

Commit to Excellence

Curating Quality Practice & Positive Outcomes

Innovation

EQUITY

Access

Voice

Together, the Voice

ACRC's 65th
Annual Conference



Fort Lauderdale, FL
August 3-6, 2021

We are preparing for a hybrid event, held both in person and virtually!



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S
RESIDENTIAL CENTERS
65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Marriott Harbor Beach
Fort Lauderdale, FL August 3-6, 2021

CALL FOR PAPERS

Dear Interested Professionals,

The Association of Children's Residential Centers seeks presentations for its 65th Annual Conference, to be held August 3-6, 2021. We are hopeful that travel and gathering in August will be safe and welcomed for many, however knowing there are factors that may keep us apart, we will also be offering our presentations virtually. For this reason, ACRC is seeking abstract submissions from presenters willing to present live: in-person, virtually, or in either format. We also offer a robust poster presentation session both in person and virtually. Presenters with the voice of lived experience and/or who reflect the diversity of the populations we serve are especially encouraged to submit.

We invite you to join us in raising the bar of excellence across our field as we look to QUALITY in care and all that encompasses. It is inarguable that the children and families we serve deserve both access and excellence when they experience mental and behavioral health interventions. This conference is intended to acknowledge those intrinsic rights and to support providers in that goal. Building on 64 years of laser focus on best practices, our 2021 annual conference will take our overarching theme of quality and break it down into 5 supporting themes highlighted below.

Please review these suggested themes which ACRC's program committee requests be the focus of submissions:

- ❖ **Racial Equity.** Address racial inequity, social justice, and system transformations; develop objectives to reduce and eliminate disproportionality and disparities in child welfare, education, mental health, housing, juvenile and criminal justice systems.
- ❖ **Innovation.** Show how we are determining, executing, and evaluating quality innovations while meeting individual needs; share innovative practices inside the milieu and extended into homes/community; explain the beneficial use of technology and creative, effective practices developed as a result of the global pandemic but kept in place due to the positive impact and outcomes.
- ❖ **Uncompromised Access.** Examine our pathways to care, recognizing barriers, stigmas, gatekeepers, and opportunities.
- ❖ **Voice.** Hear and incorporate the voice of lived experience as we reexamine our internal policies and practices, such as restraint, points and levels, relational interactions, innovative practices, and therapeutic goals.
- ❖ **Workforce Development.** Highlight hiring, training, supporting, and retaining quality staff who are critical to quality in the milieu, in the organization, and to positive impact and outcomes in the lives of children and families.

Selection of Presentations

Presentations for our annual conference are carefully chosen by ACRC's Program Committee. The committee will be looking for papers/presentations which:

1. Model best practice and innovation
2. **Use people-first language and incorporate family-driven, youth-guided values***
3. Include youth and/or family members as co-presenters
4. Include outcomes data
5. Do **NOT** market or sell a product, consultant, model or program
6. Embrace the principles outlined in ACRC's Redefining Residential Series as well as the Building Bridges Initiative, all of which can be found on our website at www.togetherthevoice.org
7. Demonstration of the specific, planned integration of the content of ACRC's position papers to improve service delivery, please find our position paper series here: www.togetherthevoice.org/best-practices/position-papers

***Extra weight will be given to these submissions during the vetting process**

Presenter Attendance

ACRC extends a \$100 registration discount to the person identified as the primary presenter and a \$50 discount to any secondary presenters for anyone wishing to be a full conference attendee in person with us in Florida. Virtual presenters will receive a complimentary virtual registration.

Presenter Responsibilities

Should your presentation be selected*, you would be responsible for the following:

1. For in person presenters, you will give all A/V, room set-up, and other logistical requirements to the ACRC by **7/1/21** and work with ACRC to assure logistical requirements are met. Additionally, you will provide information about co-presenters (name, title, organization, contact information) to ACRC.
2. Virtual presenters will work with ACRC to meet logistical requirements.
3. You will give your presentation in the allotted time, allowing for questions, and will not use this opportunity to market any product or program to attendees.
4. You are giving ACRC permission to house your presentation on our website for attendee access. In person presentations will be recorded for virtual use.
5. You will submit a sample power point no later than 6 weeks before the conference to support our request for NASW CEUs.

*Submission of a paper means that you understand and agree to these responsibilities.

Guidelines for Submission of Proposals

1. Complete the online submission with an abstract of up to 500 words prepared specifically for this request for papers and provide all requested information.
2. Designate a primary author in your proposal. Only that person will receive communication from ACRC and will then be responsible for informing any co-author/co-presenter(s).
3. **Deadline for receipt of proposals is Friday, April 30th, 2021**
4. Decision to present virtually or in person may be determined prior to July 1, 2021
4. Submissions must be uploaded to our website www.togetherthevoice.org

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

You will be asked to submit the following:

1. Abstract: up to 500 word abstract of your proposed presentation
2. Topic: Focus of presentation and how presentation relates to conference topic
3. Bio and Resume: A short (4-6 line ONLY) biographical statement and your resume (5 pages max) for all presenters.
4. Learning goals
 - a. Learning goals for participants
 - b. Two true/false or multiple-choice questions participants will be able to answer if they are present
5. Brief description of your presenting experience.
6. Photos of all presenters.

Questions may be directed to:

Amanda Prange (414) 359-6548 or aprange@togetherthevoice.org