	Agency Name	Office of Community Services (OCS)
	Chapter No./Name	Training Memoranda
	Part No./Name	2010
	Section No./Name	TM 10-029 Together We Can Conference
	Date Issued	September 10, 2010

TM 10-029 Together We Can Conference (September 10, 2010)

RE: Annual Together We Can Conference
October 5-7, 2010
Hilton Hotel, Lafayette, LA

Approval is granted for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff to attend the annual Together We Can Conference, October 5-7, 2010. The conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, LA.

Assignment of slots is as follows:


REGION	Number of Staff Slots	Travel & Registration	Registration Only	Approved for Travel on or After 10/05/10
Orleans	8	■		■
Baton Rouge	8	■		■
Thibodaux	8	■		■
Lafayette	25		■	■
Lake Charles	8	■		■
Alexandria	8	■		■
Shreveport	8	■		■
Monroe	8	■		■
Covington	8	■		■
State Office*	16	■		■
BGC/Regional Attorneys	15	■		■

*A separate e-mail will be sent for state office staff regarding allocations for each section.

As soon as possible, regional training coordinators should advise Darciel Netherland at State Office (darciel.netherland@la.gov) of any unused slots so they may be reallocated to other regions. Additional conference participation, above the stated allotments, should be funded through the regional training budget.

Conference Registration/Expense/Information:

- Only the conference registration, as allotted above, will be **prepaid** by State Office.
- Lodging, mileage and meals will be **reimbursed**. **Please note:** The two luncheons and the Awards Evening Event meals are included in the price of the registration fee. If staff chooses to “eat on their own” those 3 meals **will not** be reimbursed.
- There **will be no expenses reimbursed** by state office for staff who travel on October 4th.

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All staff must complete the online registration forms at www.latwc.com. Staff who are filling the slots as identified in the table above and staff who are speaking and/or presenting at the conference should use this code when registering: **OCS2010TWC**. Use of this code will insure the accurate prepayment of registration. The deadline for registration is the close of business **Friday, September 17th, 2010**.

Regional Training Coordinators should prepare a list of the staff approved to attend and submit that list to Darciel Netherland at State Office via email darciel.netherland@la.gov or faxed to 225-342-9087 no later than **Friday, September 17, 2010**.

Waivers to DCFS and State Travel Regulations

We have obtained approval/waivers of the following for the TWC conference.

- #1. The current DCFS Travel Regulations (Part 1. Administrative-Fiscal, Section I-14, Section 1506) which prevents staff from staying overnight and incurring lodging expenses if the venue is within a 60 mile proximity to ones domicile is waived. This will allow staff from the Baton Rouge and surrounding area to stay overnight in Lafayette during the TWC conference. Again, there will be no expenses reimbursed by state office for staff who travel on October 4th.
- #2. The State Travel Regulations requiring the use of a state vehicle or the rental of a vehicle through Enterprise Rental Car Company if staff travel is greater than 99 miles round trip is waived. This will allow staff to use personal vehicles and claim mileage reimbursement, thereby, making the state owned vehicle fleet available for the conduction of regular business by all Department staff, and eliminate the need to rent vehicles from Enterprise Rental Car Company. **We strongly encourage all staff to carpool when practical.**
- #3. The approval of the Hotel Conference rate of \$105 per night is approved. State Regulation allow for the reimbursement of the conference rate, plus tax, and any mandatory surcharge only.
- #4. The request to submit a blanket travel authorization to effect reimbursement of expenses for those who attend this conference is approved. This blanket travel authorization (TA) cannot be prepared until a list of those who will attend the conference is generated and projection of costs can be determined. Please note: The blanket TA is **not** an attachment to this memorandum.

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Travel Authorization

A blanket TA will be submitted to the DCFS Travel Section by State Office when a complete list of registrants is generated. This will relieve each employee of completing a TA form when claiming his or her travel expenses. Staff is instructed to omit their TA number and to use the following codes:

Object–3700 and Reporting Category–0885. The completed Travel Expense (TE) form, original receipts, a copy of the conference agenda, and all other applicable required documentation must be attached to the TE to prevent delays in the reimbursement process.

