	<b>Agency Name</b>	Office of Community Services (OCS)
	<b>Chapter No./Name</b>	Training Memoranda
	<b>Part No./Name</b>	2013
	<b>Section No./Name</b>	Training Memoranda
	<b>Document No./Name</b>	TM 13-029 Together We Can Conference
	<b>Effective Date</b>	September 10, 2013

**RE: Together We Can Conference**

**DATE: October 28-30, 2013**

**LOCATION: Lafayette, LA – The Hilton Hotel**

Approval is granted for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff to attend the annual Together We Can (TWC) Conference, October 28-30, 2013, at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, LA. The slot allocations for the conference are listed in the chart below. Please note that the Lafayette Region has been given additional slots due to the Program Improvement Plan activities related to the Transformation Zone Project and because there are no travel expenses to be paid for local staff. Baton Rouge Region also has been provided additional registration only slots.


Assignment of slots for the TWC Conference is as follows:

Region	Number of Staff Slots	Travel & Registration	Registration Only	Approved for Travel on or After 10/23/12
Orleans	8	■		■
Baton Rouge	14		■**	
Thibodaux	8	■		■
Lafayette	24		■**	
Lake Charles	8	■		■
Alexandria	8	■		■
Shreveport	8	■		■
Monroe	8	■		■
Covington	8	■		■
State Office*	24		■**	
BGC/Regional Attorneys	15	■		■

**\*A separate email will be sent providing allocations for State Office (DCFS Executive, Programs, Field Operations and Transformation).**

**\*\* According to DCFS Policy 1-14, Travel Regulations Item II., Section G. Travel Expenses will only be reimbursed for staff who are outside a minimum 60 miles of his/her domicile.**

As soon as possible, Regional Trainers should advise Darciel Netherland at State Office ([darciel.netherland@la.gov](mailto:darciel.netherland@la.gov)) of any unused slots so they may be reallocated to other regions.

	<b>Agency Name</b>	Office of Community Services (OCS)
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Regional Trainers 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](mailto:darciel.netherland@la.gov) or fax the list to (225) 342-6840 no later than the close of business on **Monday, September 30, 2013**.


#### Conference Registration/Expense/Information:

- Only the **conference registration fees**, as allocated above, **will be prepaid** by State Office.
- Lodging, mileage and meals will only be **reimbursed** in accordance with State Travel Regulations and Department Policy.
- The three luncheons and the food at the Awards Evening Event for the full **TWC** conference are included in the price of the full registration fee. If staff chooses to “eat on their own” those 4 meals **will not** be reimbursed.
- There **will be no hotel expenses reimbursed** to staff who travel on October 27th or October 31<sup>st</sup>. Only the hotel expenses for October 28th and 29<sup>th</sup> will be **considered for those who meet the mandatory policy of a minimum of 60 miles outside of his/her domicile**.
- The discounted room block at the Lafayette Hilton code is **TWE** (not a typo). It expires on Monday, October 7, 2013, or before if the block of rooms is filled.
- All staff must complete the online registration forms at <http://www.regonline.com/twc13>. All DCFS staff must use the following code when registering for the TWC Conference: **20TWCDCFS13**. Use of this code will insure the accurate pre-payment of registration.
- The deadline for registration is the close of business **Monday, September 30, 2013**.
- Pre-purchase of book items offered for sale on the TWC registration website, as well as, guest tickets for the Awards Evening Event **will not be reimbursed** by State Office.
- Staff is strongly encouraged to **carpool** when practical to minimize the effect of state car depletion within a region and/or reduce Enterprise Rental Car expense.
- Staff is strongly encouraged to **utilize double-occupancy rooms** where practical.

#### Approvals to DCFS and State Travel Regulations:

We have obtained approval of the following:

- #1. The Hilton Hotel conference room rate of \$109 per night. State Regulations allow for the reimbursement of the conference rate(s), plus tax, and any mandatory surcharge only. **All staff should present a Tax Exempt form and necessary ID to the hotel at Check In time.** (Link to form: <http://doa.louisiana.gov/osp/travel/forms/taxexemption.pdf>)

	<b>Agency Name</b>	Office of Community Services (OCS)
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- #2. The request to submit blanket travel authorization (TA) to effect reimbursement of expenses for those who attend has been approved. The blanket travel authorization cannot be prepared until a list of those who will attend the conference is generated and a projection of cost can be determined. **Please note: The blanket TA is not an attachment to this memorandum.**

### Blanket Travel Authorization

One blanket TA will be submitted to the DCFS Travel Section to cover the conference when a complete list of registrants is generated. This will relieve each employee of the task of completing a TA form.

Staff are instructed to use the following travel codes when requesting reimbursement for the conference:

- **Object–3700**
- **Reporting Category–0885.**

**Failure to use these codes will absolutely delay reimbursement of conference expenses.**

All staff are required to use the ISIS System Shared Travel Self Entry method to receive reimbursement. Refer to Manual at the following link:

[http://intra/ManagFinan/Documents/20110329\\_TravelSelfEntry\\_UserManual.pdf](http://intra/ManagFinan/Documents/20110329_TravelSelfEntry_UserManual.pdf) .

The completed online Travel Expense (TE) must also include scanned copies of receipts, a copy of the conference agenda, and all other applicable required documentation included as per policy and instructions to prevent delays in the reimbursement process.

### Hotel Reservations

The Hilton, 1521 West Pinhook Road, Lafayette, LA 70503, (337) 235-6111 is the conference hotel. When registering with the hotel it is important to designate that the registration is for the Together We Can Conference and use the code **TWE** (not a typo) to obtain the conference rate. A copy of the conference brochure is attached for reference.

Should you have any questions, please contact Eileen Fourroux at (225) 341-8586 or Walter Fahr at (225) 342-6832.

