



**RISE  
TO  
YOUR  
POTENTIAL**



39th Annual  
TNOYS Conference on  
Services to Youth and Families  
Houston, Texas | May 11, 2022

**#TNOYS2022**



# WELCOME!

## TNOYS' 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SERVICES TO YOUTH AND FAMILIES

This year, for our 39th Annual Conference, we encourage you to “Rise to Your Potential.” After pivoting to a completely virtual conference over the last two years, we are thrilled to continue to provide a virtual option to collaborate and connect. The many challenges and opportunities of the past two years have demonstrated that when we challenge perceptions and the status quo, we can take our strengths and all youth-serving systems to greater heights. Young people, providers, and communities have demonstrated tremendous resilience throughout the past two years of a global pandemic—all while facing devastating challenges like the ongoing capacity crisis. We recognize that providers and youth alike have been stretched thin trying to do more with less, yet TNOYS members have stepped up to find new ways to achieve their goals, make the most with what they have, and work together to meet their collective needs. 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.

Now more than ever, we're proud to represent a strong community of youth-serving providers working across systems and in every Texas region. As we welcome more providers to our network, TNOYS strives to help the youth-services community center the voices of youth and young adults with lived experience, especially those within the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities who are overrepresented in Texas systems. Through an authentic partnership with the communities, families, and young people, TNOYS lays the foundation for providers to rise to their collective potential. TNOYS applauds each and every one of you for your resilience, your perseverance, and your creativity to overcome the repeated hurdles placed in your paths and make progress toward our vision of a Texas where all youth and young adults are valued, their strengths are recognized, their voices are heard and respected, and they have access to the resources, opportunities, and support they need to meet their goals.

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

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 day with us.

**Sincerely,**  
**Fedora Galasso**  
**TNOYS Chief Executive Officer**



# FEATURED SPEAKER

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## CLINT SMITH | KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Clint Smith is a staff writer at *The Atlantic*. He is the author of the narrative nonfiction book, *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning With the History of Slavery Across America*, which was a #1 New York Times Bestseller, and the poetry collection *Counting Descent*, which won the 2017 Literary Award for Best Poetry Book from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and was a finalist for an NAACP Image Award. His essays, poems, and scholarly writing have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Paris Review*, *the Harvard Educational Review* and elsewhere.

Clint is a 2014 National Poetry Slam champion and a 2017 recipient of the Jerome J. Shestack Prize from the American Poetry Review.

His two TED Talks, *The Danger of Silence* and *How to Raise a Black Son in America*, collectively have been viewed more than 9 million times.

Previously, Clint taught high school English in Prince George's County, Maryland where, in 2013, he was named the Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Humanities Council. He currently teaches writing and literature in the D.C. Central Detention Facility. He is also the host of the YouTube series *Crash Course Black American History*.

Clint received his B.A. in English from Davidson College and his Ph.D. in Education from Harvard University. Born and raised in New Orleans, he currently lives in Maryland with his wife and their two children.

###

Join us in Houston from May 24-26 to choose from another 40+ workshops and hear from three more amazing keynote speakers:

Marlon Peterson | Keynote Speaker

SaulPaul | Keynote Speaker & Performer

Malika Whitley | Keynote Speaker

Register for the in-person conference at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4950047>

# PROGRAM GUIDE

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



DIVERSITY, EQUITY,  
AND INCLUSION



RESOURCES AND  
CROSS-SYSTEMS COLLABORATION



YOUTH VOICE AND  
YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIP



POLICY AND  
GOVERNMENT



TRAUMA, HEALTH,  
AND SAFETY

TNOYS' conference features programming and activities for both youth and professional attendees. In most cases, workshops are open to both professional and youth attendees 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

## Wednesday, May 11: Full Virtual Conference Day

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

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

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

- **History Matters**, with Clint Smith, Author and Poet

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

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

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

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

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

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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 5-6 additional CEU hours for participating in pre-conference institutes, and another 5+ CEU hours for participating in the virtual conference day. TNOYS is an approved CEU provider for Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT), and Continuing Professional Education Providers (CPE). The majority of sessions are approved for Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO), Juvenile Supervision Officers (JSO), and Community Activities Officers (CAO) by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The majority of sessions (unless noted in the CEU Certificate) are approved for Licensed Child Care Administrator (LCCA) and Licensed Child Placing Agency Administrator (LCPAA) licenses. This conference is also approved for CEUs for the following substance abuse professional licenses: LCDCs, Associate Prevention Specialists (APS), Certified Prevention Specialists (CPS), and Peer Mentor/Peer Recovery Designation (PM/PRC) through our partnership with Connections Individual and Family Services.

