CONFERENCE INVITATION

23rd Annual
National Foster Care Conference

“Footsteps to the Future”

2016 National Foster Care Conference
May 25-27 ~ Orlando, Florida
Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Foster Care and Adoption
FOOTSTEPS TO THE FUTURE

Conference Hotel

Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort
Orlando, FL

Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort
12205 S Apopka Vineland Road, Orlando, FL 32836
1-407-239-0444

Hotel charges are not included in conference registration fee.
All hotel reservations should be made directly with the Sheraton Lake Buena Resort. Attendees should reference “Daniel Memorial Institute” when making reservations. Online reservations can also be made by visiting the conference web page.

$123.00 per night (single or double) - Reservations must be made by Tuesday, May 3, 2016 in order to guarantee the discounted group rate. After that date, guest rooms will be released back to the hotel and accepted on a space available basis only. Discounted parking fees: $7.00 self park

Pre-Conference Institute

Wednesday - May 25

9:00am - 3:00pm  Registration/Information Booth Open
(Continental Breakfast Provided)

10:00am  Pre-Conference Begins

Noon - 1:00pm  Lunch (on your own)

3:00pm  Pre-Conference concludes

Hope for Healing: Understanding Trauma and Attachment

When we hear foster parents say that they have tried everything, and they are ready to give up, chances are they are dealing with trauma and attachment issues. These children who are afraid to trust can be some of the most difficult to understand and to parent, yet there are therapeutic parenting practices that will make a difference. Please join this interactive workshop to learn more about attachment and how to help your children by knowing how to parent them and how to choose a good trauma informed therapist.

This presentation will focus on the cycle of trauma and brain development and therapeutic care-giving techniques. It is based on the book “Hope for Healing, A Parent’s Guide to Trauma and Attachment”. Regulation vs. dysregulation will bring insight for teachers, parents and professionals working with youth. A power point presentation with practical examples will be used

Presented by: Mary M. McGowan, ATTACh

Travel Tip: Please bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort. Room temperatures vary greatly.

INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to the 23rd Annual National Foster Care Conference hosted by Daniel Memorial Institute.

I am personally delighted with the array of individuals and agencies that support this important event. We have gathered speakers and educators from around the country to make this the "must attend" foster care event of 2016.

Over the course of the conference, you will learn about exciting program developments and share best practice information. You can attend workshops and discussions addressing the critical issues that affect young people, families and those who serve them, and the actions that lead to results.

I invite you to participate fully in the conference by attending all sessions, taking notes, meeting new people, and most of all, having some fun!

I hope you will join us in Orlando, FL, May 25-27, for “Footsteps to the Future.”

With warm regards,

Jim
thursday - may 26

8:00am - 4:00pm Registration/Information Booth Open
(Continental Breakfast Provided)

9:00am - 9:45am Opening General Session

Keynote Speaker:
Mary M. McGowan
Executive Director, ATTACh
Minneapolis, MN

On Being Human

We each have a story to tell about our lives and what we have learned. From a child brought up in family violence to a single parent of 5 adopted children, my life has been far from boring. Join me as I share lessons learned through humor and personal stories. Mary M. McGowan is currently the Executive Director of The Association for Treatment and Training in The Attachment of Children (ATTACH). She comes to us with years of personal and professional experience. She has worked with the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) doing successful grass roots recruitment for foster and adoptive families and as a post-adoption specialist. She has earned accolades as the National Education Manager for the Professional Association of Treatment Homes (PATH) and is an experienced trainer who teaches and consults locally and nationally.

Educationally, Mary’s under graduate degree is in Psychology with minors in Community Violence Prevention and Child Development, and her graduate work is in Counseling and Psychological Services. Mary holds several National Certificates including Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Family Based Placements (TCIF) from Cornell University, and is a Nationally Certified Family Group Decision Making Facilitator (FGDM).

Mary has fostered many children over 27 years and is an adoptive parent of 5. She is also a Guardian ad Litem (CASA) and has experience with advocacy and success in obtaining services necessary for children. Mary shares her vast experience in an engaging and practical manner.