Attachment

# 11th Annual Conference



# Together We Can!

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

- Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program
- Louisiana DCFS - Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Louisiana CASA Association
- Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
- Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
- NASW - Louisiana Chapter
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana
- Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

**October 28-30, 2013**  
**Lafayette Hilton**  
**Lafayette, Louisiana**



# 2013 Conference Basics

## Conference At-A-Glance:

### Monday, October 28

12:00—1:15pm Welcome and Lunch  
1:30—2:30pm Workshops  
2:45-3:45pm Workshops  
4:00—5:00pm Workshops  
In-Depth Institutes  
1:30-5:00pm Choice of 3 Institutes

### Tuesday, October 29

8:30-10:00am Welcome & General Session  
10:15-11:45am Workshops  
12:00-1:30pm Luncheon & Keynote Address  
1:45-3:15pm Workshops  
3:30-5:00pm Workshops  
6:30-9:30pm Annual Awards Night  
(Vermilionville)

### Wednesday, October 30

8:30-9:30am Workshops  
9:45-10:45am Workshops  
11:00-12:00pm Workshops  
12:15-2:00pm Luncheon & Closing Keynote



## What Is TWC?

The Together We Can Conference is a multi-disciplinary event that is highly respected as the place to go for child abuse and neglect training for CASA, CAC, Judges, parents' attorneys, children's attorneys, parent attorneys, social workers, Indigent Defenders, DCFS workers, education professionals, foster and adoptive parents, law enforcement professionals, mental health professionals, and more!

The TWC conference began in 2002 as a merger between two events that were very similar and often had the same speakers - the Families in the Balance Conference and the Justice for Children Conference. Since then we have had several other organizations also merge into the coalition working annually to present this conference. This year the Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association will be merging their event with the Together We Can Conference! We welcome you to the TWC family!

The Together We Can conference offers in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns. There will be keynote addresses focused on the latest trends and institute sessions allowing more intensive attention to the selected topics. An awards evening will be held on Tuesday evening to honor those who have demonstrated commitment above and beyond on behalf of children.

**Mark Your Calendar To Join Us! October 28-30, 2013**  
**REGISTER EARLY—WORKSHOP SESSIONS FILL UP QUICKLY!**

Questions? Call Susan Shaffette, TWC Conference Coordinator 985-624-3514 or email: [latwc@yahoo.com](mailto:latwc@yahoo.com)

Is your organization interested in having an exhibit at the conference? Exhibitor and sponsor information is on the TWC website ([www.latwc.com](http://www.latwc.com)) or you can contact the conference coordinator.

# Together We Can 2013



## Overview

Join your colleagues at the **11th Annual Together We Can Conference** for an exciting professional education event. This conference is geared toward attorneys, social workers, judges, CAC staff, CASA staff and volunteers, law enforcement professionals, educators, mental health professionals and child welfare stakeholders who believe that they can **MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN!**

*The conference features nationally known speakers as well as local experts. It will offer many in-depth learning opportunities which address policy and practice concerns.*

*The first day of the Together We Can conference is on Monday, October 28th.*

- We will offer several 3-hour skill-building institutes the first day focused on trauma-informed legal advocacy, trends in substance abuse and youth, and addressing the needs of traumatized children in the child welfare system.
- The 1 hour workshops on the first day sessions are primarily directed to CASA, but are usually of interest to all child advocates. These are open to any attendee choosing to attend all three days.
- CAC forensic interviewer training information will be sent to CACLA members. You must be a forensic interviewer and pre-approved to attend the Peer Review Sessions due to confidentiality of the cases discussed in the workshop.

*The big, official welcome and kick-off will be on Tuesday, October 29th and we will start with a keynote on Including Children in Court, presented by Linda Britton from the American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law.*

- We will follow the general session with a multitude of workshops in the morning and in the afternoon—there will be 26 workshop choices offered in addition to the keynotes in the morning and at lunch!
- The lunch keynote is very special! We will have Lucas Boyce, a former foster youth, in attendance—who recently released a book titled: Living Proof: From Foster Care to the White House and the NBA! He is currently employed by the Orlando Magic and will talk about bringing all the players together to build a team to work for children.

Just to make sure that we don't have all work and no play—all participants are invited to attend a party at Vermilionville on Tuesday night. We will honor the two recipients of the Advocates of the Year that night. Enjoy the music, dancing, an array of Louisiana favorite foods and lots of fun. We have Terry and the Zydeco Bad Boys coming back to entertain us! You will not want to miss out on this event. There is no additional fee to attend the evening event. Maps will be in everyone's conference packet to help you find your destination.

*On Wednesday, October 30th we begin with workshops.*

- The final day of the conference will begin with three rounds of one-hour workshop selections—30 workshops to choose from!
- The closing luncheon will feature a special guest speaker, former ACF Commissioner Bryan Samuels. Mr. Samuels just recently accepted the Executive Director position with Chapin Hall in Chicago. Bryan will be offering a message about the Intersection of Safety, Permanency and the Well-Being of Children.
- We will close the conference with our usual array of fun, door prizes and wrap-ups.

Register: <http://www.regonline.com/TWC13>

## Annual Awards

### 6th Annual Together We Can Child Advocate Awards

The legal and social work fields lost two people who were incredibly strong advocates for children. We have chosen to honor Catherine Lafleur and Linda Christmas with awards within their areas of service each year. Both embodied the love, the passion and determination needed to be a very special advocate for children. We hope you will consider nominating someone special for the 2013 awards. The criteria for nominees are on the next page.

