

2014 Oklahoma Child Welfare Conference April 11-12, 2014

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Speaker – Mark Anthony Garrett

Service Is Everything: A New Paradigm for Service Excellence

This highly informative, inspirational and intriguing message will explore **7 Service Excellence Principles** designed to empower individuals who work and serve within the profession of child welfare. The 7 service principles explored in this powerful session will lay a solid foundation that will aid those in attendance in understanding how life changing their profession is as it relates to serving others. Participants will leave this session motivated, recharged and with a renewed sense of purpose.

Speaker – Derek Clark

The Spirit of a Child: From Rejection to Connection to Direction

The Spirit of a Child Training workshop conference will provide foster parents, social workers and counselors insight and specific training that will assist them in connecting with children and youth that have experienced trauma and help them reach beyond perceived and self imposed limitations. Attendees will gain understanding and knowledge about childhood responses to traumatic experiences and how they are typically diagnosed, how to ask questions that build trust and shape futures, and to offer justice, power and dignity as a response to labeling, and quick diagnosis.

Speaker Derek Clark has lived through the foster care system and works with professionals to offer training and insight into connecting with troubled youth and children under government care. He is the author of six books and a featured expert on CNN. He has worked with professionals in training workshops worldwide.

Speaker – Amy Goldsmith, Advanced Certification as Child Protective Services Supervisor II, BA

I Miss My Family: Separation and Loss from a Child's Perspective (Two Part Workshop)

From the moment a referral is received at Child Welfare the impact on that child and their family begins. Maintaining a team approach to ensure each person who comes into contact with the family is aware of separation and loss and how to minimize the trauma to the family is critical to success. The working relationship and team approach will define the lasting effect on that family. All need to decide the permanency plan and continue throughout with a solid goal shared with the family and child to help all understand the temporary nature of our involvement and the shared vision of the future. This includes acknowledging the attachments in whatever form, reducing moves, embracing the grief and helping the child process, listening to children and translating their process, building resilience, maintaining identity, practicing therapeutic interventions. The Child Welfare worker is frequently the only continuous connection to a child's past. In the words of Wolin & Wolin: *"Those of you who touch the life of a child constructively, even briefly, should never underestimate your possible corrective impact on that child".*

Presentation Objectives:

- Define and identify loss responses in children,
- Learn to identify attachment patterns,

- Learn techniques to reduce loss-induced trauma,
- Identify interventions that foster attachment and resilience,
- Gain knowledge on developing intervention tools, and
- Learn to create experiential Lifebook's for children in substitute care.

Speakers – Barbara Sears, Attorney at Law & Tsinena Bruno-Thomson, Attorney at Law

Dynamic Duo

The Power of ONE demonstrated by one legal advocate working hand-in-hand with one CASA/GAL resulting in a powerful partnership for the child in court. This Workshop will address the role of the attorney for the child (legal advocate) as contrasted with the role of the CASA volunteer; the importance of having both in a deprived case; and how the two can work together to effect a favorable outcome for the child. These goals will be demonstrated by discussing the law and relating examples from actual cases.

Presentation Objectives:

Attorneys and CASAs who attend this presentation will

- Learn how to work with one another most effectively,
- Learn how to use one another's expertise,
- Understand the differences between roles of attorney and the guardian ad litem
- Learn what it means when an attorney GAL is appointed to the case, as well as a CASA.

Speakers - Lana O. Beasley, Ph.D. & Leigh Ridings, MA

Interventions for Children in Foster Care: The Power of ONE

The workshop is designed to give attendees a basic understanding of common diagnoses and mental health issues of children in foster care and evidence based treatments to help children. It is intended to help those that help children to understand the impact that ONE person can have on a child's life. The goal is to empower attendees to learn basic information on common diagnoses and treatment so that they can advocate for children to get the best treatment possible – making their voice of ONE the strongest possible!

Presentation Objectives:

- Provide information on common diagnoses and other mental health issues of children in foster care
- Provide information on general considerations when seeking treatment for children in foster care
- Provide overview of several evidence based therapies relevant for diagnoses common among children in foster care

Speaker – Jacqueline Steyn, LPC

Pathways to Safety for Families Experiencing Domestic Violence: What all CASA's and other professionals need to know!

