulation and Child Care Enforcement; DFPS divisions: Child Protective Services, Residential Child Care Investigations and Residential Contracts divisions; and the Single Source Continuum Contractors.

Community Response Training for Reporting and Supporting Families with Amanda Frangu, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

This presentation gives the audience an overview of reporting to DFPS programs and the significant impact of bias awareness for mandatory reporters. This session will detail the reporting requirements and considerations when making a report by phone or online. The audience will leave with a better understanding of the reporting and investigation process for CPI and the importance of prevention efforts and bias awareness education.



Breaking Down Barriers: CSEY, Youth Homelessness, & LGBTQ+ Youth Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Alex Polk, TNOYS SALON 11

In this workshop, participants can begin to understand the challenges that LGBTQ+ youth may face when entering, experiencing, and exiting homelessness. Presenters will uncover and address the complex needs of LGBTQ+ youth and intersectionalities within systems, especially the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY).

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Keynote Panel: Shine Bright Like a Diamond: Uncovering Opportunities for Youth & Young Adults to Shine with Chaz Davis, Corina Dechi, Divine Biglow, Marlayna Gallegos, Mary Duke, and Ronald Smith, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC); facilitated by Alex Polk, TNOYS – RAPHAEL BALLROOM

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

#### 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

# 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 40 Years of Brilliance Anniversary Gala (separate registration required) – DONATELLO

TNOYS' 40 Years of Brilliance Gala is bringing our community together to celebrate over four decades of TNOYS history! Join us to recognize the changemakers who have made our work possible since 1980, all while raising the crucial funds to strengthen systems for Texas youth and young adults facing homelessness, foster care, and other at-risk situations. Visit the registration desk to learn how you can register for the Gala.

#### YOUTH-ONLY PROGRAMMING:



# 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Youth Orientation and Keynote Meet & Greet – GALILEO | & ||

Join this session to get a breakdown of everything TNOYS' Annual Conference has to offer 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!

# **12:10 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. Youth Lunch (youth & young adults only) –** GALILEO I & II 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.

#### 1:20 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. Youth-Only Workshops

#### **Afterschool Poets & Rappers Delight**

Meredith Lynn, WRITE BRAIN WORLD GALILEO I

Personal storytelling is a powerful tool for increasing the self-esteem of young people! In this lively and interactive session, participants will learn how to find and explore their unique creative voices whether through poetry, spoken stories, or rap. Participants will learn how to identify relevant topics, express their unique points of view, and encourage public speaking and writing by creating meaningful moments to share their stories!

#### Career and Workforce Resources to Empower Youth for a Brighter Future

Elizabeth Meza, Lorena Knight, and Richard Prather, Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley GALILEO II

TWC provides students in grades 6-12 with career guidance and workforce information to help them make informed career decisions. Their career and education outreach teams focus on a holistic approach to empower students and build their network. Together we can be the solution to empowering youth with the resources and tools needed to polish Texas youths' career decisions for a brighter future.

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

#### **Vision Boarding: The Puzzle Pieces of Your Life**

LaKeisha Hughes, Whole Life Solutions GALILEO I

Close your eyes and think about an idea, goal, or dream you want to make a reality. You're most likely picturing the feelings you might have when you achieve this dream. You can, and you should, turn the images and ideas you just saw in your head into reality. Not just by achieving the goals, but also by creating a visual representation of the objectives you want to achieve. Come to this workshop with your ideas and let's Vision Board It! Posters and other supplies will be provided.

#### How to Bring a Youth Action Board to Your School or Community

Kallie Matheny, Project Protect Our Children GALILEO II

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

# 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Child Welfare Stakeholder Breakfast (TNOYS Member Exclusive; RSVP Required) – DONATELLO

We're excited to announce that DFPS leadership, including Commissioner Stephanie Muth and others, will join TNOYS at a meet-and-greet breakfast exclusively for members. We hope you can take this opportunity to network with member organizations across the state and hear from leadership at DFPS!

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to apply today to start receiving benefits, including access to this exclusive event. See the TNOYS exhibit booth in the Atrium Lobby (or visit our website at tnoys.org/become-a-member) for more information.

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - ATRIUM LOBBY

# 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Keynote: A Survivor's Experience: Creating Supports for Marginalized Communities with Jose Alfaro – RAPHAEL BALLROOM

In this keynote address, Jose Alfaro will speak to his lived experience as a survivor of domestic child sex trafficking, youth homelessness, and being LGBTQ and Latino in Texas. Acknowledging the critical roles that providers play when serving youth—especially youth from marginalized communities— Jose will call on participants to recognize biases, systemic inequities, and other vulnerabilities that influence the lives of young people. Together, we can create positive and effective supports for all systems-impacted youth.

