21st Annual National Foster Care Conference

“Footsteps to the Future”

2014 National Foster Care Conference
May 28-30 ~ Daytona Beach, Florida
Exploring Best Practices and Innovations in Foster Care and Adoption
Presenting with a Purpose

Presenting with a Purpose is an opportunity for workers to assist youth in building their skills and increasing their professionalism. Participants will learn how to: develop a strategic plan for sharing the youth’s story, help the youth practice telling their story to a group, understand the importance of debriefing their experience and be able to identify how youth can use their story to make a difference. Attendees will learn helpful ways to support youth in those and other advocacy efforts.

Presented by: National Resource Center for Youth Development

Travel tip: Please bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort. Room temperatures vary greatly.
Transforming Trauma into Purpose

Tina M. Levene is a National Speaker/Clean Comedian/Published Author of a book entitled, “Let your lessons become your blessings”. Tina possesses over 15 years in the following fields: public health, substance abuse, child welfare, mental health, bullying/drug/gang prevention and juvenile justice. Tina has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Family & Child Development, trained as an Internationally Certified Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Applied Behavior Analysis for children with autism and is a volunteer chaplain with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Tina brings positive energy, humor and heart wrenching compassion to assist people to heal from where they have been, accept where they are and motivate them to where they want to go. Tina will captivate all ages with her message of “Transforming Trauma into Purpose”. She uses humor, personal victories over adversity and her education to convey her message of giving people hope.

A-3 Current Topics & Trends in Child & Family Services Drug Testing Program Management

Given the high incidence of substance abuse factors in child welfare cases, drug screening is a key resource in identifying and supporting adjudication concerning the welfare of the child recipient. Better use of available testing resources has a dramatic effect on the timing and effectiveness of intervention. The introduction to this workshop, led by two experts in the fields of drug testing program administration and in technical laboratory science is followed by a comparison of the various types of drug testing available. Attendees will increase their knowledge and understanding in testing technologies and methods, detection windows, random testing programs, laboratory licensing/certification, and evidentiary considerations through information provided on a virtual lab tour. Effective program planning and development will be discussed, identifying key organizational factors and implementation strategies for testing program success. The attendees will learn about evidence-based practices, optimal protocol elements, and a drug-testing model that fully automates the process – the Compliance Management Organizational Model.

A-4 Attachment Challenges-A Poverty in Lack of Affection...A Poverty of Being Alone

Many foster and adoptive parents can't figure out what they have done wrong, why is this child/youth rejecting them even though they have poured their hearts and souls into caring for this child. Attachment challenges happen in response to another occurrence, which is pain that this child/youth has experienced in the past. This presentation will discuss attachment challenges, and share the personal stories of two individuals who experienced multiple moves throughout their childhood, and how this impacted their abilities to form relationships and attach to others. The presentation will also share specific interventions and behaviors that can help heal the hearts of children and youth struggling with attachment.

A-5 Foster Youth Bills of Rights

More and more every year states are beginning to work on developing bills of rights for youth in foster care. The method of developing a bill of rights varies across the country ranging in terms of youth involvement and legislative acceptance. NRCYD had conducted research from several states on their bill or rights and has produced a document to help states identify what works better or has been more effective. NRCYD staff will explain the process of gathering the information and engage the audience in a discussion about how the process was different for each state.
A-6 Understanding the Power of Youth Leadership

Giving youth an opportunity to become leaders is vital in the child-serving system. How can we effectively engage and provide opportunities for partnership and youth empowerment? In this workshop, we will actively discuss outcomes from a statewide Youth Leadership Cafe’ that consisted of youth leaders, agency workers, and community partners. We will review the outcomes of the cafe’ and interactively discuss ways to strengthen family and youth partnership. We will also look at ways agencies can increase opportunities for youth leadership with the support of those around them. We will discuss how leadership can build youth resiliency and in turn help them overcome some of the obstacles they may face in life.