#### NOMINATION FORM FOR THE TOGETHER WE CAN HONOR AWARDS

##### Eligibility:

- Individuals serving children and families - voluntary, employed or retired.
- TWC Sponsoring Organization Leaders/Agency/Department Chairs not eligible
- Must not have been a previous TWC Child Advocate Award Winner

Nominating Someone for: ☐ Catherine Lafleur Award ☐ Linda Christmas Award (Please check one)

Nominator Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Connection to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: LA Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you going to try to surprise the winner and have a plan to make sure they attend? Yes No

**Please submit this form and a one-page narrative describing the nominee and how they fit the award criteria.**

**You may fax in the form if you choose—remember to include the narrative page. Fax to: 985-778-0058**

Mail to: TWC Conference Awards, Team Dynamics, 2444 Rue Weller, Mandeville, LA 70448

***Decisions will be made by the TWC Steering Committee members. All decisions are final.***

*The award recipient is expected to attend the Together We Can conference awards evening to receive the award. It will be presented on Tuesday, October 29th in Lafayette. The awards evening will be held at Vermilionville, 300 Fishers Road, Lafayette.*

Nominations must be  
postmarked  
by September 23, 2013

## Criteria & 2012 Honorees

### *Catherine Lafleur: Legal Advocacy for Children & Families*

#### Criteria:

- Long term commitment to improving the lives of children
- Exemplifies high levels of ethics and respect for the child welfare and legal systems
- Personal strengths make him/her an effective child advocate
- Demonstrates exceptional diligence, thoroughness and persistence in:
  - Making the system respond to the needs of the child
  - Promoting and supporting the use of innovative and creative approaches to systemic problems
  - Conducting research
  - Representing the best interest of the child

### *Linda Christmas: Service to Children and Families*

#### Criteria:

- Long term commitment to the community - passionate and energetic in their role
- Understanding and commitment to the "creating a village" concept
- Demonstrates outstanding leadership - takes risks to achieve outstanding results
- Contributes to a positive image for the children and families - celebrates the family
- Serves as a role model or mentor in the community and with families
- Demonstrates initiative in heightening community awareness of the issues facing abused and neglected children

## 2012 Award Winners:



Joy Peacock, Jefferson Parish, was the recipient of the Catherine Lafleur Legal Advocacy for Children & Families Award in 2012.



Carrie Hicks, a Foster Parent from Monroe, was the recipient of the Linda Christmas Service to Children and Families Award in 2012.

## October 28



### Monday Lunch

Noon to 1:15pm

**You must have a ticket to attend all luncheons—make sure to register for the luncheon, if you plan to attend.**

- **Welcome from TWC Committee—Working Together for ALL Children!**
- **CASA Annual Meeting** - John Wyble, Ph.D., Executive Director of Louisiana CASA Association

1:30pm-5:00pm

### Institutes



#### Institute 1: Trauma-Informed Legal Advocacy of Children

*Presented by Howard Davidson, JD, American Bar Association, Director of the Center for Children and the Law.*

A 3-hour session on key elements required to fully represent the best interest of traumatized children. Current trends, issues, tools and Q&A.



#### Institute 2: New Trends in Substance Abuse and Youth

*Presented by Lynn Reimer, ACT on Drugs and Ronald Holmes, M.D.*

A 3-hour session This workshop will provide valuable training regarding trends in alcohol abuse, synthetic marijuana, the problems marijuana presents, and an overview of the societal impact of drug abuse in communities.



#### Institute 3: Addressing the Needs of Traumatized Children in the Child Welfare System



*Presented by Devi Miron, Ph.D., Tulane University School of Medicine.*

This presentation will provide an overview of screening and addressing the needs of traumatized children in the child welfare system. A video will be used to illustrate concepts. Attendees will enhance their knowledge of evidence-based treatment for PTSD.

### Key to Workshop Icons:



Social Workers



Foster & Adoptive Families



Mental Health



Multi-Disciplinary



Attorneys/  
Legal/ Judicial



Child Advocacy  
Centers



Law  
Enforcement



Clinical Credit  
Applied For



CASA



Education



Nonprofit &  
Community

## October 28 (continued)

### 1:30-2:30pm Workshops

101



#### **Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities**

*Murelle Harrison, Ph.D.*

The workshop will focus on reported findings of evidence-based methods for reducing mental, emotional and behavioral disorders among youth. Discussion of implementation and evaluation will be included.

102



#### **Developing Your Communication Skills—Talking with Children**

*Pastor Tim Lee, M.Div., Former Foster Child*

This workshop will provide you with fresh tools to help you better communicate with children you serve. Attendees will be provided with practical assessments and easily remembered advice to help open the lines of communication.

103



#### **Big Momma's Chair: From the Company Furniture to the Kitchen Table**

*LaDonna Wattley, LCSW*

A frank discussion for moving beyond the polite responses to open, real sharing. Do you struggle with gaining family members' trust? Do you desire to interact more effectively? Cultural differences do not have to be a barrier to great service delivery.

104



#### **Knowing Who You Are**

*Terene Bennet, National CASA and Jacqueline Wilson, Louisiana CASA*

An introduction to helpful skills that will allow CASAs and others to successfully work together with others. A cultural diversity primer that looks at how you view the world.

105



#### **Child Welfare Law for the Non-Attorney**

*Thailund Porter Green, JD, Assistant District Attorney, 16th Judicial District*

This lively, hands on session will explore how Louisiana's child in need of care laws and different perspectives of legal parties involved come together to ensure a balanced approach to ensuring that the best interests of children is the focus of every proceeding.

106



#### **LGBTQ Best Practices for Youth in Care**

*Dennis Lomonaco, Jefferson CASA*

A session that will discuss current trends based on evidence-based reporting. The attendees will learn about various methods for addressing issues and case studies will be presented for review.

### 2:45-3:45pm Workshops

201



#### **Country-fried CASA: Advice for Rural CASA Programs**

*Carrie Perry and Chris Ramsey, CASA of Northeast Louisiana*

Do you work in a rural setting? Then you need some "Country-fried CASA". You will get straight talk about what really happens in a rural CASA office and how to thrive with limited resources. Helpful tools and tips for boosting efficiency in case and volunteer management.

202



#### **Focus on Transgender Youth**

*Kim Pearson, TransYouth Family Allies*

How do we create an environment where traumatized children can feel safe and can work through identity matters, such as the disclosures of transgender feelings. Children need to feel safe to share concerns and fears—how can we balance this for them? Discuss, obtain tools and learn more!

## October 28 (continued)

### 2:45-3:45pm Workshops

203



#### **Trauma: A Footprint on the Hearts of CASA Children**

*Beverly Patitz, Ph.D., and RuAnn Root, CASA of South Central Nebraska*

This workshop will provide additional understanding and bring new information to those working in the field on how to use a trauma-focused approach to cases. Understanding how trauma affects the brain and how the actions that follow can be lifesaving and placement-saving techniques.