Hotel Reservations

The Lafayette Hilton at 1521 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, Louisiana 70503, is the conference hotel. Regrettably, the conference hotel is already full. The Fairfield Inn and Suites, 1606 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette, phone 337-233-5558, is holding a block of rooms available until September 21st. The standard rooms are \$99 and suites are \$109. Please inform them that you are attending the Together We Can Conference.

Other hotels in the vicinity with which we have no agreement:

Crowne Plaza Lafayette South, 1801 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette 337-233-8120

Holiday Inn Express South, 210 Kaliste Saloom, Lafayette 337-456-6900

La Quinta Inn & Suites, 1015 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette 337-291-1088

Travelodge Lafayette Center, 1101 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette 337-234-7402

A copy of the conference brochure is attached for reference. Should you have any questions, please contact Eileen Fourroux at 225-342-1388 or Walter Fahr at 225-342-6832.

Rhenda Hodnett
Director of Prevention and Child Protective Services

Attachment

2010 Together We Can Conference

Conference Overview

Monday, October 4, 2010

6:30 – 9:00pm Early Check-in

Tuesday, October 5, 2010

7:30am - 4:45pm Conference Check-in

8:30 – 10:00am Workshops – 100 Series

10:15 – 11:45am Workshops – 200 Series

12:00 – 1:00pm Luncheon with Keynote

1:30 – 3:00pm Workshops – 300 Series

1:30 – 4:45pm In-Depth Institutes

3:15 – 4:45pm Workshops – 400 Series

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

7:30am - 4:45pm Conference Check-in

8:30 – 10:00am General Session

10:15 – 11:45am Workshops – 500 Series

12:00 – 1:00pm Luncheon with Keynote

1:30 – 3:00pm Workshops – 600 Series

3:15 – 4:45pm Workshops – 700 Series

6:30 – 9:30pm Awards Evening at Vermilionville – Maps will be in participant packets

Thursday, October 7, 2010

7:30 - 10:45am Conference Check-in

8:30 – 10:00am General Session

10:15 – 11:45am Workshops – 800 Series

12:00 – 1:30pm Closing Luncheon with Keynote

Exhibitors and the TWC bookstore will be available Tuesday through Thursday on the main conference floor.

Hotel reservations at the Lafayette Hilton can be made at a group rate through September 13, 2010. The group name is “Together We Can” and you can call their reservations line at: 1-800-HILTONS. The hotel address is 1521 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Up to 17 hours of CLE and CEU credits will be available, including hours for ethics and professionalism.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, October 5th 8:30 to 10:00am

101 – Supporting the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Out of Home Care

This workshop is a foundation to understanding what lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) identities mean. You will learn the difference between sexual orientation and gender identities, how to develop culturally competent strategies for working with LGBTQ youth and their families, points to clarify and assess when advocating for an LGBTQ youth, as well as identifying resources to better support and advocate for these youth. People who have never participated in a workshop on sexual orientation and gender identity are encouraged to attend.

Presenters– LaRae Oberloh, CASA Advocate and Master Trainer for NASW & Dee Horn, CASA Advocate

102 – Getting the Most Out of COMET

For users of the COMET system that want more information of features and functionality in the COMET system. The workshop will focus on maintaining your data, overview of the different reports and understanding how reports in COMET are counting children, volunteers, and CASA volunteer assignments. This workshop will also discuss the annual program survey and the OJJDP reports in COMET. This workshop will also include discussion on backing up the COMET system and settings in MS Access. Bring your CASA program data for specific questions with the workshop presenter on the COMET system.

Presenter – Brien A. Aguilar, National CASA, IS Technology Project Manager

103 – The Effects of Low Income Backgrounds on Language and Literacy Skills

Viewed through the lens of language and literacy, this presentation will focus primarily on the effects of poverty and socioeconomic status on the language and literacy skills of children from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds. Additionally, the link between language and literacy will be delineated. Examples and strategies related to how caregivers, parents, volunteers and others involved in the lives of children can enhance these skills will also be provided.

Presenter - Linda Bryan, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Louisiana at Monroe

104 – Testifying and Rules of Evidence

In this workshop Judge Holliday will present information on Louisiana evidence code. Information will be offered regarding the key points of testifying, courtroom testifying techniques, testifying demeanor and minimizing the distress of testifying. Attendees will also learn the rules of testifying in court.