Presented by: Jasmin Volkel, MSW, and Chaney Stokes

11:00am - 12:30pm Lunch (Provided)

B-1 A Solution Focused Approach: Construction Solutions vs. Solving Problems (Part 1 of 2)

Social Service professionals face a number of challenges - large case loads, few resources and families facing overwhelming and complex issues. Collecting information, making accurate assessments and formulating safety decisions in a short amount of time is also required. In the midst of already stressful situation, our presence can add to the crisis. Building collaborative relationships is important but can be difficult given the circumstances. A solution-focused approach can aid in collecting information while building collaboration. This approach is focused on strengths and a belief that change is possible. This workshop focuses on core elements in a solution-focused approach. In addition, the concepts are applied to supervising staff with a solution focused approach. To be continued in workshop C-1.

Presented by: Elena Aldridge

B-2 Creating permanent connections for youth aging out of foster care

Are you frustrated by the number of youth aging out of foster care without permanent connections? Looking for ways to help youth develop positive adult connections and sustain long term outcomes? This workshop will highlight tools and resources developed by Project LIFE to create permanent connections for youth aging out of foster care and address collaborative ways to work with community partners to ensure youth success.

Presented by: Melissa Peele and Lore'yna Adkins

B-3 Enjoying the (bumpy) ride: Stress management strategies for foster care (Part 1 of 2)

Foster care is not the "average bear" of family experiences. This interactive workshop will increase attendees' understanding of stress and coping in the fostering context. We will focus on identifying common areas of foster care related stress, recognizing unique sources of and responses to stress from a bio-psycho-social-spiritual model, and using stress management strategies from a holistic and realistic perspective. To be continued in workshop C-3.

Presented by: Susan Cutler Egbert and Sean Camp

B-4 Through a Different Lens: Cultural and Linguistic Competency for Social Service Professionals

This session will address the influence of culture on behavioral health. Participants will identify compelling reasons for cultural and linguistic competence in social service settings and explore health disparities, disproportionalities and inequities. Various cultural groups will be discussed along with specific cross-cultural communication tools.

Presented by: Selena Webster-Bass, MPH

B-5 Working with 'those' youth

What is wrong with youth now-a-days? If you have ever asked yourself this question, please attend this workshop! You will learn about youth today, what they like, what they don't like and why they communicate the way they do. This is a "How to understand youth" workshop for all adults and professionals working with youth.

Presented by: Tina Levene

B-6 Activating the Best in Kids

Learning to help abused, vulnerable youth mature into healthy, responsible human beings is a profoundly difficult challenge. It demands a willingness to enter into more equal and healing partnerships with them. This pragmatic, inspirational training is designed to help parents/professionals engage youth in how to think, rather than what to think.

Presented by: Jeff Cotton

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

C-1 A Solution Focused Approach: Construction Solutions vs. Solving Problems (Part 2 of 2)

Continuation of workshop B-1

C-2 Keeping Youth out of the Deep End: Civil Citation as a safety net for crossover youth

Civil Citation provides law enforcement the opportunity to help at-risk youth avoid the juvenile justice system by allowing youth who commit first time, non-serious misdemeanors to receive intervention services at the earliest stage of delinquency rather than an arrest. Youth who successfully complete sanctions will not have a criminal history record, which can impede a youth's opportunities well into
Adulthood. Foster care youth face intense challenges and risks that Civil Citation can help mitigate. This workshop will discuss challenges specific to foster care youth including: implications trauma histories among crossover youth with regards to delinquency involvement and intervention; offending and arrest trends and outcomes for crossover youth; and the role that civil citation can play in helping keep crossover youth out of the juvenile justice system.

Presented by: Sherry Jackson and Theda Roberts

C-3 Enjoying the (bumpy) ride: Stress management strategies for kids in foster care and their families (Part 2 of 2)
Continuation of workshop B-3.

C-4 Providing in-home substance treatment to youth in foster care
This workshop will discuss the need of meeting the client where the client is located and providing in-home services to youth in foster care. We will discuss a collaborative partnership with Family Support Services and other providers and how to minimize the barriers to treatment access that children in care may encounter with traditional substance abuse treatment.