204



#### **Writing Effective Court Reports**

*Jacqueline Wilson, Louisiana CASA*

This workshop provides a greater understanding of what should be included in a report to the court and how to present the information. The details really do matter!

205



#### **On Their Own—Preparing Foster Youth for Adulthood**

*Carmen Spooner, LMSW, DCFS*

This interactive session will cover the basics of the YTP (Youth Transition Plan) planning and how everyone involved in the youth's life—including social workers, foster parents, caregivers, CASAs, attorneys—can contribute to successfully preparing youth for independence.

206



#### **Communication with Respect**

*Sheri Hogg, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana*

This workshop will focus on positive communication between parents and children as well as between adults. We will focus on I statements, You messages, the difference between criticism and confrontation, and the art of negotiation and compromise.

### 4:00-5:00pm Workshops

301



#### **Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities (REPEAT)**

*Murelle Harrison, Ph.D.*

The workshop will focus on reported findings of evidence-based methods for reducing mental, emotional and behavioral disorders among youth. Discussion of implementation and evaluation will be included.

302



#### **Mandated Reporting and Permissive Reporting**

*Linda Carter, DCFS*

Mandated reporters play a crucial role in helping to keep children safe by identifying and reporting suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. This workshop will help the mandated reporter learn their rights and obligations as a mandated reporter. In turn, mandated reporters will help keep children safe and build stronger families.

303



#### **Big Momma's Chair: From the Company Furniture to the Kitchen Table (REPEAT)**

*LaDonna Wattley, LCSW*

A frank discussion for moving beyond the polite responses to open, real sharing. Do you struggle with gaining family members' trust? Do you desire to interact more effectively? Cultural differences do not have to be a barrier to great service delivery.

## October 28 (Continued)

### 4:00-5:00pm Workshops (continued)

304

#### **Working Together To Achieve Better Outcomes for Children—DCFS, CASA & Foster Parents**



*Christian Schade, Youth Service Bureau CASA, Jennifer Brimer, Foster Parent, and Lydia Godbolt, DCFS*

A panel discussion focusing on the unique roles of each as a team member working for the best interest of children. How effective communication and collaboration are helping to achieve the best outcomes for children in foster care.

305

#### **Using Social Media to Recruit CASA Volunteers**



*Dennis Lomonaco, Jefferson CASA*

Tools and techniques for using the internet for social good. What are some of the best practices and some of the things to NOT do? A great jump start for your social media campaign.

306

#### **Build Your Courtroom Testimony Skills**



*Nzinga Hill, JD, Orleans Parish Public Defender's Office and Romona Jordan, JD, Mental Health Advocacy Center*

Never enter court unprepared to testify again. In this interactive session, you will learn the intricacies of "witness prep," which will equip you to effectively prepare required information and teach you to testify with authority.

## October 29

8:30—10:00am



#### **Together We Can Welcome**

*Senator Mary Landrieu (Invited) and TWC Steering Committee Members*

#### **General Session—including Children in Court**

*Linda Britton, American Bar Association—Center for Children and the Court and Rebecca May Ricks, Mental Health Advocacy Center*

Children should be included in cases about them. They deserve to be heard and now they are federally mandated to be included! Learn more about how to work with the new laws, perceived school issues, and other barriers that have been thrown up to prevent children from attending court. Gain new tools and techniques for implementation.

### 10:15-11:45am Workshops

401

#### **Working with Indian Child Welfare Act—Do you know the law?**



*Judge Anne Simon, Louisiana Supreme Court—Court Improvement Fellow*

The laws of the Indian Child Welfare Act sometimes supercede the child welfare laws of the state—do you know when this applies? Do you ask about tribal membership in each case you handle? A frank discussion of recent decisions and laws concerning child welfare cases.

402

#### **Permanency Planning—The New Training Curriculum**



*Mark Harris, JD, LA Supreme Court-Court Improvement Project and Revonda Kirby, Louisiana CASA*

An exploration of the new curriculum being developed and rolled out in Louisiana to address permanency planning—for social workers, court staff, judges and attorneys.

## October 29 (continued)

### 10:15-11:45am Workshops

- 403 Identifying Polyvictimization and Trauma Among Court-Involved Youth**  
*Stephen Phillipi, LSU Health Sciences Center*  
 Many children and youth find themselves involved in multiple court/system jurisdictions. How do we identify trauma and provide resources when there are cases that cross systems? How do we prevent further trauma?
- 404 Making the Most Out of Technological Advances in Child Welfare Work**  
*E. Jerry Barrilleaux and Katie Castille, SW Student Interns with DCFS—SELU*  
 This presentation will discuss the benefits and the downfalls of technological advances for child welfare workers. Tips and tools will be provided for using technology to stay safe and be productive in the field.
- 405 Effectively Engaging Fathers and Improving Child Outcomes**  
*Gregory N. Rattler, Jr., MPH, New Orleans Fatherhood Consortium and Anthony Gabriel, Educational Consultant, Gabrteach/Gabrworks*  
 Attendees will learn what issues affect how fathers interact with most family/social service programs. Attendees will also learn about best practices and strategies to get minority fathers involved in fatherhood programming. Interactive discussion concerning how we can effect more involvement in the face of societal, economic, and psychological challenges as they try to reclaim roles in or out of the family as the father.
- 406 Faith in Families—Public/Private Partnerships**  
*Kaaren Hebert, LSCW, DCFS*  
 This session will explore what the Faith in Families is, where it is operating, how it could be replicated or expanded and other partnership programming currently being undertaken by DCFS.
- 407 New Trends in Substance Abuse**  
*Lynn Reimer, ACT on Drugs and Ronald Holmes, M.D.*  
 This workshop will provide valuable training regarding trends in alcohol abuse, synthetic marijuana, the problems marijuana presents, and an overview of the societal impact of drug abuse in communities.
- 408 Mandated Reporting and Permissive Reporting**  
*Linda Carter, DCFS*  
 Mandated reporters play a crucial role in helping to keep children safe by identifying and reporting suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. This workshop will help the mandated reporter learn their rights and obligations as a mandated reporter. In turn, mandated reporters will help keep children safe and build stronger families. (REPEAT)
- 409 Focus on Transgender Youth**  
*Kim Pearson, TransYouth Family Allies*  
 How do we create an environment where traumatized children can feel safe and can work through identity matters, such as the disclosures of transgender feelings. Children need to feel safe to share concerns and fears—how can we balance this for them? Discuss, obtain tools and learn more!