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

Let's kick-off TNOYS' 39th Annual Conference on Services to Youth and Families together! Don't miss this kick-off where you'll hear about all the exciting sessions in store, learn how to maximize your time on the virtual platform, and discover fun ways to win prizes and network with your peers!

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



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

Kimberlee Brennan and Marcos Wiggins, ACH Child and Family Services

This training is intended to expand our participants' knowledge and awareness of diversity, equity, and engagement. Several types of media and activities are used to relate this information towards how we can be more inclusive and accepting in our agencies and within society.



#### **You're on Mute! Virtual Communication and Engagement**

Natalie Ferguson, Kennedy Quintanilla, TNOYS

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



#### **The CARE Model: Skills to Enhance Caregiver Child Relationships (Part 1)**

Cindy Downey, Chad Sedam, Roy Van Tassell, Centene

Built upon evidence-based parent training programs including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions of any adult and child/adolescent. This training is appropriate for anyone working with children and youth including, but not limited to, parents, caregivers, residential staff, frontline staff, CASA workers and more. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training. This workshop is limited to 21 participants.



#### **Advancing a Proactive Policy Agenda to End Youth Homelessness**

Darla Bardine, National Network for Youth

The pandemic has highlighted deep holes in our social safety net. Young people still struggle to access the housing and services they need, and youth service providers continue to struggle with adult-centric policies and priorities. We can advance a policy agenda grounded in equity that focuses on prevention and response to youth and young adult homelessness. In this workshop, you will hear the latest updates on NN4Y's legislative and administrative policy agenda, and the current political landscape in Washington, D.C. Join us and learn how to get more involved in bringing about positive systemic change for young people.



#### **Families Thrive: Protective & Promotive Factors as a Framework for Thriving**

Frank Eckles, Academy for Competent Youth Work

Families Thrive brings together research on child development, brain biology, and the impact of trauma to help young people, caregivers, and professionals respond to youth and caretakers in ways that increase the likelihood of healthy developmental outcomes. Families Thrive applies the protective and promotive factors framework that has been shown to support health, well-being, and thriving in youth across childhood into young adulthood. This workshop will provide an introduction to the protective and promotive factors and how the framework can be used in your practice.

## 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Keynote: History Matters with Clint Smith, Poet and Author

It is important to remember that racial inequality today is not the result of individual decisions or cultural dispositions, rather it is the result of decades of state-sanctioned policies that have shaped the contemporary landscape of our society. In this talk, Clint outlines how those of us working in youth-services must understand, and always remind ourselves of, the historical and social context that has shaped our country, and as a result the lives of the young people we work with.

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

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



### **Support Out Youth and Be a Beacon for LGBTQIA+ Youth**

Ryn Gonzales and Frederick Heather, Out Youth

Out Youth created a professional development course for K-12 school staff so that all adults on Texas campuses can be a beacon of hope and support for LGBTQIA+ youth. Participants will gain insight into the creation of the Be a Beacon course, understand the data and science behind the training, and get a sneak peak of all three levels. In total, Be a Beacon is nearly 9 hours of expert advice, research, and our community's favorite tips to move past mere tolerance towards environments where all youth can thrive.



### **In Their Own Words: The Importance of Normalcy for Transition-Age Youth**

Fedora Galasso and Sedoo Ijir, TNOYS

This workshop will discuss the transition into adulthood including factors that increase the risk of youth homelessness and opportunities for organizations to implement more robust preventive measures and interventions. After reviewing recent TNOYS projects centered around listening to and learning from youth, participants will learn ways to prioritize the voices of transition age youth in order to inform preventive strategies and interventions. Participants will also discuss how normalcy is an important factor to foster resilience during this critical period.



### **The CARE Model: Skills to Enhance Caregiver Child Relationships (Part 2)**

Cindy Downey, Chad Sedam, Roy Van Tassell, Centene

Built upon evidence-based parent training programs including Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Child Adult Relationship Enhancement (CARE) is a trauma-informed set of skills designed to improve everyday interactions of any adult and child/adolescent. This training is appropriate for anyone working with children and youth including, but not limited to, parents, caregivers, residential staff, frontline staff, CASA workers, and more. Please plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 in order to receive credit for this training. This workshop is limited to 21 participants.