Presented by: Faylencia Bush

C-5 Working with Older Youth
Research suggests that youth who have received out of home care can benefit from ongoing services and supports after they reach age 18. Emerging trends and federal legislation are moving toward defining “youth” as an individual through the age of 24 and beyond. But what does that mean for your program, your continuum of services and/or the relationships you build with youth in care? We will provide information on developmental benchmarks, current legislative provisions and discuss strategies that are helpful when working with a young adult population.

Presented by: National Resource Center for Youth Development

C-6 Co-Parenting Icebreakers-making it work for families
A year ago Center for Family and Child Enrichment placement and licensing staff took a chance on using the Casey Foundation's Co-parenting Icebreaker. Low and behold, it actually worked and now they are committed to making this happen! Join us as we review the Casey Foundation Icebreaker Video and hear from the CFCE team about their real life experiences.

Presented by: Rosemary Stayduhar, T. Petkovich, Simeka Taylor and Tanisha Turner

Friday - May 30

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

9:00am - 10:15am Opening General Session

Keynote Speaker:
Kevin Brown, Professional Speaker and Author
New York, New York

Molding A Brand
Kevin Y. Brown is a 17 year veteran of the California foster care system turned international motivational speaker and author of the book "10 ways anyone can graduate college debt free". Kevin motivates audiences across the world to use their "Brand Within" to maximize their potential and resources in the subjects of Leadership, College finance and Diversity.

Kevin Y. Brown was that kid who straddled the fence, the kid that could go either way, in a positive or negative direction. Foster kid, edgy, rebellious, smart, athletic, unreasonable and popular. Written off by foster parents, adults and peers as someone who wouldn’t make it far until a series of mentors and experiences helped him realize that he was the master of his fate and the captain of his soul. These special adults looked beyond Kevin’s faults and showed him what it means to maximize your potential and have a sense of pride to be more than the labels society put on him.

Kevin’s program entitled “Molding A Brand” is perfect for a group of educators, parents or professionals who work with youth and young adults. Topics Covered in Molding A Brand Include: 3 elements of positive effective communication, X factors of creating great leaders, What worked and didn’t work, The importance of protective factors vs. risk factors, Building trust and Why the jobs of professionals are so important.

10:30am - 12:00pm Workshop Sessions D
(Concurrent Sessions)

D-1 Stopping Bullying: Taking a Stand
One of the more difficult challenges facing adults is in creating homes and programs where youth feel safe from the survival mentality of both youth being bullied and youth who bully. It addresses the latest nightmarish wave of cyberbullying and what we can do to recognize and prevent it. This training is designed to help put specific strategies in motion designed to decrease bullying and increase the safety of youth in their care.

Presented by: Jeff Cotton
D-2 Recruitment Strategies: General, Targeted and Child Specific

Do you need resource families? Not sure how to develop a recruitment plan? Who will do the work? This workshop will show you recruitment strategies being used in Vermont which include general, targeted and child specific. Develop a plan to include target audiences for specific groups of children. Learn how to make the process real throughout your community. Also to include discussion of early family find work being done in Vermont to connect/reconnect youth with relatives.

Presented by: Graham Kidder

D-3 A Year in Review of Legal Decisions Impacting Foster Care Providers and Foster Parents

An interactive presentation where the audience will witness a trial involving foster parents that sue a child welfare agency alleging the agency failed to disclose information about a foster child the agency placed in their home who subsequently physically and sexually assaulted the foster parent's two biological children. Participants will hear testimony and watch a cross examination of staff working for the foster care agency. Audience members will have a chance to discuss how they would decide the case. Additionally, the presenters will review legal cases that were decided in 2013 that impact the operations, finances and business practices of foster care agencies.

Presented by: Tim Kelley, M.A., Judy Starr and Kathleen McCarrick, M.S.

D-4 Engaging Youth in Transition Planning (Part 1 of 2)

The format of this workshop, led by a former foster youth, will be open discussion, lecture and will include participant involvement. We will discuss the definition of 'transition' and define the federal legislation that guides our work. We will examine youth engagement in the context of adolescent brain development and reflect on experiences that impact young people's willingness to engage. Additionally, we will review tools/strategies for transition planning while exploring the stages of the transition planning process and examining strengths, challenges, and strategies in our involvement in the stages of the process. To be continued in workshop E-4.