## October 29 (continued)

### Wednesday Lunch



Noon to 1:30pm

You must have a ticket to attend all luncheons—make sure to register for the luncheon, if you plan to attend.

#### Building Bridges & Creating Successful Partnerships for Children

*Lucas Daniel Boyce, NBA Executive Management—Orlando Magic and Former Foster Youth, Author of Living Proof: From Foster Care to the White House and the NBA*

In order to be successful as a unit, we must be selfless. Each of us, through our individual gifts, must do our part to contribute to the whole. No more. No less. Being a strong team member requires resolute commitment and unwavering dedication. You're either in or out. Lucas will cover the four building blocks of strong and cohesive team building. With the NBA and its best teams as a guide, he will discuss what it takes for organizations, leaders, families and communities to build unbreakable bonds that foster success.



### 1:45-3:15pm Workshops

#### 501 Implementing The Nurturing Parents Program

*Amanda Brunson, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana.*

What is the Nurturing Parents Program? What are the key components and when should it be considered as a model for implementation? Learn more about this evidence-based parenting program and how it can be utilized in various locations.

#### 502 My Brother, My Sister – Words I heard, but didn't fully understand.

*Revonda Kirby, JD, Louisiana CASA*

Children who come into foster care or who are adopted often find themselves separated from their siblings. Approximately 70% of children in foster care in the United States also have a sibling in care. Research and experience show that preserving sibling connections is of extreme importance. Trainees will learn about the importance of these relationships and how to advocate for siblings to be placed together and, in situations where this is not possible, for maintenance and nurturing of sibling connections.

#### 503 ICPC Changes and Trends—Are You Keeping Up?

*Leola McClinton, DCFS*

New guidelines and rules have been implemented in the last few years and even more recently—have you kept up with the changes? Learn more about the current ICPC trends and what to be on the alert for in your work.

#### 504 Providing Care for Juvenile Trafficking Victims

*Courtney Eichelberger, Ph.D., LMSW and Beth Green, LA Baptist Children's Home*  
Outreach and care for juveniles who have been involved in trafficking adds a whole new dimension to the victimization layers that must be addressed. Learn more about strategies used to work with youth victims. Discuss risk factors associated with youth and ways in which these factors can be addressed by foster/adoptive families.

#### 505 Building a Strategic Plan for Children & Families in Louisiana

*Sharon McKinley, Child Welfare Information Gateway and Anthony Ellis, DCFS*

It is important to stay abreast of emerging trends, policies, information on evidence-based practice, research and statistics to plan and produce positive outcomes. How can you find the right information? Learn where you can receive free, reliable and up-to-date information, resources and technical assistance to plan for Louisiana's children.

## October 29 (continued)

### 1:45-3:15pm Workshops

506

#### Family Teaming—Lessons Learned



*Michael Seider, LCSW, 16th Judicial District Transformation Zone and Panel Members*  
This workshop will present an overview of what has been undertaken in the 16th Judicial District, what worked, what didn't and how it can be replicated to other regions.

507

#### Working with Traumatized Children—Toxic Stress



*Melissa Middleton, Ph.D., Tulane University*

This workshop is designed to assist professionals and advocates working with young children to identify sources of toxic stress, to learn about the impact of toxic stress on children's functioning, and to learn about ways to remediate the impact of toxic stress on young children in foster care.

508

#### Building Your Courtroom Testimony Skills



*Johnny L. Sanders, Assistant District Attorney's Office, 4th Judicial District*

Never enter court unprepared to testify again. In this interactive session, you will learn the intricacies of "witness prep", which will help you effectively prepare required information and teach you to testify with authority.

509

#### Social Work Ethics



*Corie Hebert, Ph.D. & Linda Deamer, MSW—Southeastern Louisiana University*

Review of current issues in ethics as they apply to social workers. This workshop will include discussions concerning practical application of ethics based on case studies and the implications in child welfare decisions. Meets the NASW-LA ethics requirement. **This is a 3 hour class—do not sign up for a 600 series session.**

### 3:30-5:00pm Workshops

601

#### The Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership & CSOC



*Donna Nola-Ganey, Magellan Health Services and Janel Dugas, LPCX-S, LPP-S, NCC, Magellan Health Services*

Learn about the LA Behavioral Health Partnership and the Coordinated System of Care, which are multi-agency initiatives designed to meet the needs of children and youth with significant behavioral issues and/or co-occurring disorders. Attendees will receive referral resources, information on the educational impact, use of tools and the Child/Family Team Process.

602

#### Safety and Permanency Matter!



*S. Mark Harris, JD, LA Supreme Court and Revonda Kirby, JD, Louisiana CASA*

A review of the basics of permanency, timing issues and the decision-making process for children in care. When is it safe to return children? Tools, schedules and guidelines will be shared.

603

#### Effectively Engaging Fathers and Improving Child Outcomes (REPEAT)



*Gregory N. Rattler, Jr., MPH, New Orleans Fatherhood Consortium and Anthony Gabriel, Educational Consultant, Gabrteach/Gabrworks*

Attendees will learn what issues affect how fathers interact with most family/social service programs. Attendees will also learn about best practices and strategies to get minority fathers involved in fatherhood programming. Interactive discussion concerning how we can effect more involvement in the face of societal, economic, and psychological challenges as they try to reclaim roles in or out of the family as the father.

