



A Symposium on Family Strengths and Diversity:
Power, Promise, Practice

Tuesday September 7 – Thursday September 9, 2010
University of Houston-Downtown
Houston, Texas



University of Houston-Downtown
One Main Street, Suite N1037
Houston, Texas 77002



Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to welcome you to the University of Houston-Downtown's Center for Family Strengths First Annual Symposium on Family Strengths and Diversity: Power, Promise, and Practice. This theme affirms UHD's commitment to families and diversity in all of our educational, service and research endeavors. Families are at the heart of our city and nation. And families are at the center of our work, whether it is through public or private agencies' services to families with neglect and abuse, mental health needs, developmental delays, or justice, substance abuse or violence issues. Our goal is to save families for children and each member.

As you will see throughout all 50 workshops, we have the social technology, research and knowledge to keep families together (in most cases), and we should. Many sessions are led or co-presented by family experts who share with professionals what works and what doesn't. Our keynote speakers will affirm the principles of how to recognize what is right in each family and how to build on these strengths. We have many wonderful agencies and universities with exhibits for you to visit and the Kidsart exhibit and sale!

This Symposium could not have happened without the dedication and insight of many people, beginning with our planning committee listed in this program. All of our wonderful presenters and their agencies have graciously donated their expertise and time to share their work with us. Dean Susan Ahern, Dr. Adolfo Santos and Dr. Jo Bailey supported the development of Center for Family Strengths through their ideas and resources. The Social Work program and its students have implemented the vision of this Symposium. Many individuals have spent endless hours to bring this conference to you, including Steve Sucher; Yolanda Bridges and Marcus Benoit in the Center's office and Mary Rodriguez, Carmen Allen, Penny Cureton and Courtney Branch in the President's office.

Wells-Fargo bank has generously supported the Center for Family Strengths through scholarships for family members' registration and for the Social Work scholarship fund. We are pleased to thank and recognize Mr. Mark Praigg, Vice President and Houston Regional Marketing and Community Relations Manager for Wells-Fargo.

Please enjoy the Symposium and the UHD campus and do engage our students, as they are our future. We are sure the presentations will help you continue the important work you do every day with families. We appreciate your dedication and service and are glad you chose to join us! Have a great Symposium!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William V. Flores". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. William V. Flores
President, University of Houston-Downtown

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alvin L. Sallee". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Professor Alvin L. Sallee
Director Center for Family Strengths

Family Strengths Planning Committee

Jo Bailey

University of Houston-Downtown

Needha Boutte-Queen

Texas Southern University-BSW

Nancy F. Chavkin

Center for Children & Families

Texas State University - San Marcos

Elena Delavega

Graduate College of Social Work

University of Houston

Patti Derr

Texas Federation of Families

Vincent Geremia

Health and Family Services

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Bob Hartman

De Pelchin Children's Center

Janet Heitmiller

University of Houston-Downtown

Randy Joiner

Harris County System of Hope

Joel Levine

Harris County Child Protective
Services

Lori L. Lewis-Conerly

Texas Department of Family &
Protection Services

June Lloyd

Retired-- U.S. Administration for
Children & Families

Dawn McCarty

University of Houston-Downtown

Joseph F Papick

Child Welfare Education Project

University of Houston

Paulette Purdy

University of Houston-Downtown

Susan Robbins

Graduate College of Social Work

University of Houston

Karen Robinson

Family Expert Dallas

Mary Rodriguez

University of Houston-Downtown

Susan Rogers

Family Expert Dallas

John Ronnau

School of Social Work

University of Central Florida

Twila Ross

Harris County Child Protective
Services

Xuan G. Tran

Texas Children's Health Plan

Program at a Glance

Center for Family Strengths Symposium

September 7 – 9, 2010

Family Strengths and Diversity:

Power, Promise, Practice

Tuesday September 7, 2010

- 10:00 - 5:00 Registration
- 1:30 – 3:00 Opening Ceremony and Keynote Address
- 3:00 -3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 5:00 Presentations and Workshops
- 6:30 - 7:30 Reception – Four Seasons Hotel

Wednesday September 8, 2010

- 8:30 - 10:00 Presentations and Workshops
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 12:00 Keynote Address
- 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch on your own
- 1:30 – 3:00 Presentations and Workshops
- 3:00 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 5:00 Presentations and Workshops

Thursday September 9, 2010

- 8:30 - 10:00 Presentations and Workshops
- 10:00 - 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 12:00 Closing Keynote Address

Exhibitors

Taking Care of Children - Sgt. Bill Davis Enterprises – Sgt. Bill Davis will have his nationally acclaimed true crime novel, *So Innocent - Yet So Dead*, available for purchase along with his DVD and pepper spray. His life saving data packet could save your life, and your family's life.

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work – The mission of the Graduate College of Social Work is to educate professionals for social work practice, research, and leadership. Our College generates new knowledge through critical thinking that links rigorous scientific inquiry, ethical social work practice, and community engagement.

Harris County Systems of Hope – Our mission is to provide effective support and care which is family driven and youth guided to families and their children who are experiencing serious emotional and behavioral problems.