Presenter – Linda Holliday, Retired Judge

105 – A Few Good Men: Recruiting Male Volunteers

Besides the obvious there are definitely differences between men and women. The differences are emotional psychological and physical. While men and women can reach similar conclusions and make similar decisions, the process they use can be quite different and in some cases can lead to entirely different outcomes. In general, men and women consider and process information and activities differently. Outcome of the presentation will give attendees a better understanding of why men volunteer less than women and a more effective way of recruiting them. Participant activities will include a discussion of their experiences with recruiting males. Participants will be engaged by virtue of the fact all attendees will have a common goal.

Presenter – Paula Cook, AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer; Jefferson Parish

106 – Forensic Interviewer – Peer Review

*Forensic Interviewers participate in a peer review and discussion. **This session is only for Forensic Interviewers because of confidentiality.***

Presenter – Peer Lead

Tuesday, October 5th 10:15 to 11:45am

201 – Advanced Court Report Writing: Painting the Picture of Best Interest

The Advanced Court Report Writing Clinic is tailored to meet the needs of CASA Advocates in their quest to create cogent and concise reports to the court based on factual information. This course teaches strategies on obtaining information, making determinations as to the information's importance and even assistance on where to include the information within the context of the report. Within this workshop, the lecturers facilitate a dialogue while teaching from an outline of questions and using a sample report.

Presenter – Cynthia Chauvin, Director, CASA Jefferson & Wendy Magee, Advocate Supervisor, CASA Jefferson

202 – Working with Latino Families

Who are Latino's? Latinos in the United States are a diverse group. They have differing social, economic, and political reasons for being in the United States. Come learn some basics of how you can effectively work with Latino families and children.

Presenter – Veronica Montañó-Pilch, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Inclusion, National CASA Association

203 – Louisiana CASA Strategic Planning Evaluation and Research Committee Meeting – Open to all CASA Program Staff Members.

204 – Silent Witness: The effects of domestic violence on children

This session presents the complex issue of children growing up in a violent home. Issues raised and explored are the dynamics of violent relationships, behavioral, psychological and emotional impacts of violence on child development, parenting as a battered woman and understanding the lasting effects of violence on a child.

Presenter – Pam Albers, Program Director of Community Outreach Services, Crescent House Healing Center

205 – Effective Grant Writing

This workshop will teach participants how to find funding sources and write effective proposals which include persuasive needs statements, balanced budgets, and logic models. Come with an idea and leave with a draft of a proposal. Appropriate for staff, board members and volunteers.

Presenter – Karen Hangartner, MSW, Outreach Coordinator Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

206 – Forensic Interviewer – Peer Review

*Forensic Interviewers participate in a peer review and discussion. **This session is only for Forensic Interviewers because of confidentiality.***

Presenter – Peer Lead

Tuesday, October 5th 12:00 to 1:00pm

Luncheon - Keynote Address- Up to My Neck in Alligators

How do you handle difficult situations when you are “Up to Your Neck in Alligators”? Sit back and learn to humorously identify challenging people and how to improve communications once you know their mode of operations.

Presenter – Dian Lusher, Dynel Communications

Tuesday, October 5th 1:30 to 3:00pm

301 – Mentoring without Entitlement

Identify strategies to help meet basic social and physiological needs, while avoiding pit falls of at risk young people. Participants will also learn how to aid at risk young people with positive decision making so they may build a successful life.

Presenter – Tim Lee, High School Special Education Teacher, Fairview High School, Grant, Louisiana

302 – Building a Strong Foundation

Strong, sustainable nonprofits thrive by having a dynamic board of directors. Learn how to interface with your nonprofit board and partner for the future. Find out more about building a diverse, talented and committed group of community leaders to help your organization.

Presenter – Revonda Kirby, Louisiana CASA Association

303 – Supporting the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Out of Home Care

This workshop is a foundation to understanding what lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) identities mean. You will learn the difference between sexual orientation and gender identities, how to develop culturally competent strategies for working with LGBTQ youth and their families, points to clarify and assess when advocating for an LGBTQ youth, as well as identifying resources to better support and advocate for these youth. People who have never participated in a workshop on sexual orientation and gender identity are encouraged to attend.