10:00am - 11:30pm Workshop Sessions A
(Concurrent Sessions)

A-1  A Reason, Season or Lifetime- Helping Children, Foster Parents and Treatment Team Members manage Transitions
Helping a child leave a foster home is just as important as helping a child feel welcome when they first arrive. There are many types of transitions within the child welfare system and all are associated with some type of grief and loss. This presentation will assist foster parents and clinicians in developing the skills needed to facilitate positive transitions for children and manage the complex emotions associated with the transition process.

Presented by: Leslie Serena and Debbie Soares

A-2  A Human Crisis: The Trauma behind Human Trafficking and Child Welfare
This workshop will examine what human trafficking is, how people are lured into it, and the trauma that goes along with it. This presentation will inform the participants of risk factors that are associated with individuals who have been trafficked. It will also address what type of protective factors and self-regulation are needed in order to impact survivors. In addition, participants will learn about the issues surrounding misidentification of survivors and how to prevent a chain reaction of negative outcomes. Participants will also discuss what evidence based therapeutic treatments are best to use with this at risk population.

Presented by: Paula Lupton and Graham Perkovich

A-3  Placement Transitions: A Best Practice Approach
This workshop provides a look at the significant role of placement transitions in supporting a trauma informed system of care for children and families. We will also take a look at best practices and approaches for supporting and creating a culture for trauma sensitive transitions. We will highlight the critical role the judiciary and legal services can play in championing trauma sensitive transitions for parents, caregivers, and children.

Presented by: David Brown, Debra Bass and Trudy Petkovich

A-4  Living In The System
This presentation it will be run by the youth. The presenters will talk about what is like to live and grow up in the child welfare system. They will discuss issues such as depression, being homeless, housing, aging out, etc. This will be a great opportunity for staff to get a first hand look on what it is like to be in the system that we call child welfare.

Presented by: Howard Wingard, Julia Leftwich, Asia Lee and Barshay Stinson

A-5  Mandatory Reporter Training
The Florida Abuse Hotline Mandatory Reporter Training will provide attendees information regarding child abuse, neglect, and abandonment. The training provides the reporter information regarding what to expect during the assessment, the reporter’s role and responsibility, possible indicators that the reporter may see on a daily basis, and also what information is required in order for a report to be accepted.

Presented by: Dolores King and Andre Ousley

11:30am - 12:15pm Lunch (Provided)
12:30pm - 2:00pm Workshop Sessions B
(Concurrent Sessions)

B-1 Passport to Trauma Informed Parenting (Part 1 of 2)
Community Partnership for Children, in conjunction with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, has developed a trauma-informed pre-service training for prospective foster parents. Through the use of video and case studies this workshop will provide an overview of the nine-week course and provide participants with an introduction to the curriculum and its implementation. Participants will hear testimonials from current foster parents on how being trauma-informed has helped them work with challenging behaviors. To be continued in workshop C-1.
Presented by: Jennifer Hill and Lori Bainbridge

B-2 The Family Visit Model: An Innovative Approach to Permanency for Older Foster Youth
This workshop will present Kidsave's Weekend Miracles program, which uses the Family Visit Model to achieve permanency for older foster youth. It will highlight how the program achieves permanency for youth who are open to or ambivalent about adoption, and will explain how the program engages adults who may not be ready to foster/adopt but want to make a difference in a child’s life. Finally, the presentation will discuss replication of the program nationwide.
Presented by: Lauren Reicher Gordon and Sari Weiner

B-3 The Black Male Population: How to meet and Serve their Unique Needs (Part 1 of 2)
This workshop gives service providers insight on how to meet and serve the unique needs of black males. It delivers current, cutting edge information and real solutions. Special attention is given to mentoring, an intervention strategy that has been found to have a positive impact with at-risk groups. In addition to getting an overview of 10 promising mentoring programs for black males, participants uncover the keys to designing successful initiatives. To be continued in workshop C-3.
Presented by: Alfonzo "Al" Bailey

B-4 Acceleration of the Foster Parent Licensing Process
This workshop provides a streamline approach to the Foster Care licensing process. Early detection is identified for disqualifiers and concerns prior to attending Pride, foster parent training. The total time frame for the licensing process has been cut back from 29 weeks to 15 weeks. This allows for the licensing worker to produce quality work at a faster pace. Overall the agency is able to expedite the licensing process and graduate Quality Foster Parents more frequently.
Presented by: Myra Henry and Tiffany Ball

B-5 Connect 4 Good
The single most important factor in determining positive long-term outcomes for youth leaving care is whether or not the youth has a permanent connection to a caring adult, an adult he/she can turn to for help, someone who is unconditionally committed to that youth. Family Finding works to help locate and engage caring adults so that every youth has connections to people who care about them. This workshop will provide an overview of the Family Finding model and share specific tools that can be used to help locate and engage caring adults for every youth.
Presented by: Tess Mahnken-Weatherspoon

2:15pm - 3:45pm Workshop Sessions C
(Concurrent Sessions)

C-1 Passport to Trauma Informed Parenting (Part 2 of 2)
Continuation of workshop B-1

C-2 Vicarious Trauma and Stress in the Helping Profession
When working with traumatized youth, vicarious trauma and stress are “part of the job”. This workshop will highlight the impacts of vicarious trauma, how to manage those effects through self-care, and even challenge how self-care and our views of stress impact our work with youth and our own health.
Presented by: Casi Knowles

C-3 The Black Male Population: How to meet and Serve their Unique Needs (Part 2 of 2)
Continuation of workshop B-3.

C-4 Unpack The Bags!
Youth enter care with lots of "baggage" from their physical, emotional, mental and behavioral past. This interactive session will get you up and moving, allowing you to learn techniques to help children "unpack their bags" while providing practical information and therapeutic techniques to use when working with children and teens in foster care. The session will provide usable information, motivation and tools that are adaptable to a variety of age groups, focusing on helping children, caretakers and professionals identify the root cause and implement goal-focused strategies that the client will embrace, learn from and grow.
Presented by: Lynda Carmouche

C-5 From the HEART: Collaborative Supportive Housing Model for Child Welfare and Homeless Families
This workshop will provide an overview of the innovative collaboration utilized by a local community to establish a supportive housing initiative for families with child welfare involvement experiencing homelessness. Specific planning, implementation, and evaluation strategies of the HEART Project in Broward County, Florida will be presented. The HEART Project is part of a national demonstration designed to pilot subsidized housing coupled with intensive supportive services and evidence-based interventions with the most vulnerable and at-risk families. HEART employs programming to strengthen family self-sufficiency and well-being, prevent foster care placement, and increase reunification.
Presented by: Andria Dewson and Stephen Ferrante

Presented by: Andria Dewson and Stephen Ferrante
friday - may 27

8:00am - 3:30pm  Information Booth Open
(Continental Breakfast Provided)

9:00am - 9:45am  Opening General Session

Keynote Speakers:
Eric Rowles, Leading To Change
Charlotte, North Carolina

ROCKSTAR NATION:  Your Tour Starts Today!

No one else knows YOU better.  No one else has lived through your life lesson better.  YOU are the expert, YOU are the hero, YOU are the Hope that we have been searching for!  Don’t miss this FAST-PACED, music and laughter filled closing session that will celebrate the ROCKSTARZ among us and end this conference on a loud bang!

10:00am - 11:30am Workshop Sessions D
(Concurrent Sessions)

D-1  The Mindset Of A Teen
The mindset of a teen training focuses on some of the challenges our teens are faced with in today’s society. Education, self-esteem, acceptance, relationship, identity, decision, bullying, norms/value, just to name a few.
Presented by:  Robens Chery

D-2  20 Tools in 75 minutes:  Real Tools To Raise Our Youth Engagement Game!
Get ready for a lightning round of proven tools and strategies to raise your youth engagement game. We'll cover the BEST of technology, program design, media, funding and even youth and adult communication methods. You'll leave with your head spinning, a handout of resources, and NEW ideas to take back to your community! By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to identify five new technology tools that they can use to increase communication with participants and custodians, five new program design methods AND five new, material free activities that can enhance their youth engagement work in 30 minute bursts.
Presented by:  Eric Rowles