Mississippi Children's Home Services – Our mission is to improve the lives of children and families by providing a continuum of compassionate, measurable and effective behavioral health and social services.

DeBakey VA Medical Center – The mission of the Veterans Healthcare System is to serve the needs of America's Veterans by providing primary care, specialized care, and related medical and social support services.

Child Protective Services – The mission of The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services is to protect children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by involving clients, families and communities.

Child Welfare Information Gateway – Child Welfare Information Gateway promotes the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, youth, and families.

LYCEUM BOOKS – Since its founding in 1988, has earned a reputation for excellence in the field of social work education. We are an independent publishing house with the editorial freedom to select books for the quality of their ideas, research, writing, and their usefulness to students and practitioners.

Authors Table

Karl Dennis – “*Everything is Normal Until Proven Otherwise*,” co-authored with Dr. Ira Lourie. Written for parents and professionals, the book provides guidance for using creativity and compassion in the delivery of services.

Cedric McKenzie – *She Never Answered*, a riveting story of how a child left behind at only six days old, grows up survives in the Arkansas Foster Care System, and prevails. Cedric McKenzie's story is one of drama, comedy, and tragedy, along with redemption and triumph.

Dr. Angelo Giardino – Dr. Giardino will have several child abuse books available for purchase.

Sgt. Bill Davis – *So Innocent – Yet So Dead*, a story that sees through the eyes of an innocent child into the mind of her killer, and, finally, into a search for justice that is nearly blinded by politics and circumstance--but delivered through a series of what Davis describes as spiritual interventions in the midst of tragedy.

Alvin L. Sallee - *Child Welfare: Clinical Theory and Practice and The Methamphetamine Handbook: What you Need to Know*

Tuesday September 7, 2010

Opening Keynote 1:30 – 3:00

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Tom Wingfield *Jon Egging
Amanda Wingfield..... Terri Branda Carter
Laura Wingfield..... Lauren Ashley Miller
Jim O'Connor..... Michael Schultz

*The actor appears courtesy of Actor’s Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Director David Rainey
Stage Manager..... Larry Hunt

SETTING

A tenement apartment in St. Louis

TIME

Several months in 1937

David Rainey (*Artistic Director/Director*) has been an adjunct professor at UHD since 2005 and is UHD’s first Artist-in-Residence in Drama. He is also a member of the Alley Theatre’s Resident Company where he has performed in more than 40 productions over 10 seasons.

THE LANDING THEATRE COMPANY

O’Kane Theatre, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street, Houston, Texas 77002

www.landingtheatre.org (713) 487-5634

Introduction: President William Flores

Dr. Angelo Giardino



Dr. Angelo Giardino, MD. PHD, Texas Children's Health Plan Inc. – Angelo Giardino is the medical director of Texas Children's Health Plan, a clinical associate professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, and an attending physician for the Texas Children's Hospital's forensic pediatrics service at the Children's Assessment Center in Houston, Texas. He graduated summa cum laude from Temple University and earned his MD and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Giardino completed his residency and fellowship training in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Giardino led "Little Partners," a lay home visiting program focused on fostering enhanced prenatal care and improved healthier birth outcomes. Additionally, Dr. Giardino began the Child Abuse and Neglect Team for Children with Special Health Care Needs, which was funded by a three-year grant from a local philanthropy. Dr. Giardino is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Texas Pediatric Society, and the Harris County Medical Society, where he serves on the Managed Medicaid Forum and the Medical Directors Committee. He is 10-year member of the American College of Physician Executives and a member of the American College of Medical Quality.

TUESDAY September 7, 2010

Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

Auditorium 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Introduction to Strength Based Family Support Supervision

Presented by Bonnie Mikelson

This is an introduction to the Family Support Supervisor Certification Training, "Strengthening Family Support through Supervision". Supervision is a separate and essential practice requiring skill development and training. Focus will be on one key aspect of supervisory practice: providing reflective strength based supervision. We will consider ways that supervisors may supervise their workers from a collaborative, strengths based model that parallels the strength based interventions their workers do with families. Participants will learn about reflective supervision, view a demonstration of traditional vs. reflective supervision, and practice strength based supervisory interventions.

Houston Bayou Room 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

K-Start: Transforming the System and Achieving Results for Families

Presented by Vince Geremia & Tina M. Willauer

Parental substance abuse is a major contributor to the increase in child maltreatment and out-of-home placement. If Child Welfare is to achieve optimal outcomes for children and families we must transform the systems of care to address the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and substance abuse. K-START (Kentucky Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams) is an innovative model for parents with substance use disorders and who abuse and neglect their children; combining a unique method of timely, intensive, and coordinated service delivery for families. This workshop will explore the evidence-informed rationale for K-START, provide an overview of the model, and describe the specific change agents of K-START.

Tuesday Workshops Continued on the next page...

TUESDAY September 7, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

Buffalo Bayou 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Substance Exposed Newborns: Removal, Family Preservation, or Case Closure?