Presenter s– LaRae Oberloh, CASA Advocate and Master Trainer for NASW & Dee Horn, CASA

304 – 5 Things You Must Do to Coach Exceptional Advocates

Effective Volunteer Management is Hard! Join this training to gain practical tools to better your supervision skills whether you are a lifelong manager of it is your first day on the job. You will leave this session with fresh ideas and new expertise to gain maximum performance from any CASA: From your “all stars” to those hard to handle “problem volunteers”. These five skills will greatly increase your capacity and ability to provide guidance and supervision to empower more exceptional advocates. BEWARE: practicing the content of this session may lead to immediate results and better managers!

Presenters – Chris Ramsey, Program Coordinator, CASA of Northeast Louisiana and Greg Guthrie, Director, CASA of Northeast Louisiana

305 – Collaborating for Children: Are We Satisfied with 49th?

We are consistently ranked at the bottom of the charts or real close to it. What steps can we take for organizations and systems to work together on behalf of children? Join an interactive discussion on how we can help change the dynamics for Louisiana's children.

Presenter – Thea Lobell, Ph.D., Consultant and Organizational Development Expert

306 – Maximizing the Peer Review Process

The Peer Review process is a model that can be used by forensic interviewers to critique taped interviews and improve techniques for future sessions with children who have been abused. The interviews are often critical to the case and your skills as the interviewer are the key. Learn how to further develop your skills through peer review.

Moderator – Karen Hangartner, MSW, Outreach Coordinator Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

Tuesday, October 5th 3:15 to 4:45pm

401 – Live, Love, Laugh: Rejuvenating Your Passion with the Work You Do

This workshop will be divided into 3 sections: Live-Love- Laugh. Each section will include discussions and activities related to the theme.

Presenter – Ramona Graham, CASA Supervisor, Jefferson Parish and Jenny Nguyen & Brittany Hubbard CASA advocates, Jefferson Parish

402 – Inclusion/Diversity in the CASA Workplace

This session will discuss how CASA New Orleans was selected for the National Inclusion Award and present ways for other programs to achieve inclusion and diversity in their programs.

Presenters – Mike Madej, Volunteer Recruiter/Trainer, CASA New Orleans and Dellona Davis, Executive Director, CASA New Orleans

403 – Beyond Cultural Competency

Cultural Competency is a set of practices, skills, attitudes, policies and structures that operate together at the program, building and organizational level to enable fair and effective work in multicultural, multiracial, and diverse contexts. What? If we are to move BEYOND CULTURAL COMPETENCY we also need to know how implicit bias and institutional bias affect our lives and communities. Join us for an interactive session where you will walk away with tools and resource to assist you in moving beyond cultural competency to what you influence.

Presenter – Veronica Montañó-Pilch, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Inclusion, National CASA Association

404 - How to Handle Difficult People

Identify difficult behavior types and effective strategies to work with and through difficult or awkward situations. This will be accomplished by learning how to use an easy way of recall and strategy implementation.

Presenter – Tim Lee, High School Special Education Teacher, Fairview High School, Grant, Louisiana

405 – Safe Dates: An Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum

The SAFE Dates curriculum is an evidenced based, nine-session, program that deals with attitudes and behaviors associated with dating abuse and violence. It is identified as a Model Program in The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) as well as many other federal and foundation funded publications. This presentation will provide an overview of that curriculum as well as hands on practice at presenting the curriculum.

Presenter – Pam Albers, Director of Community Outreach and Education, Crescent House Healing and Empowerment Center

406 – CAC Network Meeting

Facilitator – Karen Hangartner, MSW, Outreach Coordinator Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

In-Depth Institutes

Tuesday October 5th 1:30 to 4:45pm

Institute 1 – Structured Decision Making

This three hour workshop is split into two parts. Decision making in juvenile justice and child protection is a challenging endeavor which requires experienced professionals to gather and assess extensive information about parents, children and extended family networks. Structured Decision Making (SDM) models in both juvenile justice and child protection provide a framework for gathering and assessing information that is most important to consider at each decision point in the life of a case. Part 1 of this workshop provides an introduction to SDM assessments for juvenile justice and child protection, along with the research and evidence that indicate quality implementation of these tools support improved outcomes for children and families. This will be followed by a brief overview of the SDM tools Louisiana DCFS is currently using, including a screening assessment; family risk assessment, in-home risk reassessment and reunification assessment. Part 2 of the workshop will be an in depth discussion of quality implementation of the reunification assessment. The presenter will provide examples of case work activities, documentation and staffing formats that integrate the SDM reunification assessment into practice, communication with system partners and decision making.