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



### **Listening and Learning from Youth** SALON C

You're Not Making It Up: Disparities in Youth Health and Trauma with Divine Biglow, Jur'nee Cockrell, Ronald Smith, and Thalia Aguilera, TNOYS YALC Members

Health disparities and trauma often go unnoticed, leaving people feeling like they're dealing with them alone. But there is help available! Join this workshop to take a deep look at the potential impacts that can engulf a youth's life if their health challenges are left untreated, discuss available resources, and learn solutions to help youth currently in systems. The presentation will also share experiences of systems-involved youth related to health, mental health, and trauma as well as some of the challenges they've overcome.

### **Increasing Health Equity with Youth-Centered Approaches** with Lauren Rose and Alex Polk, TNOYS

This training uncovers a cross-systems approach to understanding and addressing complex trauma, health inequities, and the ways these concepts intersect to impact the youth you serve. Participants will learn practice-based strategies to effectively work with youth who have experienced trauma, promote health equity in their organizations, and authentically partner with young people to allow them to thrive.



**Building Bridges for Transitional Youth: Out of Foster Care and into Adulthood** Chris Lopez, Courtney Laverty, Alyssa Bafidis, and Alexis Lara, THRU Project SALON D



There is often a lack of support or programs to assist youth with a history of foster care in their transition out of the system and into adulthood. In this session, presenters will discuss how programs that target the needs of transitional youth can increase the likelihood of their success. This session will also cover strategies for self-supporting organizations to efficiently serve these youth by advocating with local officials, telling stories on social media, and giving youth a voice.



#### Non-Profit Leadership: Innovative Strategies for Survivor-Led Teams



Crystal Sepulveda and Victoria Gonzales , SAFE Alliance SALON 1

In this session, presenters will discuss their work managing a team of advocates and case managers who are also survivors with lived experience. Using this model, their turnover has not changed in the past two years to the benefit of the population that they serve. Presenters will share the unique dynamics that are required in leadership styles, the innovative approaches to team development, and balance with self-care that are key to maintaining a core team.



#### Strategies to Re-Engage Opportunity Youth

Fedora Galasso and Kennedy Huerta Quintanilla, TNOYS SALON 2

Texas is home to an estimated 500,000 opportunity youth (OY), young people ages 16-24 who are not in school, not in work or are under-employed, and not in any postsecondary education or training. Join this session to learn about, and get involved in, TNOYS' work with the Texas Opportunity Youth Network to re-engage young people and connect them to education and careers that fuel their goals.



## The Unique Population of Unaccompanied Youth: Identification, Housing, Education, & Challenges

Kimber Thompson, Amarillo Independent School District SALON 3

In this workshop, Homeless Liaison Kimber Thompson will discuss lessons learned from working with unaccompanied youth in Amarillo Independent School District. Thompson will discuss challenges with identification, housing, healthcare, mental health, juvenile justice, and other systems that impact these youth, as well as innovative solutions to ensure that each young person is set up for success and their unique needs are met.



#### **Important Child Welfare Resources**

SALON 10

### **The Role of Child Welfare Boards in Texas** with George Ford and Tim Allen, Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards

Texas is the only state that has implemented county child welfare boards with 193 such county child welfare boards across the state. The 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.

**Unearth the Foster Care Ombudsman's Program** with Erica Brewington, Traneice Sutton-Edwards, and Zophelia Mays, BCFS Health and Human Services

The Foster Care Ombudsman (FCO) program dates back to 2015. Participants will unlock and unpack information about FCO, including but not limited to FCO's statue and services. Participants will learn how we can all unleash brilliant help for children and youth in Texas' foster care system through interactive scenarios, activities, and more.



# Online Dangers and Child Sex Trafficking: Working Together to Recognize, Address, and Prevent the Issue

Belinda Swan, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children SALON 11

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's perspective as the nation's centralized reporting mechanism for suspected child exploitation offers important insights into the risks children face online. NCMEC data show that children under the age of 12 are often victims of online enticement, sextortion, and child sexual abuse imagery. Join us for a discussion of the

most recent trends related to online safety, and how many online dangers intersect with child sex trafficking. An overview of free NCMEC resources and training opportunities will be provided.

# 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Luncheon: TNOYS' Youth Engagement Roadmap and YALC Graduation (Open to All) – RAPHAEL BALLROOM

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 step 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.

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



#### **Talk Saves Lives: A Practicum on Suicide Prevention**

Ned Strauss, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention SALON  ${\sf C}$ 

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



#### What Does Mentoring Have to Do with It?

Jamal Stroud and Adrian Peay, Big Homie Lil Homie Mentoring SALON D

One in three young people will grow up without a mentor. The power of mentoring can help youth form hopeful relationships with others, enhance social skills, and develop positive behaviors and aspirations. In this workshop participants will learn strategies to navigate trauma, maximize connection, and create a relationship-centered environment to maximize mentorship programs.