Presented by Milton Ayala

The audience will be introduced to some of the basic processes Texas CPS uses in conducting an investigation of an allegation of a substance exposed newborn and will be given DFPS releasable data involving substance exposed newborns in Texas as well as rudimentary information about dispositional findings and the implementation of protective measures. The audience will be informed about some of the resources CPS uses in the community to allow the bonding of the mother and infant and about the federal laws mandating reporting of substance exposed newborns. A child welfare agency should provide service planning for both the mother and infant.

N-602 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Saving Families...One Child at a Time Harris County Juvenile Detention

Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Presented by Nancy Baird

In September 2007, Harris County was selected to participate in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a national program of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The goal of this initiative is to implement reform strategies to safely reduce reliance on secure detention while at the same time reduce juvenile crime and keep communities safe. JDAI is being replicated in over 80 jurisdictions across the United States. Harris County's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has made great progress during the last two years to make the juvenile justice system more just and effective in rehabilitating youthful offenders, curtailing juvenile crime, and ultimately helping families.

Tuesday Workshops continued on the next page...

TUESDAY September 7, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

N-620 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Cultural Competence: A Celebration of Family Strengths and Best Practice

Presented by Barbara Chandler

This presentation will provide an overview of the necessity to have workers who not only engage but embrace family strengths that are often the foundation of cultural competence and best practice when working with diverse populations.

N-624 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

A Transition Model for Youth Aging Out of Care and Former Foster Youth

Presented by Joel Levine, Deborah Green & Marshall McGhee

The typical young person aging out of foster care will have been in the system for more than 5 years and will have moved more than 8 times to different foster homes, group facilities, shelters, or residential treatment centers. Youth exiting the foster care system are twice as likely as their peers to drop out of high school; suffer from unemployment; experience high rates of homelessness; and are at great risk of arrest and incarceration. Learn how young adults exiting foster care in the Houston region are beating the odds through an innovative collaboration between higher education, workforce, and state and local governmental entities.

White Oak Bayou

3:30 – 5:00

Systems of Care (SOC) 101: Improving Outcome for families Using SOC Principles

Presented by Randy Joiner, Rebecca Johansson, & Larry Brown

This workshop will address the System of Care principles utilized in the wraparound process in the Systems of Hope initiative. Studies throughout grant sites like Systems of Hope indicate that providing services that include family voice in decision making, considering the importance of language and culture, and listening to the voice of youth improve outcomes. System of Care principles will be discussed and evaluation results will be shared with participants in an effort to encourage their use with any populations served. This interactive presentation will explore organizational change and provide practical approaches that participants can plan for their own personal, professional and organizational succession.

Tuesday Workshops continued on the next page...

TUESDAY September 7, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

N-621 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Finding and Using the Strengths in Families

Presented by John Ronnau

Every family has strengths; even in those families in which children must be removed in order to insure their safety and well-being. The focus of this workshop is to provide a framework and tools for finding and using the strengths of families. One premise of this workshop is that the best place for children to grow and thrive is in their families. Another underlying premise is that the concept of “family” must be defined in a very inclusive manner that respects and values the tremendous diversity of families throughout the world. Respect, understanding, knowledge and valuing cultural diversity is a must.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010

Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

Auditorium 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

The Ten Principles of Wraparound

Presented by Pam Schaffer & Barbara Sewell

Wraparound is a philosophy that is expressed in the way that we approach, engage and work with families to meet their needs when living with high-need children and youth. Adhering to the underlying principles of Wraparound becomes a touchstone for our practice and ensures that decisions and services created with families remain true to the underlying principles.

Houston Bayou Room 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Secondary Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention: Kentucky's Research

Outcomes

Presented by Vince Geremia & Ruth A. Huebner, PhD

This session will focus on a comprehensive evaluation of Kentucky's statewide Family Preservation Program. This multi-faceted evaluation completed over a one-year period, included: cost-benefit analysis, customer surveys, focus group inquiry, and SACWIS/FPP service comparative data analysis. The study demonstrated clear reduction in Out-of-Home-Care entry, expedited reunification for children and families, promotion of family well-being, as well as more effective use of service funding.

Buffalo Bayou 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Keeping Children Safe in Families Affected by Substance Abuse/Alcohol

Presented by Milton Ayala

The workshop will highlight the impact substance abuse has on child safety and parental protective capacities while re-enforcing learning the caseworker has acquired. The workshop will explore the protective measures that could control substance abuse threats. Participants will be given some tools to utilize engaging substance abuse affected families and a Protective Measure Chart that will provide some interventions when dealing with the families. Participants will be exposed to some best practices to use in casework and monitoring. The key learning from the workshop: abstinence, treatment, and a lifestyle of recovery to increase protective capacities and child safety.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-602 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

The Foster Care - Homeless Connection: A Struggle for Stability

Presented by Jeanne Stamp

Highly mobile children, homeless or in foster care, lose their homes, rooms, possessions, family, friends, schools, community, and sense of security and belonging. They suffer from grief and loss, with issues from poor mental and physical health four times that of children living in stable families. There are now laws that address children's rights to remain in their original schools even though they are changing residences through homelessness or foster placement. Schools can do much to provide a safe stable refuge where children can regain some of their lost sense of security and belonging.