Presented by: Jamole Callahan and Dauntea Sledge

12:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch (On Your Own)

Lunch 'n Learn (12:30pm - 1:30pm)
Florida Reach

Bring your lunch to enjoy as you learn about this amazing initiative! Throughout Florida, youth and education advocates are joining forces as part of Florida Reach, a rapidly growing movement that has already resulted in two full-time college coaches being hired, identification of more than 15 liaisons, and the potential to change the face of college support for youth from foster care. Florida Reach has dynamic and visionary open calls each month. Participants can join the movement. Attend this bonus session to learn how!

Presented by: Dr. Steve Rios, Becky Pengelley and several college students who are foster care alumni.

1:30pm - 3:00pm Workshop Sessions E
(Concurrent Sessions)

E-1 Surviving and Thriving While Being Helpful

It seems that no matter what we do, we can never get it done. Whether it our kid’s disturbing behaviors, our co-workers and/or spouses (and their disturbing behaviors) or the agency and state’s ever-shifting, never-ending demands… it seems someone always wants more than we can give. This pragmatic and inspirational workshop is about breaking our codependence and thoughtfully cultivating the internal resources key to thriving (rather than just surviving) the ongoing chaos inherent in the helping act.

Presented by: Jeff Cotton

E-2 Helping your foster child perform at their best – mind, body and soul

Alex and Ashley will discuss the in’s and out’s of helping your foster child perform at their best both emotionally and physically. The workshop will include Ashley’s testimony as a former foster child and what she learned growing up in foster care. She will discuss ways to help your child become emotionally healthy. Presentation will also include focus on practical ways you can help your child (and yourself!) to become as healthy as possible through nutrition.

Presented by: Ashley Poptodorova and Alexander Poptodorova

E-3 Case Management of Minor Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims who are Adjudicated Dependent

The workshop will focus on the importance of case management when working with minor victims of sex trafficking. The presentation will cover from the point of identification until the child reaches self-sufficiency/permanency. I will review the characteristics of an effective case manager along with benefits to the victims through collaborative multi-organizational efforts. The needs of minor victims of sex trafficking are complex and require comprehensive services and treatments plans that cover a range from emergency care to long term therapeutic intervention. Provisions for such services can be necessary anywhere from a few months to years and effective case management can positively effect the outcome of how to advocate for victims of minor domestic sex trafficking.

Presented by: S. Peppy Bennett, LL.M., MHS.CPS

E-4 Engaging Youth in Transition Planning (Part 2 of 2)
Continuation of workshop D-4

2:45pm - 3:15pm Conference Closing
Certificates, Evaluations, CEU Forms and 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)

Early Rates: Registered on or before April 29, 2014

☐ $ 95 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 28
☐ $195 - Foster Care Conference: May 29-30

Register for both and save!

☐ $280 - Pre-Conference & Foster Care Conference: May 28-30

Late Rates: Registered on or after April 30, 2014

☐ $140 - Pre-Conference Institute: May 28
☐ $245 - Foster Care Conference: May 29-30

Register for both and save!

☐ $375 - Pre-Conference & Foster Care Conference: May 28-30

To be eligible for the early registration rate, your registration and payment MUST be received by April 29, 2014.

Total Amount Due: $ __________________

Payment Options: (check one)

☐ Check Enclosed (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, 2014. A 50 percent refund (less a $50 processing fee) is available through May 5, 2014. 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____

How did you hear about this conference? Check all that apply

☐ Email marketing
☐ Advertisement in publication
☐ Brochure via mail
☐ Save the date postcard
☐ Daniel Memorial Institute website
☐ Other_____________________

For inquiries or to submit forms:
   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
Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to the 21st 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 2014.

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 Daytona Beach, FL, May 28-30, for “Footsteps to the Future.”

With warm regards,

Jim

Invitation from the President/CEO

Exhibitor Opportunities

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 and more than 150 adoption 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.

*$50.00 - Early Bird Discount available! (Take $50 off of the $295 rate if received by April 29, 2014)

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