Presenter – Dierdre O'Connor, National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Children's Research Center

Institute 2 – Doing More with Less – Making Reasonable Efforts When There are Not Enough Resources to Reach the Permanency Goals

When children and their families are in your caseload, how can you help them reach the goals? Budget cuts are slimming down the available programs that you could normally use to help them and others are closing their doors. The state itself is cutting staff. Judge Payne has served in both the legal and social services systems – come learn more about creative solutions.

Presenter – Judge James W. Payne, Director, Indiana Child Services Department and former Juvenile Court Judge

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 6th 8:30 to 10:00am

General Session 1 – Engaging Families and Embracing Change

Conference participants will hear how parent voices are helping inform policy and practice changes that help better engage families. Two dynamic speakers from the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connection will share about the work of the Center to help develop parent leaders as change agents in child welfare systems across the country.

Presenters – Nicole Bossard, Consultant, National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections and Sherry Tomlinson, Consultant, National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections

Wednesday, October 6th 10:15 to 11:45am

501 – Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Parenting a Second Time Around

Grandparents raising grandchildren is a prevailing family arrangement in our society. The needs and challenges faced by custodial grandparents require a multi-disciplinary approach to service delivery, involving the public and private sectors. This workshop will inform service providers, program administrators, and advocates about the multiple needs of grandparent caregivers, and service delivery approaches to enhance their well-being. The workshop consists of three parts: Issue Introduction, Program Model Descriptions and Participant Exchange.

Presenters – Dr. Deborah Whitley, Director, National Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Center, Dot Thibodeaux and Danna Spayde, Louisiana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

502 – Meaningful Family Engagement

This interactive workshop will present new and exciting work being done across the country to increase meaningful engagement of families as partners in child welfare. Participants will hear how “Parent/Family Partners” are helping to bridge the gap between birth parents, service providers, and foster parents, and helping policy and decision makers better embrace parent participation at all levels from policy development to resource allocation.

Presenters – Nicole Bossard, Consultant, National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections and Sherry Tomlinson, Consultant, National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections

503 – Child Welfare, Foster Care & Juvenile Justice: Serious Behavioral Problems & Psychosocial Developmental Considerations in Working with Abused and Neglected Youth

Increasingly, practitioners and policymakers are recognizing the overlap of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This overlap is evidenced by maltreated children who become juvenile delinquents, delinquent children who have histories of maltreatment, and families that have intergenerational histories with both systems. It is also evidenced by some administrative and operational realities, in that agencies face duplication of services, competition for scarce program dollars, unmet service needs, and a dearth of prevention activity to help stem the tide of children coming into the two systems. This presentation will take a look at the effects of abuse/neglect on children and families and their relationship with juvenile delinquency. Issues and ideas for working with children that crossover the child welfare and juvenile justice systems will be discussed. Particular attention will be paid to what current research offers, the relationship between child maltreatment and delinquency, the risk of adolescence, and what has been found to produce better outcomes in both foster care and juvenile justice system settings

Presenter – Stephen Phillippi, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor-Behavioral and Community Health Services, Louisiana

Models for Change in Juvenile Justice- Evidence-Based Community Practices, Louisiana Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network- Chair

504 – Defining and Using Alternative Response

What is Alternative Response? The presentation will take a look at the pros and cons of implementing and providing Alternative Response, a concept in search of a model, and the sustainability of innovation in a bureaucratic setting.

Presenter – Jerry Patton, Discovery - Southeastern Louisiana University Family Resource Project

505 – Native American Issues in Child Welfare

Child welfare issues in the Native American communities are similar and yet different. Do you know the differences? Come learn more about legal issues and best practices for when the child victims you are serving are of Native American origin.

Presenter – TBA

506 – Seeking Answers to Disproportionate Minority Representation in Systems

This is a moderated panel composed of members of the 16th JDC Task Force which will discuss the development and implementation of an initiative to reduce disproportionate minority representation (DMR) in the 16th JDC led by Judge Charles Porter, demonstrating how to analyze DMR at the local judicial district level, engaging stakeholders, using and interpreting local and state data, the application of national DMR/DMC models to decision point analysis and community involvement.