N-611 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Round II Results: Implications for Family Centered Practice

Presented by Ray Worsham

At the end of the first decade of the Children and Family Service Review (CFSR) effort, what do the outcomes of the two reviews and agency efforts through their Program Improvement Plans, suggest regarding the impact and implementation of Family Centered Practices at the casework level? In this facilitated workshop participants will have an opportunity to review the available results for Round II informed by PIP efforts, and discuss Family Centered Practice in light of these outcomes. With a brief review of current initiatives in Family Centered Practice participants will have an opportunity to explore the implications for casework service in anticipation of Round III.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-620 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Supporting Families After a Death

Presented by Corrine Walijarvi

Drawing upon research with bereaved families, this workshop will provide insight into the diverse reactions that different families, and different members of the same family, may have following a death. The workshop will focus on a discussion of factors that can contribute to progress in the grief journey, and will identify a variety of ways that service providers can help grieving families. The workshop will include a brief presentation, discussions, and activities oriented toward helping clinicians and service providers respond in a supportive manner to grieving clients.

N-621 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Supervision Tune-Up

Presented by Kathryn Sibley

As a supervisor, you are putting your name on cases left and right from the decisions your caseworkers are making daily to the overall progress on a case at closure. This workshop will focus on helping supervisors review different aspects of setting expectations, working with a family-centered focus, assessing child safety and working one-on-one with staff. By the end of the workshop, you will be able to help guide your staff towards informed case decisions and bring back tools to assist you in the supervision process.

N-622 6th Floor

8:30 -10:00

Using Literacy to Build Community Between Families, Teachers, and Schools

Presented by Leigh Van Horn

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn about a family literacy project that is changing the power structures between parents and teachers. Through collaborative family literacy events we have begun to link families and schools and engage in reading, writing, thinking, talking, listening, and visually representing our thoughts about books and about being together. Participants will learn how to plan, what to read, and why what you do after the reading makes the difference! Handouts will include annotated book lists with response ideas.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-624 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Parental Child Safety Placements: Strategies for Working with Relatives and Fictive Kin Voluntary Caregivers

Presented by Cory Jones

A workshop that highlights both the benefits and challenges of parental child safety placement-- the workshop will explore the ways in which relatives and fictive kin families face unique challenges as voluntary caregivers of children who are not in the conservatorship of DFPS, and particularly the ways they can be engaged and supported to make the experience more successful for children.

N-1099 10th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Supporting Families with the Reality of Disproportionality: An Agency and Community Perspective

Presented by Sheila Craig & Joyce James

Disproportionality is the overrepresentation of a particular race or cultural group in a program or system. Over the last 6 years Texas CPS has undertaken a series of reform efforts to reduce Disproportionality, including the creation of Community Advisory Committees statewide. These committees are unique in that they have created collaborative partnerships between CPS, communities, families and other systems whose goal is to address our collective accountability in eliminating disproportionality. This workshop will include a panel of CPS staff and Community Leaders to discuss efforts from these equally important perspectives and respond to questions from participants.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

White Oak Bayou 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Understanding the Effects of Mental Illness on the Family

Presented by Diana Kern

With the prevalence of mental illness in parents and caregivers engaged in the protective services system, CPS workers need to be familiar with the characteristics and challenges surrounding mental illness. This workshop will familiarize you with the various mental illnesses, their symptoms, the obstacles persons face in functioning appropriately and the dynamics created within the family when a mental illness is present. With this knowledge, you will learn how to better measure a parent's protective capacities and make careful and thoughtful decisions regarding the safety of the children in the home.

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Family Keynote

10:30-12:00

Introduction: Lori Lewis-Conerly

Opening Remarks - Audrey Deckinga

Audrey Deckinga is DFPS Assistant Commissioner for Child Protective Services. Prior to that she was senior policy analyst at the Health and Human Services Commission in the office of health services. She has worked in the human services field for over 30 years in three states. Ms. Deckinga has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from Calvin College in Michigan and a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSSW) from the University of Texas at Austin.

DeShaun Ealoms



Family Expert Keynote Panel Moderator, DeShaun Ealoms is currently the Parent Program Specialist for Child Protective Services (CPS), Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Family experts will share what workers do to help families and ways to improve services. A focus on collaboration with families is critical to family based services. The statewide Parent Collaboration Group provides technical assistance to the CPS regions across Texas with their local parent information and support groups for parents involved with the CPS system.

Ms. Ealoms is also a parent who has utilized CPS services to access needed support and services for her son who has autism. Ms. Ealoms is a member of Autism Society of America, and has served on the Austin Independent School District Special Education Advisory Committee and Mental Health Mental Retardation Center Advisory Committee. Ms. Ealoms received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Huston-Tillotson College and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Texas State University.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010

Workshops 1:30 – 3:00

Auditorium 3rd Floor

1:30 – 3:00

My Life in Foster Care “Why I Needed Family Preservation”

Presented by Cedric S. McKenzie

Mr. McKenzie will tell his story about his life in foster care. He has written *She Never Answered*. Cedric’s narrative is a real life roadmap for both young people and adults tied to the foster care system. This workshop explains how family preservation could have saved his family.