## **Youth in Transition: Supporting Diversity and Mental Health in the Workforce** Sedoo Ijir and Natalie Ferguson, TNOYS

SALON 1

National and global attention to racial injustice has prompted many employers to strengthen their commitment to equity, yet racial and ethnic disparities are still impacting mental health in the workplace. In this workshop, participants will strengthen their understanding of how racial and ethnic identities intersect with mental health, as well as best practices to help young people of all backgrounds successfully enter the workforce and maintain their mental health while working.



#### **Understanding Risk Factors for LGBTQ+ Youth**

Alyssa Kelly and MaDonna Land, Tony's Place SALON 2

Tony's Place is a drop-in and resource center dedicated to LGBTQ+ youth up to 25 years old who are unhoused, unstably housed, or vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to become unhoused or unstably housed than their straight peers as a result of specific barriers and risk factors faced by the LGBTQ+ community. This workshop will discuss common barriers and risk factors, how these barriers and risk factors can affect housing, employment, and health, and the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusive services.



#### Credible Messengers: Connecting with Youth Through Transformative Mentoring

Charles Rotramel and Carlos Hernandez, Houston reVision SALON 3

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



#### Recap of Texas' 88th Legislative Session

Lauren Rose and Justin Lanier, TNOYS SALON 10

Join us for an overview of legislative and budgetary decisions made during the 88th Texas Legislative Session, and how those changes will impact Texas' youth and families and the professionals who serve them. Presenters will also share the impact of youth and young adults with lived experiences educating lawmakers on the need for policy change.



#### An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Prevention and Response

Patricia Gill, Centene/Superior Health Plan SALON 11

Human trafficking is a health issue, and as such health care providers have the potential to play a critical role in prevention, protecting the survivors, and prosecuting the traffickers. This training will increase awareness of trafficking and where it takes place. Presenters will discuss important resources and protocols used to identify survivors, provide appropriate services, and notify the correct authorities.

#### 3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshops



#### The Intersection of Trauma, Suicide, and Grief

Landon Dickeson, Ranch Hands Rescue SALON C

Professionals often speak on the topics of trauma, suicide, and grief in isolated pockets with little attention to the overlap between these deeply impactful experiences. This session will break down the key elements of all three while weaving together the ways in which they intersect. Attendees will come away with a greater understanding of how these three issues interact, how they present clinically, how you can help, and recommendations for continued learning.



#### **Employing Youth with Lived Experiences**

Fedora Galasso and Jermaine Neblett, TNOYS SALON D

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.



#### **Diversity, Equity, and Engagement**

Kimberlee Brennan and Marcos Wiggins, ACH Child and Family Services SALON 1

This training is intended to expand our participants' knowledge and awareness of diversity, equity, and engagement through the introduction of common language, statistical evidence, and activities intended to spark a thought-provoking discussion.



#### Introduction to Youth Driver Education Funding Program Initiative

Chris Caballero and Katherine Martinez, Texas Workforce Commission SALON 2

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



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

Liz Schoenfeld and Krystan Farnish, LifeWorks SALON 3

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



#### Understanding the Intersection of Juvenile Justice and Youth Homelessness Martin Martinez and Gabriella McDonald, Texas Appleseed SALON 10

Youth experiencing homelessness have greater involvement with the juvenile system than their peers. Conversely, youth may encounter homelessness because of a juvenile or criminal record. Presenters will discuss trends and facts at the intersection of juvenile justice and youth homelessness, including how courts and policymakers can limit victimization and support the population. Additionally, we will highlight race, gender, or sex disparities present for youth who experience this intersection of systems.



# Meeting the Needs of Texas Youth Experiencing Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Research Preview

Ann-Charlotte Proffitt and Alex Polk, TNOYS SALON 11

Homelessness and housing instability are primary risk factors for the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth (CSEC/CSEY). Youth homelessness services providers are likely to encounter youth experiencing or at risk of CSEY, yet no formal guidance exists in Texas for these providers on meeting the needs of this population. TNOYS has been holding listening sessions with youth across Texas to inform development of such guidance. Join us to hear what youth see as the needs, challenges, and opportunities associated with serving CSEY, and how TNOYS will use this information to develop youth-centered, survivor-informed guidance for providers to prevent and address CSEY.