## October 29 (continued)

### 3:30-5:00pm Workshops

- 604 Nuts and Bolts Discussion: Juvenile Trafficking Prevention Curriculum**  
*Courtney Eichelberger, Ph.D., LMSW and Beth Green, LA Baptist Children's Home*  
 Join the discussion about the nuts and bolts of evidence-based model programs to work with juvenile trafficking, whether starting a new program or considering expansion.
- 605 Ethical Issues for Legal Professionals**  
*Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Acadiana Legal Services Corporation*  
 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, children, DCFS or district attorneys. Discussion of ethics opinions and case authority will be used to illustrate challenges presented. This session fulfills the MCLE requirement.
- 606 Child Welfare Law: The Intersection of Immigration and Foster Care**  
*Howard Davidson, JD, American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law*  
 A navigation through the child welfare laws that intersect between immigration and foster care: CAPTA, Title IV-E, IV-B, protection under violence against women acts, special immigrant status for juveniles and more.
- 607 Permanency Quest: Nebraska's Pilot Program for CASA Families**  
*Beverly Patitz, Ph.D., and RuAnn Root, CASA of South Central Nebraska*  
 Participants will learn about program overview, startup steps, struggles, mistakes and successes. Participants will be able to ask questions about the model and implementation and share local successes in the area of trauma-focused courts and programs.
- 608 Bullies and Other Social Nightmares for Foster Care Youth**  
*Lt. Dina Theriot, Juvenile Service Bureau, St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office*  
 Protecting children who have already been exposed to trauma is difficult when bullying and other social issues arise. A frank discussion of what can be done to help protect the children and youth in foster care from additional harm.

6:30-9:30pm



### Awards Night at Vermilionville

**You must pre-register! Please make sure to sign up for the awards event , if you plan to attend.**

The Annual Awards Night at Vermilionville will be filled with music, food and dancing. We will honor the two Together We Can Award recipients at the evening event. This is a fun night of networking, relaxation and sharing each other's company. The band will be Terry and the Zydeco Bad Boys—they are always fun to listen and dance to. Enjoy the local food! Spend some time with friends and enjoy networking.



**Award  
Nominations  
Accepted  
Thru  
September 23!**



## October 30

**8:30-9:30am**

**701 Come Meet Hayward, A Courtroom Dog**



*Lori Banks, Joelle Henderson and Hayward, Child Advocacy Services*

Hayward is a facility dog who provides advocacy and support to victims and families at the CAC. Attendees will learn what a facility dog is, how facility dogs are utilized at the CAC, and how to implement a facility dog program in your organization.

**702 What Foster Youth Have to Say About Permanency**



*Christy Tate, LCSW, DCFS*

This session will cover the results of a project done with Louisiana Foster Youth to determine their view of what is important to them in permanent connections. It will also cover things that adults can do to be a permanent connection for a youth.

**703 Helping Lawyers and Judges Communicate with Child Victims**



*Judge M. Lauren Lemmon, 29th Judicial District Court, St. Charles Parish*

Judge Lemmon will present tips and techniques for effectively reaching out to youth in and out of the courtroom. How to change the question to open avenues of trust and sharing so that the barriers of youth, street language, courtroom language and body language are not insurmountable.

**704 Child Sex Offenders Using Technology to Exploit and Abuse Children**



*John Luke Walker, U.S. Assistant District Attorney, Western District of Louisiana*

Insight and research gathered through cases against sex offenders who utilize computer technology to reach children. The challenges of technology change the search constantly. Learn more about how they work to stay ahead of the offenders. Tips for protecting the children of Louisiana.

**705 Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities (REPEAT)**



*Murelle Harrison, Ph.D.*

The workshop will focus on reported findings of evidence-based methods for reducing mental, emotional and behavioral disorders among youth. Discussion of implementation and evaluation will be included.

**706 On Their Own: Preparing Foster Youth for Adulthood (REPEAT)**



*Carmen Spooner, LMSW, DCFS*

This interactive session will cover the basics of the YTP (Youth Transition Plan) planning and how everyone involved in the youth's life—including social workers, foster parents, caregivers, CASAs, attorneys—can contribute to successfully preparing youth for independence.

**707 Special Education: Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities**



*Debra Weinberg, Advocacy Center*

This workshop addresses the legal rights of students with disabilities in public schools. Specifically, it will address eligibility for special education, services available to students in special education, procedural protections for these students, and how to advocate for or seek an advocate for a child with special education issues.

**708 Identification of Issues in Juvenile Human Trafficking (Intro Level)**



*Tyson Elliott, International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators*

An introductory session to the topic of human trafficking and the victimization of youth. How do they entice and keep youth? What does the data reflect about participants? Information about identifying risks for Louisiana youth.

## October 30 (continued)

**8:30-9:30am**

**709**



### **A Special Kind of Grief: A Foster Child Leaves the Home**

*Corie Hebert, Ph.D., Southeastern Louisiana University*

A frank discussion about the grief experienced by foster parents when a child they have been caring for leaves the home. A review of specific grief theories and how they apply to these situations and the very real loss foster families experience.

**710**



### **The Importance of Birth Families for Foster & Adopted Children**

*Patrick Morris, LCSW and Paula Davis, LCSW, Catholic Charities*

Child welfare has the challenge of considering the best interests of all, with primary focus on the child. Grief and loss of each individual impacts how families blend. This interactive workshop will explore ways those involved in child welfare systems can facilitate safe and healthy interactions with birth family members.

**9:45-10:45 am**

**801**



### **Come Meet Hayward, A Courtroom Dog (REPEAT)**

*Lori Banks, Joelle Henderson and Hayward, Child Advocacy Services*

Hayward is a facility dog who provides advocacy and support to victims and families at the CAC. Attendees will learn what a facility dog is, how facility dogs are utilized at the CAC, and how to implement a facility dog program in your organization.

**802**



### **Voices of Louisiana Foster Youth Project**

*Christy Tate, LCSW, DCFS*

This session will discuss a project that was done recently by Louisiana Foster Youth regarding developing trainings and briefs for adults on 3 topics: 1) What Louisiana Foster Youth Have to Say Regarding Their Sensitivity and Privacy; 2) I Have a Voice-I Must Be Heard: The Voices of Louisiana Foster Youth; and 3) Louisiana Foster Youth's Recommendations for Adults to Ensure Adequate Transitions from Foster Care.