Buffalo Bayou Room 3rd Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Safety Intervention Pt. 1: Untying the Safety Knot

Presented by Lori Lewis- Conerly

Join us for an informative and educational workshop focused on untying the safety and risk knot and clarifying the notion that “safety is controlled, not risk”. We will explore new strategies on how to connect the process of getting to know our families with the caseworker’s ability to assess child safety. We will review a child welfare case to determine how well we really know the family and if what we know is sufficient to determine child safety. Participants will apply their knowledge from this workshop to further explore the parent’s protective capacities and determine if the child is really safe.

Houston Bayou 3rd Floor

1:30 – 3:00 & 3:30 – 5:00

Diverse Families with Substance Abuse: Using Best Practices to Build on Family Strengths

Presented by Susan P. Robbins

This workshop will explore myths and facts about substance abuse and its impact on individual and family functioning in diverse families. It will cover basic concepts about how the most commonly abused drugs work in the brain and body, the differences between use, abuse, dependence, and addiction, and current knowledge about best practices and effective substance abuse treatment that build on family strengths.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 1:30 – 3:00

N-602 6th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Family Preservation 101 – How to implement a Family Preservation Program

Presented by Deborah Lewis

This workshop is not just for the novice worker but helpful ideas for the experienced worker will be provided as well. Participants will be provided with ideas on how to develop a mission statement, write personal disclosures, program descriptions, search for evidence based practice curriculum, and resources that they can utilize in developing their own Family Preservation Program. Power Point presentations used in groups, client files, a Family Preservation brochure she designed, a bio-psychosocial assessment, progress notes, progress reports, consents, etc. will be shared. Each participant will leave with a folder with some of these examples along with a CD with all documents.

N-611 6th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

The Impact of Stigma on Bahamian Families: An Ecological and Indigenous Interactive Change Process Model

Presented by Dr. Darlene Rolle-Cargill

A recent study that examined the role of social and economic risk factors in the lives of persons living and working with HIV/AIDS in the Bahamas has illuminated the devastation that was occurring in families as a result of the stigma attached to the disease. The results have led to the development of an Ecological Indigenous Interactive Change Process Model that places PLWHAS at the center of the healing process and thus fostering self-empowerment and self-determination. It also promotes family reunification and an indigenous approach to treatment that is consistent with the ecological approach to social work practice and pedagogy.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 1:30 – 3:00

N-620 6th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Life after the Hospital: Working with Families to Meet Ongoing Medical Needs in Child Abuse Investigation and Care

Presented by Lisa Creamer

Many children who are victims of child maltreatment have a need for ongoing medical evaluation and treatment as a result of their abuse or neglect; how do we as a system ensure these children receive the care and treatment they need? This session will discuss how CPS, foster care and the medical community can work together to guarantee no children fall through the cracks. Discussion of real life cases will facilitate participant's ability to recognize the importance of adequate medical follow-up for forensic and medical purposes.

N-621 6th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Balancing the Family with Mental Health

Presented by Ada Gomez

This presentation will include information on how to identify mental health issues and appropriately refer a child/adult to be assessed, how to be mindful of barriers, stigmas, and challenges faced while working with families with mental health issues, how to appropriately assess progress, how to identify and establish a support system, how to utilize family team meetings and community resources, and how to empower the family to succeed. By the end of the workshop, you will be able to see how families who have mental health issues are able to successful parent with the support of family and community resources.

N-624 6th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Working with and Identifying Strengths within Families of Color

Presented by Sharon McKinley

In the past, social work practice focused on a deficit or problem-based model of interacting with families. Current practice emphasizes a strength-based model of working with families that facilitates engagement and promotes positive outcomes. This workshop will focus on how child welfare workers can use a family strengthening approach with African American families and other families of color. Using the Protective Factors model we will look at the strengths within families of color, particularly African American families, and engage families in case planning that will result in better outcomes, including a reduction in the number of African American families in the child welfare system.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 1:30 – 3:00

N-1099 10th Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Sex and the Law

Presented by Sgt. Bill Davis

Texas citizens are held accountable for their actions from their 10th birthday until they die. Therefore, this program discusses the accountability of students and adults involving various criminal laws dealing with sexual encounters, including underage sex, alcohol, drugs, teen dating violence, and the new teen rave, “**Sex-ting.**” This program helps workers and teachers adhere to the 2007 Texas legislative mandate to address the issues of teen violence in our society. Sgt. Davis also promotes sexual abstinence. Half of the presentation is dedicated to civil law, dealing with pregnancy, paternity suits, child support, and rights of the mother, father, and child.

White Oak Bayou 3rd Floor

1:30 – 3:00

Conscience Development & Discipline

Presented by Susan Rogers

Children are not born with a conscience, it is learned. We will talk about the stages of conscience development, according to age and maturity. Each participant will then evaluate his or her children to ascertain their conscience level. Since many children have not been taught to understand the effects of their behavior on others or regress in conscience development as they approach adolescence, the group will then learn which form of discipline is most effective with each level of conscience development.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010

Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

Auditorium 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Statewide Parent Collaboration Group Video

Presented by De Shaun Ealoms

At this workshop participants will be shown the recent addition and revision of the statewide Parent Collaboration Group video highlights the importance of parent participation and collaboration/partnership with caseworkers in child welfare cases. Parents will be available for Q&A after showing of the video. The video is 53 minutes in entirety.