### **Gifted/Talented Education, and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness**

Monica Brewer, Texas Education Agency (TEA) Gifted/Talented Education

This session will address using the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students for accountability. Topics include equity in program services, student growth, and parental involvement. The session will also address the laws, rules, policies, and resources pertaining to child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment including human trafficking.



### **The Neuroscience of Addiction and Innovative Treatment Approaches**

Drew Dutton, Dusty Vigil, Phoenix Houses of Texas, Inc.

This workshop will detail the current problem of adolescent addiction and best practices for engaging teenagers in treatment and recovery. Presenters will provide an overview of the neuroscience of adolescent addiction, the current national and global state of addiction, barriers to treatment and successful outcomes, the impact of COVID-19 on addiction and treatment, and various innovative approaches for counseling addictions.

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



### **Improving the Child Welfare System by Centering Youth Voice**

Grace Goetz, l'munique Liggins, Montoya Thomas, Betty Bajika, and Cameren Collins, TNOYS Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC) Members

During this panel discussion, youth leaders with lived experience in foster care will share their experiences and discuss the importance of centering youth voices in improving the child welfare system in Texas.



### **Resources for Children, Families, and Child Welfare Professionals**

Belinda Swan and Joy Paluska, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Every child is vulnerable to online dangers. As the centralized reporting mechanism for suspected child exploitation, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers important insights regarding the risks to children online. Join us for a discussion of the most recent trends and the variety of free resources NCMEC has to offer, including resources related to disaster preparedness and resources specifically designed for children on the autism spectrum.



### **TEA Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TECHY) Program Updates**

Cal Lopez and Jordan Brown, Texas Education Agency (TEA) TECHY Program

This session will provide an overview of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and state requirements for local education agencies (LEAs) when serving and supporting students experiencing homelessness. Presenters will discuss TEA ARP Homeless grant updates, program updates, and resources to address the needs of children and youth living in homelessness.



### **Generation Vaxxed: Removing Barriers and Increasing Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations in Youth Adult Communities of Color**

Greg Norwood, Rio Gonzalez, and Elizabeth Kufour, Young Invincibles

The impact of Covid-19 and the initial vaccine distribution exposed deep-rooted systemic inequities within our healthcare system that Black, brown, indigenous, and immigrant communities have endured for generations. Learn how Young Invincibles' Generation Vaxxed campaign trained young adults as outreach and messaging specialists to accelerate vaccination efforts while addressing the many disparities that existed prior to the pandemic.

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

Fedora Galasso, TNOYS Chief Executive Officer

## 4:05pm Adjourn

# ABOUT TNOYS

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

## TNOYS STAFF

Fedora Galasso, Chief Executive Officer  
Michael Grisham, Chief Operating Officer  
Natalie Ferguson, Operations Manager  
Lauren Dimitry, Grants Director  
Lauren Rose, Director of Public Policy  
Theo Adams-Hernandez, Policy and Research Manager  
Ann-Charlotte Proffitt, Director of Practice  
Sedoo Ijir, Program Manager

Alex Polk, Program Coordinator  
Tiona Moore, Director of Partnerships  
Jermaine Neblett, Engagement Manager  
Kennedy Quintanilla, Partnerships Coordinator  
Mary Bergeron, Director of Communications  
Tessa Ammons, Outreach Manager  
Alex Pryor, Communications Consultant

## TNOYS YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Betty Bajika, Canyon  
Cameren Collins, Houston  
Elizabeth Madrigal, San Marcos  
Gabriel Marquez, San Antonio  
Grace Goetz, Austin  
Helaina Hackett, Houston

I'munique Liggins, Dallas  
Montoya Thomas, Houston  
Precious West, Houston  
Tatyana Carraway, Houston  
Tiara Kirksey, Houston

## TNOYS AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Brenda Woolley, TNOYS  
Isaiah Garza, Communities in Schools of Coastal Bend  
Jorge Leyva, El Paso Center for Children  
Kayla Wells, Promise House

Sally Uzomba, Communities in Schools of Coastal Bend  
Tiata Collier, Harris County Youth Services Division  
Alysa Hinojosa, Communities in Schools of Coastal Bend

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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DaVina Morris, DETCOG, Lufkin  
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# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

## Youth Champion



## Youth Advocate



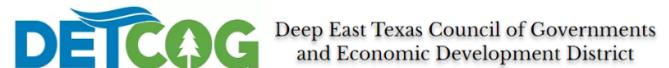
## Youth Ally



## Youth Engager



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# THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE PARTNERS:

