Care in the Time of COVID & Lessons for the Future

In keeping with the ACRC mission, this presentation will draw on a range of international perspectives and encourage a global dialogue on the impacts of COVID19, now and for the future of residential care with children and youth. Presenters come from 7 countries, and each presentation will include findings from surveys and/or a series of discussions across multiple countries, encompassing more than 20 countries in total.

The first 20 minutes will present findings across 4 countries with programs using the Cornell CARE program model. The second presentation will present highlights from members of the International Work Group on Therapeutic Residential Care (with 13 countries represented) and will include the results of surveys in Spain and Denmark. The third presentation will be by a Co-President of FICE International (International Federation of Educative Communities) on a survey of 13 FICE member countries. This presentation will also include a focus on experiences of residential programs in Israel and Vienna, Austria.

The goals of this presentation are a) to identify global themes and issues raised by the CIVID 19 pandemic, and b) to suggest what may be permanent and useful changes arising from lessons learned in this unique “natural experiment.”

During the initial period of the COVID19 pandemic, some programs have been fortunate to be part of a network for sharing experiences and discussing areas of mutual concern and support. However, many programs have not been in such a privileged position and could benefit from connecting with residential colleagues in other organizations and cultures.

There are indications that some of the lessons being learned could be “silver linings” and beneficial for children, staff, families and programs going forward. What are some of these lessons? What would it take to carry them forward, by way of resources, training, organizational design, community partnerships, networking or shifts in mindsets?

Have some children been better off during periods of “lock down”? Have some young people struggled more than others, and why is that? What have we learned about children in residential care and school attendance, and our approaches to education? Has there been more or less family contact, and what has been the quality of contact using electronic platforms such as Zoom, Teams etc?
Presenters:

Martha J. Holden - Director of the Residential Child Care Project and Senior Extension Associate with the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University, is the developer of the CARE program model. CARE has been implemented in residential and child serving organizations in 4 countries and is listed on the CEBC as a promising practice with high relevance for child welfare organizations. Martha also is the lead developer for the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention System (TCI) in use in residential organizations since 1980. Martha has many years of experience facilitating workshops, seminars and conferences on residential care and treatment issues including direct practice, supervision, leadership and organizational change. In addition, Martha provides technical assistance to agencies to implement CARE and TCI throughout the US, Canada, Australia, the UK, Ireland and Israel. Previously Martha served as an administrator overseeing the day-to-day operations of a residential treatment agency for adolescents, including its education resources.

Veronica Marin - Veronica is the Implementation Lead for CARE and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) at Life Without Barriers (LWB), a leading social purpose organisation working in more than 440 communities across Australia. Veronica supports the strategic implementation of CARE and TCI in LWB’s child, youth and family programs nationally. She leads a team of practitioners who provide training, support and practice guidance to residential care teams across LWB. Veronica is an experienced social worker with interest in evidence-informed practice and organisational congruence in working towards best interests of children and families.
Jorge F. del Valle – Professor at the University of Oviedo, Faculty of Psychology, in Spain. He is the director of the Child and Family Research Group (GIFI) at the University of Oviedo whose main trends are programme evaluation in residential and family foster care. In 2013 he has published the National Standards of Quality for Child Residential Care, ordered by the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Services. He presently serves as Associated Editor of the spanish journal Psicothema.

Mette Lausten – Mette is a Senior Researcher at VIVE – The Danish Center for Social Science Research, Copenhagen, Denmark. Mette is working quantitatively on combining administrative data and questionnaires, looking at wellbeing amongst children and adolescents in general and young people in out-of-home care in particular. Mette is an active member of the Nordic Network on Longitudinal Child Welfare Research, NORDLOCH; the International Work Group for Therapeutic Residential Care, and of the board of the European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EUSARF).

Emmanuel Grupper – Emmanuel is a senior administrator and professor in Ono University, a private college for a diverse range of students in Israel. He also serves as Co-President of FICE International and Chairs the Publications Committee. He frequently presents in workshops and on panels at international child and youth care conferences and Chaired the FICE international conference in Israel on 2019.
**Bettina Terp** – Bettina has served as General Secretary of FICE International and oversees child and youth care (both residential programs and community-based programs) in one out of the 4 districts of Vienna, Austria.

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**Jim Anglin** – Jim is a Professor Emeritus in Child and Youth Care at the University of Victoria, BC, and remains active in research and publishing related to residential care for young people. He is a frequent presenter at international conferences and is a member of the International Work Group on Therapeutic Residential Care, FICE International and the Board of the European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents (EuSARF).