**803**



### **Safe Families—Defining and Replicating Across Louisiana**

*Barbara Thompson, LCSW, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Baton Rouge*

Safe Families uses screened and trained volunteer families to provide temporary respite for children, mentoring and support for their families. Catholic Charities is a partner with DCFS to provide a safety net for families in crisis. Learn more about the model and how it could be replicated in other areas to support families.

**804**



### **Forensic Interviews Explained**

*Erika Simon, DCFI, Family and Youth Counseling Agency*

This session will provide a basic level of understanding of the different types of child abuse, some of the signs and symptoms of abuse, and how beneficial it is for child victims of abuse to go to a CAC for forensic interviews to tell their story of abuse.

**805**



### **The Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership & CSOC (REPEAT)**

*Donna Nola-Ganey, Magellan Health Services and Janel Dugas, LPCX-S, LPP-S, NCC, Magellan Health Services*

Learn about the LA Behavioral Health Partnership and the Coordinated System of Care, which are multi-agency initiatives designed to meet the needs of children and youth with significant behavioral issues and/or co-occurring disorders. Attendees will receive referral resources, information on the educational impact, use of tools and the Child/Family Team Process.

## October 30 (continued)

**9:45-10:45 am**

**806**



### **Working Together To Achieve Better Outcomes for Children—DCFS, CASA & Foster Parents (REPEAT)**

*Christian Schade, Youth Service Bureau CASA, Jennifer Brimer, Foster Parent, and Lydia Godbolt, DCFS*

A panel discussion focusing on the unique roles of each as a team member working for the best interest of children. How effective communication and collaboration are helping to achieve the best outcomes for children in foster care.

**807**



### **Introduction to the Disproportionate Minority Representation Curriculum**

*Patsy Wilkerson, Consultant and Mark Harris, JD, Louisiana Supreme Court*

Through a partnership between the Louisiana Supreme Court and DCFS-CJA Task Force, a new curriculum is being developed to address the systemic issue of disproportionate representation of minorities in child welfare and court systems.

**808**



### **Current Trends in Intervention—Human Trafficking Critical Points (Advanced Level)**

*Tyson Elliott, International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators*



What are the current national and state trends in intervention methods for those youths who have fallen victim to human trafficking. The updated debate over prostitution and victimization for minor participants. Programmatic issues for addressing trauma after intervention.

**809**



### **An Introduction to Psychotropic Medications**

*Pamela McPherson, M.D.*



A discussion of use and abuse of psychotropic medications with foster youth. A review of the medications used and behaviors they are designed to help improve. What are the challenges of medication dosage, placement changes and education situations.

**810**



### **Aging Out of Foster Care—What is Next?**

*Dana Hunter, Ph.D. Candidate, LSU School of Social Work*

This session will review real-life stories and national statistics to highlight the challenges that youth and young adults face when they age out of foster care. Policies and empirical evidence from data analysis will be shared to demonstrate the factors that are most closely associated with the educational attainment of young adults exiting the foster care system.

**11:00am-12:00 pm**

**901**



### **Legal Professionalism**

*Rebecca May Ricks, Mental Health Advocacy Center*

A practical approach to working in the legal profession, using case studies, a discussion of best practices for representing the client, whether the client is the child or the parent. This session fulfills MCLE requirement.

**902**



### **What Foster Youth Have to Say About Permanency (REPEAT)**

*Christy Tate, LCSW, DCFS*

This session will cover the results of a project done with Louisiana Foster Youth to determine their view of what is important to them in permanent connections. It will also cover things that adults can do to be a permanent connection for a youth.

## October 30 (Continued)

11:00am-12:00 pm

### 903 **Back to the Basics of Permanency**



*Linda Britton, JD, American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law*

A discussion which reviews the basics, the timing guidelines for permanency hearings and decisions, the laws and the evidence-based rationale behind it all. Child welfare law as applied in the best interest of the child.

### 904 **Addressing Child Sexual Abuse—Lessons Learned**



*Stacie LeBlanc, M.Ed., JD, New Orleans CAC and Audrey Hepburn CARE Center and Ellie F. Wetsman, MD, FAAP, Audrey Hepburn CARE Center*

Child sexual abuse is a prevalent social problem that touches the lives of many children. With over 35 years of combined experience in the field of child abuse, the presenters will provide detailed and current information regarding the dynamics, evaluation, investigation and prevention of child sexual abuse.

### 905 **Protective Factors and Risk Factors: We Know What They Are—NOW WHAT?**



*Judy Harrison, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund and Joan Sharp, National Alliance for Children's Trust Fund*

A comparative discussion about protective factors and risk factors as applicable in child welfare, both in prevention and intervention. Utilizing the risk factors in combination with evidence-based models can produce positive outcomes—learn more about challenges and implementation ideas.

### 906 **Concurrent Permanency Planning**



*Jacqueline Wilson, Louisiana CASA and Beverly Patitz, Ph.D., Nebraska CASA*

A review of permanency planning from the viewpoint of CASA volunteers. What do the various legal phases stand for and what is expected from a CASA volunteer? How does your role as a CASA fit into the big picture of child well-being?

### 907 **Special Education: Educational Rights of Children with Disabilities (REPEAT)**



*Debra Weinberg, Advocacy Center*

This workshop addresses the legal rights of students with disabilities in public schools. Specifically, it will address eligibility for special education, services available to students in special education, procedural protections for these students, and how to advocate for or seek an advocate for a child with special education issues.

### 908 **STOP—First Steps for First Responders in Child Abuse Cases**



*Lt. Dina Theriot, Juvenile Service Bureau, St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office*

This workshop is primarily for law enforcement and others who want to understand the onsite processing of a case as it first develops. It will review the basic steps and what not to do in the investigation of child abuse cases.

### 909 **Psychotropic Medications—Advocating on Behalf of Foster Youth**



*Pamela McPherson, M.D.*

A review of medications, interactions, diagnoses, and the critical importance of psychotherapy/counseling in conjunction with treatment by medication and its impact on children and youth in the foster care system.