Domestic violence is highly prevalent in families involved in the child welfare system, creating additional layers of risk. This workshop will discuss the intersection between domestic violence and child abuse, how to identify danger and lethality and appropriate responses that will enhance safety for families.

Presentation Objectives:

- Identify the dynamics of domestic violence.

- Build trust and rapport with victims of domestic violence
- Identify dangerousness and risk.
- Identify potential flashpoints for violence.
- Identify safety options

Speaker – Mark Woodward, Public Information & Education Officer

Drugs of Abuse – The Elephant in the Room

This comprehensive workshop will help teachers, parents, neighbors, and professionals become more informed about what drugs currently impact their schools, children, workplace and community. This session will examine the most popular place youth obtain their drugs of choice—their home. This includes prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and other products teens’ target. Participants will learn more about “pharming”, “salad parties”, and other trends among youth. Information will also be provided on common street drugs including marijuana, club drugs, and date-rape drugs. Is there a meth lab operating within a particular neighborhood? This workshop will reveal the clues. This session includes a power-point visual demonstration of drugs, where kids hide their drugs, as well as signs and symptoms of drug abuse. It will also include information about what you can do to stop drug abuse in your family or community

Presentation Objectives:

- Identify the most popular place youth obtain their drugs of choice
- Identify types of drugs most commonly used by youth
- Understand “pharming”, “salad parties”, and other drug-using trends among youth
- Identify common street drugs
- Recognize warning signs of a methamphetamine lab
- Understand and recognize signs and symptoms of drug abuse
- Understand steps that can be taken to curb drug abuse in the local community

Speaker – Laura Boyd, Ph.D.

Therapeutic Foster Care & CASA: Maximizing an Essential Collaboration

The format of this workshop is presentation and open discussion among attendees. Collaboration across various systems on behalf of high needs, complex behavior foster youth is challenging...and essential. TFC is not a placement. It is a medically necessary service for severe behaviorally challenging youth and youth with complex trauma. We will identify the 'TFC' youth and his/her unique needs and therapy requirements, as well as the unique roles of members of the care-giving system for TFC youth: TFC agencies, TFC foster parents, CASA, bio families, and Courts. Finally, we will discuss how to maximize collaboration as a powerful team united on behalf of these children and families.

Presentation Objectives:

- Understand contractual obligations on TFC providers as related to TFC services and treatment planning
- Provide concrete recommendations for maximizing the TFC-CASA “Power of ONE” partnership
- Protocols for addressing questions, concerns and successes in this collaboration on behalf of CASAs and treatment providers

Speaker – Rusty Johnson

It Takes Just ONE to Know It Gets Better: The Lonely World of a Soul Gay Foster Youth You may have attended Rusty Johnson's presentation at the 2013 Oklahoma CASA Association State Conference, when he helped us learn to be comfortable "Discussing a Taboo". In that session, Rusty presented the basics in a sort of *LGBTQ Foster Youth 101*. This year, he'll take the next step. Rusty will provide workshop participants tools and resources to assist and encourage LGBTQ youth. Rusty will also discuss specific types of bullying faced by this group of young people and provide information on how to help. Most of all, Rusty will discuss the importance of letting LGBTQ youth know "It gets better!", which you may recognize from the national campaign by the same name. Rusty will share his personal stories and experience, as a gay foster youth, as a way of helping further paint the picture of why this knowledge is so vitally important for all who work in child welfare.

Presentation Objectives:

- Recognizing "warning signs" and identifying those LGBTQ youth who are struggling with their sexual identity
- Strategically assisting these youth in their given stage/situation
- Identifying and utilizing resources to actively engage these youth, thus showing and demonstrating "it gets better"
- Highlighting methods of "strategic sharing", encompassing how those assisting LGBTQ youth can share personal stories and/or information to better relate and encourage a given at-risk LGBTQ youth.
- Knowing anti-LGBTQ bullying tools and teaching these tools to LGBTQ youth who are at risk
- Connecting and knowing local resources which pertain to LGBTQ bullying and LGBTQ youth support

Speaker – Raphael Travis, Jr., DrPh, LCSW

ONE Person, ONE Relationship, ONE Million Pathways of Potential

The workshop combines the best of current models of positive youth development for often-marginalized youth, with the best of research on how youth engage music for improving their own well-being. The workshop will provide participants with a language and structure to understand both their uniquely powerful *individual* role in the health and well-being of youth and opportunities for them to nurture *one relationship* that supports young people's self-health strategies through music engagement. The workshop will include vivid, real world examples to facilitate understanding and tips and tools for practical use of discussed strategies. The workshop is appropriate for parents, advocates, teachers, youth workers, and therapists/counselors.