D-3  More than just a bed: A comprehensive overview of placement options for dependent youth with disabilities
With growing needs and limited options, securing appropriate placements for youth with disabilities can be a daunting task. This workshop provides attendees with a comprehensive overview of placements available for these youth. Attendees will gain insight and strategies on eligibility, treatments, securing funding, achieving permanency, and will engage in an interactive case study showing effective placement stabilization methods. The targeted audience for this presentation will be DCF, GALs, AALs, CMOs, parents, children, caregivers, and other active participants.
Presented by:  Coravious Cowart and Abigail Adkins

D-4  Caring for the Hurting: A Training for Adoptive/Foster Parents
This training offers information about how children create bonds, what has changed in their brains, the importance of the first few weeks in setting the stage, and what foster/adoptive parents can do to effectively help the hurting child.
Presented by:  Kenny Tello

D-5  Raising 5 Children With Disabilities and Remaining Sane
This interactive workshop will provide the life stories of 5 children with disabilities, including 4 adopted, 3 of whom were foster children. Each of her children have unique mental health issues as the result of early childhood experiences and heredity; reactive attachment disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit disorder, sensory integration issues, obsessive compulsive disorder, Asperger's, Dissociative Identity Disorder and psychosis. Their dramatic stories of success are educational and heartwarming. Linda's techniques for "remaining sane" while raising these challenging but delightful children will be shared. Her motto is "If you look for the goodness in children, good things will happen."
Presented by:  Linda Hughes

11:30am - 12:15pm Lunch (Provided)

12:30pm - 2:00pm Workshop Sessions E
(Concurrent Sessions)

E-1  System Fatigue: Assisting Aged our Youth with a Smooth Transition
This workshop equips participants with sure-fire strategies to help youth leaving the foster care system to succeed. In addition to discovering ways to restore hope and dignity and to make a smooth transition, participants receive tips on how to change language to improve communication and outcomes. A question and answer session allows the audience to get feedback.
Presented by:  Alfonzo "Al" Bailey

E-2  Certification Standards for Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes  (Part 1 of 2)
Legislative overview and Florida's implementation of the Safe Harbor Act which allows for the decriminalization of human trafficking victims through a victim centered approach. The expansion of the Safe Harbor Act through HB 7141 also identifies the minimum standards for services providers and foster parents desiring to care for identified human trafficking victims. To be continued in workshop F-2.
Presented by:  Tisha Pierre

E-3  Innovative, Data Driven, Recruitment Techniques
Nationally, an estimated 40% to 60% of foster children, placed in therapeutic foster homes, disrupt out of their foster homes within the first year of placement. Devereux's Therapeutic Foster Care's average disruption rate is between 9% to 11%. The success of the program is directly related to the "evangelical" and supportive
culture of its staff and foster parents as well as innovative and data driven recruitment techniques. This workshop will help you to gain insight on how the culture of your agency and the recruitment techniques you utilize can not only dramatically improve the quality of your agency, but help you attract and maintain quality foster homes.

Presented by: Tim Kelley and Ruth Farrell

E-4 Building a Pipeline for Education: Fostering Success through Strategic Priorities, Planning & Partnerships

Participants will leave this session with shared knowledge and learning outcomes for current and former foster youth pursing higher education. During this session presenters will share the progress that has taken place in Ohio over the past few years. The development of positive relationships between colleges and state agencies have created a partnership that is now addressing the dismal rate of former foster youth success in college. You will leave this presentation with a model of collaboration that can be duplicated in your state.

Presented by: William Murray IV, Kimberly Rhyan and Mindy Hughes

E-5 Creating Secure Attachments for Children and Families in Post-Adoption through the Powers of Play

Professionals and parents are becoming increasingly aware of the effects of trauma on the brain and the impact on the interpersonal functioning and relationships of adopted children. As we have acknowledged the need to be trauma informed, we are further challenged to assist families in post-adoption in the healing process. Conscious attention must be paid to the attachment formation of adoptive families. The use of play, the child's natural language, allows the parent and child to connect in a non-threatening manner. Family play facilitates feelings expression, attunement and esteem building.