Presenters - Judge Joanne Brown ,J.D., M.S.W., National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues and Judge Charles Porter, 16th Judicial District Of Louisiana Division G and Team Members

507 – Youth Transitioning From Foster Care-Realistic Expectations

Learn about the realities faced by youth leaving the foster care system. How can you bring together the people, systems and resources to assist youth leaving foster care? Help them make successful transitions to adulthood through improved outcomes in education, employment, housing, physical and mental health and personal/community engagement

Presenters – Carmen Spooner, GSW, Louisiana Office of Community Services and Karen Grant, LCSW, Louisiana Office of Community Services

508 – Leadership in a Multi-disciplinary Environment

It seems like it should be an easy task to get people to work together to investigate child sexual abuse, for the sake of the children. But too often there is conflict that keeps teams from working together to provide the best possible services for children and their families. This workshop will help participants understand the dynamics of

a multidisciplinary team that lead to conflict, and concrete ideas and activities that they can take back to use with their teams.

Presenter, Karen Hangartner, MSW , Outreach Coordinator Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

Wednesday, October 6th 12:00 to 1:00pm

Lunch - New Directions for DCFS

Presenter – TBA

Wednesday, October 6th 1:30 to 3:00pm

601 – Implications of Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence

The impact of living with domestic violence is not always visible on the outside. Those who live in a household with domestic violence suffer in a number of ways: mentally, physically and emotionally. From infant to young adult the effects are different and varied. Discuss children as witnesses, how domestic violence is understood by children, how to find appropriate resources, and facts and statistics.

Presenter, Beth Meeks, Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence

602 – Compassion Fatigue and Burnout – Second-hand Victimization (Taking Care of the Caregivers and Front-line Workers)

The work and responsibility of providing safety for children who have been victims of abuse can take a toll on the workers who have not taken time to care for themselves. Fatigue and burnout are symptoms – but you can prevent this. Join the session to learn how you and others in your field can

Presenter – April Naturale, Ph.D., LCSW

603 – Looking Past the Pain

From a former foster child's perspective, see how we can help abused children see past the hurt to dreaming again. This presentation will identify certain pitfalls that children of abuse face and strategies to redirect troubled children and teens to be productive young people

Presenter – Tim Lee, High School Special Education Teacher, Fairview High School, Grant, Louisiana

604 – Legal Ethics

This workshop will apply the Louisiana Code of Professional Conduct for Lawyers to specific issues in dependency law practice, e.g., competency, communication, conflict of interest and analyze the Code as it applies to the duties of attorneys representing parents, or children, or DCFS, and District Attorneys. Discussion of ethics opinions and case authority will be used to illustrate challenges presented to effective advocacy in these cases.

Presenter - Judge Joanne Brown, J.D., M.S.W., National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues

605 – Guardianship Model as a Meaningful Permanency Option

Permanency and safety for children are the primary goals for child abuse and neglect cases and when new avenues are presented – we want to learn about them. Two professionals will lend their perspective on the new model and will provide information on courtroom implementation of this new option.

Presenters – Judge Ann Simon, 16th Judicial District Of Louisiana Division E, and Kären Hallstrom J.D., MSW, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families with the Supreme Court of Louisiana

606 – Bringing Unconnected Dads into the Picture

The role of fathers, who may not live with their children, cannot be discounted when considering service options that will impact the whole family. Many fathers are disconnected from their children, through a variety of reasons, and need to have a plan that includes returning them to the picture. How do we involve fathers in a meaningful way that contributes to the path to permanency and safety for the children?

Presenter – Michelle Howard, Child Welfare Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, American Humane

607 – Supporting the Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Out of Home Care

This workshop is a foundation to understanding what lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) identities mean. You will learn the difference between sexual orientation and gender identities, how to develop culturally competent strategies for working with LGBTQ youth and their families, points to clarify and

assess when advocating for an LGBTQ youth, as well as identifying resources to better support and advocate for these youth. People who have never participated in a workshop on sexual orientation and gender identity are encouraged to attend.

Presenters - LaRae Oberloh, Sioux Falls Area Court Appointed Special Advocate(CASA) Program & National CASA Inclusiveness and Outreach Committee Member and Dee Horn, 10 year CASA Advocate

608 – Social Work Ethics Part 1 of 2

Review of current issues in ethics as they apply to social workers. This workshop will also include a discussion of case studies and implications in child welfare decisions. It meets the bi-annual requirement for NASW-LA.