### 910 **Helping the Helpers: Managing Secondary Traumatic Stress**



*Joy Osofsky, Ph.D., LSU Health Center School of Medicine, Dept. of Pediatrics*

Those who encounter the daily situations of child abuse, through their work in the field or as foster parents, are often subjected to secondary traumatic stress. Learn management techniques for coping and stress management.

## October 30 (Continued)

### Thursday Lunch

12:15pm—2:00pm

**You must have a ticket to attend all luncheons—make sure to register for the luncheon, if you plan to attend.**

### Closing Comments

Suzy Sonnier, DCFS Secretary

### Keynote: The Intersection of Safety, Permanency and Child Well-Being

Bryan Samuels, Executive Director, Chapin Hall, former Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. At ACYF, Commissioner Samuels made the social and emotional well-being of vulnerable children and youth his top priority. He has aligned policies and funding to support healing and recovery for children and youth who have experienced trauma, with an emphasis on increasing access to evidence-based interventions. Under his leadership, ACYF is leading a Department-wide initiative to strengthen management of psychotropic medications for children in foster care and expand the use of effective interventions.

### Overview of TWC 2013 Fees

The Together We Can conference is a great value for your training dollar. The fee is based on the number of days you plan to attend and may be discounted if you register early. The fee includes morning coffee/pastries, luncheons, afternoon refreshments, the evening reception, and your conference materials.

#### EARLY BIRD RATE

##### By September 30th

Monday through Wednesday (Oct 28-30) \$220  
 Monday Only (Oct 28) \$105  
 Tuesday Only (Oct 29) \$120  
 Wednesday Only (Oct 30) \$105  
 Monday and Tuesday (Oct 28-29) \$195  
 Tuesday and Wednesday (Oct 29-30) \$195

#### REGULAR RATE

##### October 1st to October 18th

Monday through Wednesday (Oct 28-30) \$270  
 Monday Only (Oct 28) \$130  
 Tuesday Only (Oct 29) \$145  
 Wednesday Only (Oct 30) \$130  
 Monday and Tuesday (Oct 28-29) \$245  
 Tuesday and Wednesday (Oct 29-30) \$245

**Registration from October 18th to October 22nd will be assessed a late fee** and can be paid through the internet registration system. *The online registration will close for payments at midnight on October 22nd.* All registrations after that date must be paid at the door with a check or credit card. This service is available only for those whose schedule cannot be planned and is not for standard use—the late fee is quite high!

*You will not be registered for luncheons if you register late or on-site. NO EXCEPTIONS!*

QUESTIONS: Susan Shaffette and staff members of Team Dynamics coordinate the annual TWC Conference. Phone: 985-624-3514 Email: latwc@yahoo.com or susan@teamdynamicsweb.com.

## 11th Annual Conference

### Our Conference Sponsors:

- Louisiana Supreme Court - Court Improvement Program
- Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services - Children's Justice Act Task Force
- Louisiana CASA Association
- Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
- Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
- National Association of Social Workers - Louisiana Chapter
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana
- Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association

### Conference Partners:

- American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law
- Chapin Hall
- Child Welfare Information Gateway
- Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- National Alliance for Children's Trust & Prevention Funds

### Our Conference Steering Committee:

#### (Alphabetically Listed)

Faye Brock, LA Foster & Adoptive Parent Association  
Amanda Brunson, Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana  
Jan Byland, DCFS—CJA Task Force  
Tonyalea Elam, DCFS  
Walter Fahr, DCFS  
Eileen Fourroux, DCFS—CJA Task Force  
Judge Ernestine Gray, Orleans Juvenile Court  
Kären Hallstrom, Louisiana Supreme Court  
Mark Harris, Louisiana Supreme Court—CIP  
Judy Harrison, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund  
Alex Hazlaris, Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana  
Vonnie Hawkins, Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault  
Peggy Kirby, LA Foster & Adoptive Parent Association  
Revonda Kirby, Louisiana CASA Association  
Myra Magee, Louisiana Foster & Adoptive Parent Association  
Sabrina Magee, Youth Representative  
Andrew Shealy, ADA, 3rd Judicial District  
Carmen Weisner, NASW-Louisiana Chapter  
Jacqueline Wilson, Louisiana CASA Association  
John Wyble, Louisiana CASA Association

## BASICS



### Hotel Info

The conference is being held at the **Lafayette Hilton, located at 1521 W. Pinhook Road, Lafayette.** Special room rates have been arranged for early booking within the group block. The rate for two double beds is \$109 and for a king bed is \$119. **Our group code is TWE.** Please make your own reservations by calling 1-800-HILTONS (445-8667). *The group block will expire on October 7th or earlier if the block is filled.* The direct phone number for the Lafayette Hilton is 337-235-6111. *For online reservations within the block, [click here.](#)*

When the Hilton hotel block fills, we will post a list of cooperating hotels for overflow purposes on the conference website: [www.latwc.com](http://www.latwc.com).

When you receive your conference registration confirmation in your email, you will get a reminder of hotel options and phone/web links in that message.

### Transfers

Transfers of registration will be accepted until October 18th. After that date you may attend in someone's place, but you will need to check-in with their name and then complete your credit request with your own name. **To transfer:** go online from your confirmation email and log in—enter the new attendee's name and information. Save!

### Cancellation Or Refund

***There are no cancellations or refunds after registration. Please try to find a substitute attendee and transfer the registration to them. See above for transfers.***

### CLE/CEU

CLE and CEU (NASW-LA) credits will be offered to attendees. Participants who attend all conference offerings can earn up to 14 hours of credit. There are opportunities offered in both legal and social work ethics and legal professionalism. Forms will be available onsite and CEU certificates will be emailed after the conference. CLE credits will be submitted electronically after the event.

**REGISTER:**

OR

**SCAN:**



**WEB:**

<http://www.regonline.com/TWC13>

<http://www.latwc.com>

**QUESTIONS?** Call Susan or Liz 985-624-3514 or email: [latwc@yahoo.com](mailto:latwc@yahoo.com)