Buffalo Bayou Room 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Safety Intervention Pt. 2: Are They Really Protective? Strategies to Determine if a Child is Safe

Presented by Jenny Hinson

Determining if a parent or caregiver is protective is one of the most challenging decisions child welfare workers must make. Protective Capacities are the determining factor regarding child safety and influence the decision to intervene in a family's life. Furthermore, identifying deficiencies in this area guides case planning for families involved in the child welfare system. This workshop provides strategies for child welfare workers to utilize when assessing for child safety, when developing case plans, and when making placement decisions.

N-602 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Spirituality and Diversity: Promoting Family and Community Strength

Presented by Catherine Hawkins & Betsy Wisner

There is a growing scholarly literature on spirituality as a valuable component of child welfare practice despite some controversy over best practices. This content can be presented through a highly humanistic, strengths-based, and empowerment perspective that encompasses the universal desire for love, hope, growth, dignity, worth, and meaning. Effective social work intervention in this "spirit" can be built on family and community strengths while respecting individual and cultural differences. It is the understanding of the link between spiritual wisdom and effective practice that can lead to transformation of both the practitioner and the families that we serve.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

N-611 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Transracial Families Created Through Adoption

Presented by Lucy McLaughlin & Cherry Steinwender

The workshop will use the DVD “*Living on the Fault Line, Where Race And Family Meet*” (www.onthefaultline.com). This important film explores the intersection where family love meets racial injustice in the experience of “transracial” families created through adoption. An honest and open-hearted look at race in America, the film profiles nine Vermont “transracial” families, revealing the complex and emotional story of institutional inequities and racial stereotyping intruding into the haven of family and community. It is hailed as “an excellent tool place to begin examining the issues of race and white privilege”.

N-620 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

My Baby's Having a Baby: Now as a family what do we do?

Presented by Amy Blakeney

This 1 ½ hour workshop provides practical guidance in working with families with a pregnant teen. We will review how best to support families from the first “I’m pregnant” to “it’s 3:00 am and I have to get up to go to work and you have to go to school...deal with it!” We will talk about communication building, both with the teen and the father of the baby, and how best to support the pregnant teen without rescuing them.

N-621 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Voice from Male Victims and Survivors of Partner Abuse: Ways to Strengthen Couple Relationships

Presented by Monit Cheung & Venus Tsui

In 2010 we surveyed 80 male victims/survivors in partner abuse and found more barriers than facilitators in abused men’s help-seeking process. Male victims’ avoidance from help-seeking is related to types of services and helpers, abuse experiences, age, employment status, marital status, number of children, and men’s tendency of minimizing problems. Abused men don’t feel comfortable requesting services because men are always portrayed as perpetrators in domestic violence. Based on anonymous input from 26 respondents, a composite narrative presents the voice of abused men for a better understanding in relationship building and a gender sensitive attitude in social and legal service delivery.

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

N-622 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Families and Human Trafficking

Presented by Robert Sanborn & Mandi Kimball

The Human Trafficking Workshop will provide participants with a greater understanding of the crime of human trafficking. They will learn what trafficking is and how it impacts Houston and the State of Texas. In addition, participants will be exposed to ways to identify trafficking situations and discover behavioral signs of which to beware to prevent girls and boys from becoming victims. Finally, CHILDREN AT RISK will also cover state and federal trafficking laws which have been enacted and how people can fight this particular crime in their community.

N-624 6th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Custodial Grandparents: Their role in keeping families together

Presented by Barbara Chandler

This presentation provides an overview of issues and challenges regarding custodial grandparents. This is not about interventions with grandparents or grandchildren or legal mechanisms. This is the first in a series of workshops that will concentrate on various aspects of grandparents in the custodial role.

N-1099 10th Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Moving Families off of the Island and into the Village:

Natural Support Systems for Families

Presented by Tammy Foster & Barbara Sewell

We've all heard it takes a village to raise a child, but who is this village? With the stress of being separated from extended family members and the day to day worries of work and life, how can we find community? This workshop will help participants define what natural support systems are, identify natural supports families have in place, communicate with families to discover supports needed and how to link families to those culturally appropriate supports in their community.

Wednesday Workshops continued on the next page...

WEDNESDAY September 8, 2010 Workshops 3:30 – 5:00

White Oak Bayou 3rd Floor

3:30 – 5:00

Self-Soothing

Presented by Susan Rogers

Many times we allow ourselves to look at medication first rather than helping the family and children learn how to sooth themselves. Self-soothing is not only good for the families we work with but for us as well. Come learn how to help cut your frustration in half so that you have more to give not only the families you work with but yourself as well.

THURSDAY September 9, 2010

Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

Auditorium 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Family Engagement

Presented by Ellen Letts

Why are engagement skills so important to our work with children and families? How do you teach engagement to others? Come join us for a facilitated discussion on engagement where participants will have the unique opportunity to: openly share their ideas and perspectives about engagement and learn simple techniques to teach others the "how" to engagement. The voices of our parents, children, and youth will guide our discussion and aid in the learning experience.