Limited space.

YOU WILL BE TAKING A THREE HOUR COURSE – Part 1 and Part 2. Do not sign up for a 700 series workshop.

Presenter – Dalene Smith, LCSW, Louisiana Office of Community Services

Wednesday, October 6th 3:15 to 4:45pm

701 – Medicating Mood Disorders in Children and Adolescents

This presentation will address contemporary medication management practices of mood disorders in children and adolescents. The program will also discuss commonly encountered psychotropic medication dilemmas faced by professionals working with pediatric populations and offer strategies for resolving them.

Presenter – Dr. Joe Wegmann PD, LCSW

702 – Family Group Decision Making

Explore the basics of Family Group Decision Making in this session. Learn the core elements to Family Group Decision Making, how to prepare for the family meeting, the role of the coordinator, and the value of the process. Learn about how this technique could be utilized with your clients/caseload.

Presenter – Michelle Howard, Child Welfare Training and Technical Assistance Specialist, American Humane

703 – Legislative Update

Current changes in policies and laws affecting children will be reviewed. New legislation will be presented with background information on applicability and implementation timelines.

Presenter – Kären Hallstrom, J.D., MSW, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families with the Supreme Court of Louisiana

704 – Family Engagement Across Multiple Systems – The Court as a Catalyst for Change

Central to working in the many youth and family focused court systems is the ability to effectively work with nonvoluntary, resistant, and often difficult to reach youth and families. This presentation will provide an overview of a research driven approach that providers and court personnel can employ to better engage those youth and families. Better engagement equates to better acceptance of recommendations and court orders as well as improved outcomes such as service attainment, participation, and ultimately less need for further sanctioning. Specifically motivational interviewing is a tool that is evidence-based, client-centered, and a directive method of communicating in order to elicit the intrinsic motivation of individuals to explore and resolve their ambivalence to change. The improved connection with youth and families has proven effective in attaining better outcomes in courts, probation services, service provider agencies, and many other venues where people are resistant to the change that is being requested, recommended, and/or directed.

Presenter – Stephen Phillippi, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor-Behavioral and Community Health Services, Louisiana Models for Change in Juvenile Justice- Evidence-Based Community Practices, Louisiana Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Action Network- Chair

705 – Young Children and Trauma – Addressing Mental Health Needs of Children 0-5

This presentation will describe a 2-year consultation project designed to support foster care workers, supervisors, and district managers in the Lafayette Region in managing their cases involving children under 5 years old who have been placed in the State's custody due to abuse or neglect. Preliminary results from research

investigating foster care workers' changes in attitudes about childrearing as well as experiences of job-related burnout and stress will be presented.

Presenter – Devi Miron, Ph.D, Tulane University Health Sciences Center

706 – Advocating for Foster Children with Disabilities

Supporting the needs of foster children with disabilities adds an extra layer to the service array needed to find and maintain adequate care of the mental and physical challenges. Where do you go to find information on specialized or regional resources for children that are developmentally or physically challenged? Join the discussion on services that can be accessed for children and their families/foster families.

Presenters - Mary Jacob, Executive Director, Families Helping Families of Jefferson and Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center and Cindy Arceneaux, Project Director, Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center

707 – Creating Supportive Environments: Proactive Strategies for Preventing Vicarious Trauma and Burnout in CAC's

How do you protect the workers who are exposed to the traumatic experiences of child victims on a regular basis? What steps has your organization taken to safeguard the staff from burnout? Participate in this discussion on how to develop a plan for organization-wide health and well-being.

Presenter – Karen Hangartner, MSW , Outreach Coordinator Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center

708 – Social Work Ethics Part 2 of 2

ONLY OPEN TO THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PART 1.

Thursday, October 7th 8:30 to 10:00am

General Session 2 - Economic Survival Toolkit

The families of Louisiana are feeling the financial crunch as much of the country is, and it is taking a toll on the overall family functioning. In addition to the national economic decline, much of Louisiana is also recovering from hurricane issues, oil spill issues, seafood and hospitality issues connected to the oil spill – it seems to continue to build. How do we help families whose lives may be spinning out of control? What tools can we utilize to help them balance the anxiety, depression, frustration and other emotions without the addition of child abuse and neglect to the family dynamics?