Presented by: Amy Iannitelli and Sarah Allen

2:15pm - 3:45pm Workshop Sessions F
(Concurrent Sessions)

F-1 Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool

The Florida Human Trafficking Screening Tool is required to be used by the Florida Department of Children and Families child protective investigators, dependency case management and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice intake screeners. With the objectives of better identifying trafficking victims and informing service development within the state of Florida, the tool informs treatment recommendations at an individual level and enhances data collection at an aggregate level. This workshop will introduce the Human Trafficking Screening Tool and participants will learn which indicators are used to trigger the use of the tool, what these indicators mean, understand the invasive nature of the questions and how to implement the tool as a conversation and not a check list. In addition, current data results and trends will be shared.

Presented by: Sue About-hosn and Marina Anderson

F-2 Certification Standards for Safe Houses and Safe Foster Homes (Part 2 of 2)

Continuation of workshop E-2.

F-3 Fostering Healthy Transitions

This workshop will explore the physical and mental health needs of transitional age foster youth using an interactive case study format. Work in groups with other professionals to create individualized transition plans and learn practical, hands on strategies for preparing adolescents to make the transition from pediatric to adult centered care successfully.

Presented by: Sharrica Miller

F-4 Small steps to success: Approaches and techniques of locating, tracking, and interviewing youth in care

Working with youth in care is an iterative process that often requires stepping back and assessing the next step forward. In this interactive workshop, participants will leave with knowledge about approaches and techniques used when conducting research with youth transitioning out of foster care. Researchers at the University of South Carolina will share their experiences of locating and tracking survey participants across time, administering a survey to transition-aged youth, and disseminating youth-centered research findings.

Presented by: Louisa Houston Vann and Misa Alquicira

F-5 Transformational Leadership

Leading By Example to Foster A Culture of Success: To create an environment that is Intentional, Identifying and Impactful. Resulting in Placement Stability that will foster mental, emotional and academic improvement, as well as positive futuristic thinking.

Presented by: Sandra Felecia and Frederick Joe

3:50pm - 4:00pm Conference Closing
Certificates, Evaluations, CEU Forms and Prizes!
Door Prizes!
Please complete this form for each participant. Photo copy this page as needed.

Name: (as it will appear on name badge)

Title:

Agency:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Fax:

Email:

Registration Fees: (check selection)
To be eligible for the early registration rate, your registration and payment MUST be received by April 20, 2016.

Early Rates: Registered on or before April 20, 2016
- $ 95 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 25
- $195 - Foster Care Conference: May 26-27

Register for both and save!
- $280 - Pre-Conference & Foster Care Conference: May 25-27

Late Rates: Registered on or after April 21, 2016
- $140 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 25
- $245 - Foster Care Conference: May 26-27

Register for both and save!
- $375 - Pre-Conference & Foster Care Conference: May 25-27
- $145 Discounted Presenter Registration Rate. Will you attend the pre-conference? ❑

Total Amount Due: $ __________________

Payment Options: (check one)
- Check Enclosed Ck # __________________________
  Make payable to Daniel Memorial, Inc. / Federal ID# 59-3067752
- Purchase Order Number: _______________________ (Attach PO)
- Credit Card (American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Discover)
  Card #: __________________________
  Expiration Date: __________________________
  Security Code: __________________________
  Name on Card: __________________________
  Signature: __________________________

Transfer/Cancellation policy: Transfer of registration to another person may be done at any time without a fee. Please notify the Conference Coordinator of all changes. All requests for cancellation must be received in writing and postmarked by the following dates to receive a refund. A full refund (less a $50 processing fee) is available through April 29, 2016. A 50 percent refund (less a $50 processing fee) is available through May 13, 2016. No refunds thereafter. Please note if you do not cancel or attend the conference you are still responsible for payment.

Workshop Preferences (optional):
Please indicate your first choice workshop selection for each session. Providing selections assists in room assignments only and does not guarantee seating. Popular workshops may be crowded, so please arrive early. Thank you. Daniel Memorial Institute reserves the right to cancel any workshop at any time.