Buffalo Bayou Room 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

My Family My Life My Support: A Transitioning Youth Perspective

Presented by Matthew Vetter

Mr. Vetter will tell his story about his life in foster care and the tribulations he endured after aging out of the system. Mr. Vetter was subjected to abuse from the age of 2 until he was removed from his home at age 9. After sustaining the trauma of being a child who did not receive the unalienable comfort and support due to him as he went through over 20 placements. His story will help workers focus on what can be done to assist youth and families during their trials.

N-1099 10th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Bullies in Schools in Relationship to Domestic Violence

Presented by Sgt. Bill Davis

School districts are being held liable every day because they did too much, or too little, concerning bullies and school violence issues. Sgt. Bill Davis, a 38-year police veteran, discusses issues from a U.S. Dept. of Justice study and intertwines these school issues with family violence and sexual incidents. Bullies and their profiles, victims and their profiles, how a "zero-tolerance" policy is counter-productive, and questions your school district should be answering, will be discussed in this session.

Thursday Workshops continued on the next page...

THURSDAY September 9, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-602 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Mindfulness Meditation: Adapting an Ancient Wisdom Tradition to Empower Families and to Promote Worker Wellness

Presented by Betsy Wisner & Catherine Hawkins

Meditation, derived from ancient wisdom traditions, has gained wide recognition in the U.S. as a practical tool, supported by empirical research, for enhancing stress-management and self-care, increasing focus and concentration, and improving interpersonal relationships. Mindfulness meditation refers to a specific technique for achieving an empathetic, present moment, non-judgmental state of awareness. This workshop explores the mindfulness meditation literature and its applicability to promoting strengths and empowering families and promoting worker wellness. Participants will learn a simple meditation technique and will be offered guidance in using meditation as a valuable resource in their personal and professional lives.

N-620 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

The Missing Link: Fathers in the Welfare System

Presented by Kenneth Thompson

If a child's well-being is related to their father's involvement, then why are so few fathers involved in the child welfare system? Fathers play a critical role in the development and growth of their children. However, far too frequently, in the child welfare system we have found that fathers are a missing component in their child's life. Is it easier to work with a single mother or is the system focused on just the mother? Join us as we explore methods to actively engage fathers in the delivery of services to the FAMILY!

Thursday Workshops continued on the next page...

THURSDAY September 9, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-621 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Understanding Child Development as a Key Element of Assessing Family Strengths

Presented by Susan Henney

How can knowledge of child development be used by social workers to assess and plan services for children and families? Familiarity with normal child development assists in assessing risk, identifying needed services, communicating with other professionals, writing accurate case notes, and talking with parents about their children. Enhancing knowledge of child development will enable participants to provide practical, developmentally appropriate services to the children and families with whom they work. This workshop can also provide a framework around which participants can build their own child development trainings at their place of work.

N-622 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Working with new immigrant families: Important legal and social issues

Presented by Dawn McCarty

Participants that attend this presentation will: 1) deepen their understanding of the special social and legal challenges faced by new immigrant families, 2) become aware of the status of services available to immigrant families, both documented and undocumented, 3) develop an awareness of the trends and conditions for migrant families worldwide, and 4) understand and evaluate the merits of proposed immigration reform policies from a family strengths perspective.

Thursday Workshops continued on the next page...

THURSDAY September 9, 2010 Workshops 8:30 – 10:00

N-624 6th Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Can Parents of The Parents Help Children of the Children?

Presented by Robert Hughes & Tracy Leissner

Interactive dialog to facilitate family reconstruction; Interdisciplinary collaboration: legal, social services, counselors! Ask for help when conflict arises, resurrect the joint conference, include non-parties in conversations, listen for children's perspectives, depersonalize conflict, neutralize hostility, change judgment to empathy, meet more than once, resurrect communication, transform relationships. Mediation empowers families to transcend conflict; Mediation is safe, private, flexible, creative. Co-mediation team discusses a model for mediating family conflict that addresses family dysfunction, substance abuse and mental health issues with intergenerational intervention and participation. Participants learn strategies to improve communication: reflect, reframe, summarize; Participants acquire skills to neutralize language; Participants recognize opportunities to empower families.

White Oak Bayou 3rd Floor

8:30 – 10:00

Lying and Stealing

Presented by Susan Rogers

Stealing and lying began in the Garden of Eden and continues today. The challenge of lying and stealing in families is addressed in this workshop from a practical view: What do children need, Types of liars and thieves, Motives for lying and stealing, responding to lying and stealing, Discipline plans, Empathy Questions and LYING and STEALING GUIDELINES.