Presentation Objectives:

- Understand the roots of positive development and why the role of advocates is so powerful
- Understand where the connections exist between music engagement, health and well-being
- Understand why self-health is so important for youth that have been victimized when trust issues are often paramount (trusting ONEself)
- Understand how to support youth arts engagement across musical domains, even those that are heavily stigmatized as harmful and unhelpful

Speakers - Mitch Tindell, MeD & Heather Ratliff, B.S.

Oklahoma Independent Living & Aftercare Services for Foster Youth and Successful Planning for Transition to Independent Living

The services and supports available to eligible youth in OKDHS or tribal custody between the ages of 16 and 18 are vast and often times underutilized. Further complicating the issue, many adult partners are unaware of after care services available to these youth. This workshop will provide an overview of the Oklahoma Independent Living Program, informing participants about all aspects of the program including how they can use IL services to support the youth whom they serve while they're in care and after their transition from care. Information will include the use of- and purpose- of youth development funds, a discussion of IL events and how they can support a youth's plan, and will include information on how the IL technical assistance and training team can aid adult partners seeking to improve youth outcomes. In addition, participants will learn about the Child Welfare IL process, providing them insight and understanding into the role of the child welfare worker, and their role as an individual which will support collaboration through individual knowledge and system wide understanding.

In the past year, OKDHS and OKIL rolled out the new Oklahoma life skills assessment and a new outcome based plan model. This new model, based on evidence based outcome planning, is designed to put the power of the youth's future in their hands. In this workshop, participants will also learn about the new planning model and how they can support their youth in meeting plan goals. The workshop will include best practice in creating and using an IL plan and how those serving youth can support a youth's plan and each other in assisting Oklahoma's teens in having a more successful transition from custody.

Presentation objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the services and supports provided by the Oklahoma Independent Living Program
- Learn how to access, request, and utilize services
- Practice strategies in applying their personal knowledge and expertise in serving a youth in collaboration with the youth's IL team
- Practice creating youth driven plans
- Learn how the plan model was designed to encourage collaboration
- Gain an understanding of how they can support youth and their workers in building better outcomes for transition age youth

Speaker – Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC

Working with Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior

This workshop will provide an overview of the current research on children with problematic sexual behavior. The goal of the workshop is to provide participants knowledge about sexual development and distinguish between normative and problematic sexual behavior. Additionally, participants will be educated on the practice elements associated with reducing problematic sexual behavior.

Presentation Objectives:

- Participants will learn the latest research on child sexual development;
- Participants will be able to distinguish between problematic and normative sexual behavior; and
- Participants will review the latest outcome research on treatment for sexual behavior problems, including the practice elements associated with reduced sexual behavior problems and co-morbid conditions.

Speaker – Jimmy Widdifield, Jr., LPC

Working with Adolescents with Problematic Sexual Behavior

This workshop will provide an overview of the current research on adolescents with illegal and problematic sexual behavior. The goal of the workshop is to provide participants knowledge about sexual development and sexual risk taking behaviors. Participants will gain knowledge on the effects of problematic and illegal behavior on families. Additionally, participants will be educated on the practice elements associated with reducing problematic sexual behavior.

Presentation Objectives:

- Participants will learn the about adolescent sexual development and sexual risk taking behaviors of adolescents ;
- Participants will be able to define illegal sexual behavior and how it affects the adolescent’s family; and
- Participants will review the latest outcome research on treatment for sexual behavior problems, including the practice elements associated with reduced sexual behavior problems.

Speakers - Lana Beasley, Ph.D. & Leigh Ridings, MA

Interventions for Children in Foster Care: The Power of One

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Speaker – Shannon Prescott

Coming Soon