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

# FRIDAY, JUNE 16

#### 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. CSEY Stakeholder Breakfast (RSVP Required) - DONATELLO

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) Stakeholder Breakfast will be an opportunity for CSEY services providers, those interested in providing CSEY services, the CSEY legal community (including child welfare and juvenile justice judges, lawyers, and advocates), and state agencies to network, share challenges and best practices, and hear updates from the field. Breakfast will be provided.

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Check In & Registration Open - ATRIUM LOBBY

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Workshops



# Science-Supported Strategies to Remain Calm in the Home, Workplace, and Community

Robin Rettie, Lighthouse Learning Resources SALON C

Knowledge of our emotional and rational brain functions helps us understand how to process daily challenges while remaining regulated, thus increasing opportunities to learn, build relationships, and thrive. This workshop will provide insight into the brain, nervous, and sensory systems. Presenters will share research-based approaches and sensory strategies that support individual self-regulation in all settings (home, school, employment, community, etc.).



### **Listening and Learning from Youth** SALON D

**Supporting Youth and Young Adults' Transition into Adulthood** with Adrianna Moore, Chasity Williams, Daisia Wheeler, and Sarah Duke, TNOYS YALC Members

In this workshop, participants will learn what providers are missing and what they need to know about supporting youth and young adults (YYA) that are aging out of foster care. Presenters will also discuss various examples of available resources to equip YYA that are aging out of care, including managing finances and life skills. Providers and youth alike will learn the importance of youth voice and supporting youth in advocating for themselves when transitioning to adulthood.

Lift Every Voice: Empowering Youth to Pave Their Own Way to Success with Chaz Davis, Corina Dechi, Marlayna Gallegos, and Mary Duke, TNOYS YALC Members

In this presentation, YALC members will share their lived experiences and discuss how to connect youth to resources that are available to them. In addition, youth and young adult presenters will demonstrate how to tap into their power and use their voice for reclaiming autonomy in their lives. The presentation will show providers how building a strong foundation of important life skills can help youth through the process of being in care to becoming a youth leader. Change is needed, so let's build a community of strong youth voices!



#### **Leading from the Ground Up**

Renika Atkins, Resources Inspiring Success and Empowering (RISE) SALON 1

While everyone recognizes the value of having strong leadership at every level of an organization, businesses and organizations struggle to find and develop leaders. Leading from the Ground Up will equip team leaders with the skills, strategies, and tools to guide teams and their organizations effectively. In addition, attendees will learn to communicate effectively, establish organizational alignment to create impact, maintain healthy boundaries, and prepare for challenges.



#### **College Resources for Youth Impacted by Foster Care** Krystal Lopez and Drew Melton, BCFS Health and Human Services SALON 2

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.



## Help Me Grow & Help Me Thrive: From Tots to Teens and In-Betweens Across North Texas

Katelyn Davis and Autumn Schumacher, Tarrant County MHMR SALON 3

Help Me Grow (HMG) and Help Me Thrive (HMT) are a system of care connecting families and providers with a navigator who can provide education, resources, and community-based information to meet the families' specific needs. This session will discuss the HMG and HMT models and provide an in-depth overview of the role of navigators in communities and local schools.



# McKinney-Vento Transportation: Collaboration and Coordination for Student Success



Terry Ortiz and Karina Gonzalez, Education Service Center Region 20; Heather Thatcher, Northside Independent School District SALON 10

In this session, participants will learn about how the Education Service Center (ESC) for Region 20 collaborates with various stakeholders to help the region's Local Education Agencies (LEAs) provide transportation services to students experiencing homelessness. They will also share insight into organizational tools to coordinate transportation efforts across a vast regional area. Lastly, a local McKinney-Vento liaison will share challenges and best practices.



#### Intersection of Substance Abuse and Human Trafficking Siobhan Cook, SAFE Alliance SALON 11

This workshop will go over the intersections of human trafficking and substance abuse. Presenters will review Texas numbers for substance abuse and approaches to treatment, and go in-depth about how the grooming and trauma bond that take place are specific to substance abuse

## 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Keynote: Chris Thomas; Winners Make it Happen – RAPHAEL BALLROOM

Join Chris Thomas to hear about the power of art and artistic expression, especially for youth and young adults (YYA) who face adversity. Attendees will learn about "encouraging small beginnings," how to create opportunities for YYA to experience art, and encouraging creativity in places and at times where YYA are often shut out or cut off from these opportunities.

Next, attendees will enjoy a fun, energetic performance from Sonkiss'd Dance Concepts that will bring the themes of Chris' keynote to life.

#### 12:30 p.m. Adjourn

### ABOUT TNOYS

The mission of Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) is to strengthen services and support for Texas youth, young adults, and families to help them overcome challenges and achieve healthy development. Our members share a vision of Texas where all youth and young adults are valued, their strengths are recognized, their voices are heard and respected, and they have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to meet their goals.

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

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