
ACRC IN PHOENIX MAY 6-9, 2024



CALL FOR PAPERS



association of
**Children's
Residential &
Community**
services





Association of Children's Residential & Community Services

68th Annual Conference

May 6-9, 2024

Phoenix, AZ

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Dear Interested Professionals,

ACRC's 68th Annual Conference, **Right Care, Right Place, Right Time: Revolutionizing the Children's Continuum of Care**, will be held May 6-9, 2024. With global attention focused on the urgent, often unmet, behavioral and mental health needs of children, we seek to elevate what is working and re-envision how children and families access care. ACRC is seeking abstract submissions from presenters willing to present an in-person or virtual **90-minute workshop session** and/or a **research poster** for our renowned poster presentation session. Presenters with the voice of lived experience and/or who reflect the diversity of the populations we serve are especially encouraged to submit.

Who We Are

The Association of Children's Residential and Community Services (ACRC), founded in 1956, is an international organization focused on best practices and innovation in the care and treatment of children and their families. ACRC envisions youth and families thriving in their homes and communities with uncompromised access to high-quality residential and community-based interventions in a robust continuum of care. We support the work of experts in the field of child and youth behavioral health and mental wellbeing, including provider organizations, researchers, and public agencies across the United States and in several countries.

Conference Audience

ACRC typically welcomes 600+ in-person and 1000+ virtual attendees from almost every state in the United States, with a smaller percentage attending from around the world. Conference attendees are practitioners, clinicians, administrators, executive directors, evaluators, lived experts, researchers, students, program managers, supervisors, policymakers, model developers, and innovators who support quality and effectiveness in mental and behavioral health services to children, youth, and families. Cross-sector content applies to child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and mental and behavioral health leaders interested in research, policy, and practice.

Summary of Process

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 themes
3. Bio and Resume: A short (4-6 line ONLY) biographical statement and your resume (5 pages max) for all presenters.
4. Learning goals for participants.
5. Brief description of your presenting experience.
6. Proposals may be submitted through 11:59 pm PST on October 27th, 2023

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

- ❖ **Systems of Care.** State, county, and local agencies partnering with families and communities; blended/braided funding; interagency collaboration; effective communication and true collaboration across provider networks and systems; coordinated transitions; shared data and accountability; effective crisis continuums; and seamless experiences for children and families.
- ❖ **Meeting Complex Needs.** Children, adolescents, and young adults presenting with higher acuity; serving young people with co-occurring challenges; grief, trauma, ambiguous loss, loneliness, and other less-considered contributors to declining youth mental health; translating residential success and expertise into home/community; creative, customized approaches to serving young people failed by multiple systems; safety science; restraint reduction and elimination; and individualized or bespoke interventions (whatever it takes).
- ❖ **Improving Access.** Addressing the emergency department boarding crisis; coordinated efforts to ensure youth awaiting treatment or step down are not incarcerated, sleeping in unregulated settings like offices and hotels, or overstaying medical necessity in higher levels of care; mission no waitlists; serving youth closer to home; ensuring responsive, flexible service arrays; and building/sustaining no wrong door systems.
- ❖ **Voice.** Authentically incorporating the voice of lived experience to shape service delivery; program and system co-design; youth and family choice; service/treatment planning; relational interactions; and empowerment.
- ❖ **Re-building a Skilled Workforce.** Recruiting, training, supporting, and retaining quality frontline staff, educators, clinicians; creating pipelines for key positions; new thinking about how we fill critical roles; incorporating youth and family peers; compensation and incentives; and inspiring the field when many are choosing to walk away from health and human services.
- ❖ **Leading Through Change.** Skills for new supervisors; moving from frontline to management; moral injury; building resilient organizations; career paths; organizational culture.
- ❖ **Evaluating Quality.** Demonstrated effectiveness; harm reduction; quality standards; outcomes metrics; identifying what interventions work for whom and when; public dashboards; model fidelity; implementation science; transparency, accountability, and proximity to communities.
- ❖ **Innovating Approaches.** Use of technology; comprehensive and holistic practices; multi-generational impact; non-clinical approaches to healing; sleep, nutrition, exercise, and other elements of well-being; system transformation; and intersectionality.

Selection of Presentations

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

1. Share solutions, replicable best practices, innovations, and calls to action.
2. Use people-first language and incorporate family-driven, youth-guided values.
3. Include youth and/or family members as co-presenters.*
4. Demonstrate cross-sector and/or multiple agency collaboration.*
5. Incorporate outcomes data.
6. Do **NOT** market or sell a product, consultant, model, or program.
7. Embrace the principles outlined in ACRC's Redefining Residential Series as well as the Building Bridges Initiative, found on our website at www.togetherthevoice.org.
8. Demonstrate the specific, planned integration of the content of ACRC's position papers to improve service delivery. 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 Phoenix. 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 ACRC by **2/1/24** 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 8 weeks before the conference to support our request for NASW CEUs.
6. Workshop presenters will provide 15 questions for a post test with an answer key (only one may be t/f).

*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, October 27th, 2023.**
4. Upload submissions to our website <https://togetherthevoice.org/engage/call-for-papers/>.

Questions may be directed to:

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