Presenter – April Naturale, Ph.D., LCSW

Thursday, October 7th 10:15 to 11:45am

801 – New Attorney Model – Professionalism Credit

The new attorney model for working with children's cases will be presented by a panel representing several different perspectives. Learn best practice techniques for application of the model. This course will count for MCLE Professionalism Credit.

Presenters – Clay Walker, JD, Director of Juvenile Defender Services, Louisiana Public Defenders Office; Kevin Robshaw, JD, Executive Director, Mental Health Advocacy Service; and Kären Hallstrom, J.D., MSW, Deputy Judicial Administrator for Children and Families with the Supreme Court of Louisiana

802 – Is There a “Grand” in Grandparent? The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Grandparents as a Resource

A refreshingly frank discussion on the utilization of grandparents as a resource in the care and placement of their grandchildren. How to make sure the child's needs will be met, are the grandparents' financially able to care for a child, do they have “real” custody, what supports could be accessed? There are many issues that vary from the norm when a grandparent is the caretaker.

Presenter – Jane Thomas, JD, Governors Office of Elderly Affairs and Team Members

803 – CFSR – PIP Update

Louisiana has completed the CFSR and PIP. This session will present an overview of the findings – strengths and areas needing improvement. Strategic plans for the future will be discussed.

Presenters – Jan Byland, JD, MSW, Louisiana Office of Community Services and Mark Harris, JD, Louisiana Court Improvement Program, Louisiana Supreme Court

804 – Internet Sex Crimes and Child Pornography

The Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, High Technology Crime Unit is home to the Louisiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The Task Force investigates, interdicts, and prosecutes technology facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes. The computer forensic examiners are responsible for finding evidence on suspects' computers that is then used by the Louisiana Attorney General's Office for the successful prosecution of individuals who commit crimes against our children. The computer forensic examiners will discuss social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook and share cases they have worked. Internet safety tips and suggestions will be given. Real life examples will detail what our children should and shouldn't do while interacting with others online.

Presenter – Amy Cahanin, Computer Forensic Examiner for the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

805 – Understanding Parenting Education as an intervention in Child Welfare

Parent education is one of the most commonly used interventions in child welfare to prevent child maltreatment; yet surprisingly little emphasis is placed on understanding the details that should be considered when making a referral for this service. This workshop will review the important lessons learned over the past four years as a result of OCS' commitment to the Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents of Infants, Toddlers, and Pre-school Children.

Presenter – Rhenda Hodnett, Ph. D., Louisiana Office of Community Services

806 – Identifying Resources to Address the Mental Health Needs of Child Victims of Abuse and Neglect

The front-line caseworker needs to be up to speed on as many options as possible to help serve the children in their caseload, as do teachers, CASA volunteers, the court staff, juvenile judges and others working to help child victims. This panel will present a variety of resources and places to turn to find appropriate services to help address children's mental health needs.

Presenter – Denise Brito, LCSW, Louisiana Office of Mental Health CART and Team Members

807 – Advocating for the Education Needs of Foster Youth

Participants will become familiar with foster youth's rights and gain knowledge about the educational laws that surround this issue. Review resources and tools you need to enhance your ability to become an effective educational advocate.

Presenters – Kathy Cook, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Service and Children's Advocacy Program serving the Acadiana Region and Joan Hunt, J.D., Deputy General Counsel for the Louisiana Department of Education

808 – Building Your Sensitivity Skills: Working with Racial, Socioeconomic and Education Issues of Diverse Families

The basics are simple – not all families are the same. All families deserve respect and dignity. Participate in an open discussion concerning the many different types of barriers that must be considered in extending outreach services to families. How do we reduce or remove the barriers?

Presenter – Tonja Lee, Ph.D.

Thursday, October 7th 12:00 to 1:30pm

Closing Luncheon - It Takes a Team to Protect a Child

Detective Mike Johnson presents and interactive interpretation of the journey a victim takes, from the earliest stages of an outcry through the reporting, investigation, interview, therapy, medical exam, criminal and civil prosecution, defense representation and court hearing(s), and the effects the professionals, semi-professionals and lay persons have on the outcome. His presentation drives home the message that it takes a team to protect each child – everyone must do their part in the overall picture. *Presenter – Detective Mike Johnson, Plano Police Department, Plano, Texas, Consultant/Trainer with the National Child Protection Training Center*