Foster Care Conference:
Thursday: Session A_____ Session B_____ Session C_____  
Friday: Session D_____ Session E_____ Session F_____  

How did you hear about this conference? Check all that apply
- Email marketing
- Brochure via mail
- Daniel Memorial Institute website
- Social Media posts
- Save the date postcard
- Other_____________________

Submit form to:
Email/Scan: conferences@danielkids.org
-or-
Stephanie Waugerman, Associate Director of Conferences
4203 Southpoint Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: (800) 226-7612 ~ Fax: (904) 353-3472

Easy online registration available at www.danielkids.org
Agencies and organizations that would like to showcase their products and services are encouraged to exhibit at this event. Exhibits will be located in high traffic areas central to all breaks.

Audience includes over 200 Foster Care Professionals, more than 100 FL Adoption Professionals and nearly 75 FL Independent Living Professionals!

Advantages of being an Exhibitor at Daniel’s conferences:
- Market your product or service to hundreds of Social Work Professionals
- Network with influential child welfare leaders from all over the country
- Enhance your organization’s prominence in the social service arena
- Renew old contacts and generate new relationships
- Promote your organization in the on-site conference brochure

The Exhibitors fee is $295 per 6-foot skirted table.

Electricity, projectors, etc. require an additional charge and will need to be arranged with the Conference Hotel.

**Platinum Level Sponsor**

**Advisory Committee**

**Conference Partners**

- **Sunshine Health**
  - Sunrise, FL
  - [www.chosesunshinehealth.com](http://www.chosesunshinehealth.com)

- **Northwoods**
  - Dublin, OH
  - [www.teammnorthwoods.com](http://www.teammnorthwoods.com)

- **Principle Life Youth Development**
  - Sunrise, FL
  - [www.principlelife.org](http://www.principlelife.org)

- **Step Up For Students**
  - Clearwater, FL
  - [www.stepupforstudents.org](http://www.stepupforstudents.org)

- **River Point Behavioral**
  - Jacksonville, FL
  - [www.riverpointbehavioral.com](http://www.riverpointbehavioral.com)

- **ATTACH**
  - Minneapolis, MN
  - [www.atatch.org](http://www.atatch.org)

- **Child Welfare Information Gateway**
  - Farifax, VA
  - [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

- **Daniel Memorial Institute**
  - Jacksonville, FL
  - [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org)

- **The Healing Tree**
  - Orlando, FL
  - [www.caccentral.com](http://www.caccentral.com)

- **Hillside Children’s Center**
  - Rochester, NY
  - [www.hillside.com](http://www.hillside.com)

- **Sunshine Health**
  - Sunrise, FL
  - [www.chosesunshinehealth.com](http://www.chosesunshinehealth.com)

- **Hillside Children’s Center**
  - Rochester, NY
  - [www.hillside.com](http://www.hillside.com)

Please let us know if you received duplicate mailings or if any contact information needs to be corrected. Email to: conferences@danielkids.org

Please share this invitation with other Foster Care Agencies and organizations that would like to showcase their products and services are encouraged to exhibit at this event. Exhibits will be located in high traffic areas central to all breaks.

**Exhibitor Opportunities**

**Platinum Level Sponsor**

**Advisory Committee**

**Conference Partners**

- **Sunshine Health**
  - Sunrise, FL
  - [www.chosesunshinehealth.com](http://www.chosesunshinehealth.com)

- **Northwoods**
  - Dublin, OH
  - [www.teammnorthwoods.com](http://www.teammnorthwoods.com)

- **Principle Life Youth Development**
  - Sunrise, FL
  - [www.principlelife.org](http://www.principlelife.org)

- **Step Up For Students**
  - Clearwater, FL
  - [www.stepupforstudents.org](http://www.stepupforstudents.org)

- **River Point Behavioral**
  - Jacksonville, FL
  - [www.riverpointbehavioral.com](http://www.riverpointbehavioral.com)

- **ATTACH**
  - Minneapolis, MN
  - [www.atatch.org](http://www.atatch.org)

- **Child Welfare Information Gateway**
  - Farifax, VA
  - [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)

- **Daniel Memorial Institute**
  - Jacksonville, FL
  - [www.danielkids.org](http://www.danielkids.org)

- **The Healing Tree**
  - Orlando, FL
  - [www.caccentral.com](http://www.caccentral.com)

- **Hillside Children’s Center**
  - Rochester, NY
  - [www.hillside.com](http://www.hillside.com)