

greater together

intentional collaborations



association of
**CHILDREN'S
RESIDENTIAL CENTERS**

50
years
1968-2018
WACYCP



annual youth workforce conference

June 11, 2019

Cardinal Stritch
University,
Milwaukee

8 - 9am Registration (breakfast on your own)

9 - 9:15 AM WELCOME!

9:15-11:45 Keynote Presentation

Larry K. Brendtro, Ph.D.



Raising Courageous Kids: From Trauma to Thriving

Those who work directly with youth at risk have the greatest potential to transform troubled lives. This presentation highlights practical strategies for youth workers to build resilience by meeting these four growth needs known as the Circle of Courage:

- Belonging: Establish bonds of trust to connect with traumatized and adult-wary children and teens
- Mastery: Help discouraged youth to discover and develop their inner strengths to build futures of promise
- Independence: Replace defiance with self-control, self-confidence, and respect for the rights of others
- Generosity: Enlist youth in helping others to develop empathy and a sense of purpose

When these needs are met, children and youth are able to surmount adversity and thrive.

Lunch/Youth Voice Panel and Discussion | 11:45am - 1pm

Workshop Session A | 1:10-2:40pm

Think Trauma for Group Home Staff: Snapshots from the Wisconsin Statewide Curriculum

Think Trauma is a modularized, skills-based, interactive trauma-focused training curriculum. Four modules focus on trauma and delinquency: trauma's impact on development; coping strategies; and vicarious trauma, organizational stress, and self-care.

Presenter: Quinn Wilder, MSW, *Trainer, Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership at UW-Milwaukee*

Breaking the Cycle: Creating Alternatives for Youth At-Risk through Community Involvement and Work Experience

Bonnie Brae is a 100-year-old residential treatment facility for youth at-risk. Recognizing a need to implement experiential learning into our school,



we have effectively collaborated and partnered with numerous community non-profit organizations for work experience. Because of this integration, our boys are prepared to successfully transition from the residential environment knowing the importance of interpersonal skills and the value of work.

Presenters: Sharon Singleton, M.S., *Structured Learning Experience Coordinator*; Jason Bossart, *Director of Operations, Bonnie Brae*

Strategies to Support Youth Development through Mindset and Conversation

Framed Framed by a discussion around mindset and the impact of language, this workshop will offer strategies to reduce anxiety that can work individually, with a group, or in a family. We'll discuss diverse children's and young adult literature that can facilitate meaningful conversations around topics relevant to personality and identity development.

Register at www.togetherthevoice.org/greatertogether

Presenters: Jane Radaj, Ph.D., *Director of Literacy Centers*; Heather Pauly, Ph.D., *Assistant Professor, College of Education and Leadership*; Nina Weisling, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, College of Education*; Aaliyah Baker, Ph.D., *Associate Professor, College of Education and Leadership, Cardinal Stritch University*



Presenter: Salwa El Habib, Ph.D., *Director, Performance Measurement & Evaluation, National CASA Organization*

Practice What You Preach – Self Care for Practitioners

As professionals working with traumatized individuals and families, we are exposed to unique stressors which can negatively

influence our world view, self-identity, and interactions and relationships with others. Participants will review foundational concepts related to trauma and the human stress response, the causes and effects of vicarious traumatization, and a structured approach to developing and applying meaningful individualized self-care plans.

Presenters: Meredith Mello Rapoza, LMHC, *Division Director of Permanency and Latency Services*, and Adam Edwards, MPA, *Training Coordinator, Justice Resource Institute*

Volunteer Retention: A Balance Between Burnout and Resilience

CASA started as a court initiative to appoint citizen volunteers, with more than 77,000 volunteers signed up to advocate for the best interest of about 250,000 children/youths in judicial proceedings. In 2017, over 60% of the new volunteers recruited were lost. The findings revealed lengthy complicated processes and restrictive laws were the main reasons for the high turnover rate and support to volunteers is crucial in retention.

Workshop Session B | 2:50-4:20pm

Recognizing and Understanding Implicit Bias: Cultural Competency in Serving Youth

Through the lens of equity theory and diversity management, this presentation will explore the idea of implicit bias, the complexities of how bias develops and how implicit bias can influence behaviors. Participants will explore biases in a safe environment, learn how to recognize their own biases and reduce the potential for micro-aggressions when working with children, youth and families as well as each other.

Presenter: Terri Howard, Senior Director, *FEI Behavioral Health*

Refocusing Your Work: Organizing Your Professional Portfolio to Capture Your Successes, Challenges, and Future Goals.

Youth work is CHALLENGING and REWARDING – reflecting, setting goals, and planning are a key part of success. Participants will leave with a working document to assist in balancing all aspects of



their lives while also capturing their accomplishments and future goals, utilizing the five Child and Youth Work Competencies. Interested Participants may work on their own professional portfolios and then build connections to their peers in the session to develop support teams.

Presenter: Deb Getz, CYC-P, *Doctor of Recreation, Clinical Assistant Professor, Indiana University - School of Public Health*

Integrating Thinking & Feeling Strategically to Enhance our Child & Youth Work

We'll look at recent findings in brain neuroscience as well as neurotransmitter chemical reactions that influence how we think, feel, and behave in our lives, particularly in our relationships with others. We will attend to

how we leverage their use while enabling us to be more mindful and intentional, so we improve our competencies in promoting optimal development of

the young people we work with.

Presenter: Hector Sapien, LCSW CYC-P,
Clinical Child & Youth Care Worker,
Academy of Competent Youth Work



Beyond Awareness: Practical Application of the My Life My Choice Prevention Solution Model

Working to decrease the likelihood that commercial sexual exploitation will be part of a young girl's trajectory, My Life My Choice has developed a survivor-led prevention model that includes the

development of specialized policies and procedures as well as the integration of our curriculum. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about this enhanced model and consider applying it to programs within their jurisdiction. *Most appropriate for those with intermediate to advanced knowledge of CSEC and experience working with exploited or high-risk youth.*

Presenters: Amy Corbett, LMHC, *Director of Prevention;* Audrey Morrissey, *Associate Director, My Life My Choice, Justice Resource Institute*

Raffle Prizes, Wrap Up, and Good Byes! | 4:20-4:30pm

Child and Youth Care (CYC) Certification | 4:30-6pm

Join us for a Social Hour after the conference on the topic of CYC certification.

CYC Certified practitioners are professionals sanctioned by the professional CYC community who have completed the most rigorous demonstration of competence in the field. CYCCB provides an

assessment process and certification to child and youth care practitioners who demonstrate their commitment to high standards of care and ongoing competence development. Engaging in the certification process connects practitioners, endorses higher standards of practice, and promotes on-going professional development.



Wisconsin Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals
"Meeting the needs of Wisconsin's Child and Youth Care Professionals"

WACYCP is a grass roots organization founded in 1962 by residential childcare workers, who were students at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UW-M).

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CHILDREN'S
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ACRC's Mission: Providing a powerful voice for residential interventions through relationships, leadership, advocacy, and the promotion of innovative treatment and best practices.

ACRC's Vision: ACRC envisions youth and families thriving in their homes and communities; and should they require residential interventions, having uncompromised access to quality treatment at the right time.

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