Thursday, September 9, 2010

Closing Keynote 10:30 – 12:00

Introduction: June Lloyd

Karl Dennis



Karl Dennis retired as the Executive Director of Kaleidoscope, Inc., a non-profit community-based childcare agency in Chicago, where he provided leadership and vision for 27 years. Under Karl's direction, Kaleidoscope became nationally recognized as one of the top five child and family serving agencies in the country. Karl is a youth worker, a teacher, and a cultivator of strengths. His profound international reputation is based on fundamental principles which he brought to life and seeded: that children can best be served in their families, in their communities; that the assets and strengths of their situation are best known to those closest to the child and family. Through WrapAround services, the youngster and family with individual human care, supervision, and concern is safer, better and cheaper than tearing apart child, family, community and systems. Karl has provided training in all 50 states and many foreign countries, including New Zealand. He has been the keynote speaker for such prestigious conferences such as the National Conference of Juvenile Court Judges, Roselyn Carter's Mental Health Conference, and Tipper Gore's National Mental Health Symposium.

"Everything is Normal Until Proven Otherwise," co-authored with Dr. Ira Lourie, a noted child psychiatrist is a series of stories about the children and families that Karl has worked with over the years. Written for parents and professionals, the book provides guidance for using creativity and compassion in the delivery of services. Part African American, Cherokee, Blackfoot, and Irish, Karl brings to his presentations an understanding of culture.

Center for Family Strengths

Presenters

Milton Ayala

Substance Exposed Newborns: Removal, Family Preservation or Case Closure?

Buffalo Bayou Room Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Keeping Children Safe in Families Affected by Substance Abuse/Alcohol

Buffalo Bayou Room Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Nancy Baird

Saving Families One Child at a Time: Harris County Juvenile Detention

Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) N602 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Amy Blakeney

My Baby's Having a Baby: What do we do now as a Family?

N620 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Larry Brown

Systems of Care (SOC) 101: Improving Outcome for families using SOC

White Bayou Oak Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Darlene Cargill

The Impact of Stigma on Bahamian Families: An Ecological and Indigenous
Interactive Change Process Model

N611 Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Barbara Chandler

Cultural Competence: A Celebration of Family Strengths and Best Practice

N620 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Custodial Grandparents: Their role in keeping families together

N624 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Monit Cheung

Voice from Male Victims and Survivors of Partner Abuse: Ways to Strengthen
Couple Relationships

N621 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Sheila Craig

Supporting Families with the Reality of Disproportionality: An agency and community perspective

N1099 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Lisa Creamer

Life After the Hospital: Working with Families to Meet Ongoing Medical Needs in Child Abuse Investigation and Care

N620 Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Sgt. Bill Davis

Family Worker Safety: A fact of life

N1099 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Sex and the Law

N1099 1:30 – 3:00

Bullies in Schools in Relationship to Family Domestic Violence

N1099 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

De Shaun Ealoms

Statewide Parent Collaboration Group Video

Auditorium Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Tammy Foster

Moving Families off of the Island and into the Village

N1099 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Vince Geremia

K-Start: Transforming the System and Achieving Results for Families

Houston Bayou Room Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Secondary Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention: Kentucky's Research Outcomes

Houston Bayou Room Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Ada Gomez

Balancing the Family with Mental Health

N621 Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Deborah Green

A Transition Model for Youth Aging Out of Care and Former Foster Youth

N624 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Catherine Hawkins

Spirituality and Diversity: Promoting Family & Community Strength

N602 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Mindfulness Meditation: Adapting an Ancient Wisdom Tradition to Enhance Contemporary Family

N602 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Susan Henney

Understanding Child Development as a Key Element of Assessing Family Strengths

N621 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Jenny Hinson

Safety Intervention Part II: Are they really protective? Strategies to determine if a child is safe

Houston Bayou Room Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Ruth Huebner

Secondary Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention: Kentucky's Research Outcomes

Houston Bayou Room Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Robert Hughes

Can Parents of The Parents Help Children of the Children?

N624 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Joyce James

Supporting Families with the Reality of Disproportionality: An agency and community perspective

N1099 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Rebecca Johansson

Systems of Care (SOC) 101: Improving Outcome for families using SOC

White Bayou Oak Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Randy W. Joiner

Systems of Care (SOC) 101: Improving Outcome for families using SOC
White Bayou Oak Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Cory Jones

Parental Child Safety Placements: Strategies for Working with Relatives and
Fictive Kin Voluntary Caregivers
N624 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Diana Kern

Understanding the Effects of Mental Illness on the Family
White Oak Bayou Room Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Mandi Kimball

Human Trafficking and Families
N622 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Tracy Leissner

Can Parents of The Parents Help Children of the Children?
N624 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Ellen Letts

Family Engagement
Auditorium Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Joel Levine

A Transition Model for Youth Aging Out of Care and Former Foster Youth
N624 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Deborah Lewis

Family Preservation 101: How to Implement a family Preservation Program
N602 Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Lori Lewis-Conerly

Safety Intervention Part I: Untying the Knot Houston Bayou Room
Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Dawn McCarty

Working with new immigrant families: Important Legal and Social issues
N622 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Marshall McGhee

A Transition Model for Youth Aging Out of Care and Former Foster Youth
N624 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Cedric McKenzie

My Life in Foster Care: Why I needed family preservation
Auditorium Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Sharon McKinley

Working with and Identifying Strengths within Families of Color
N624 Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00

Lucy McLaughlin

Transracial Families Created Through Adoption
N611 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Bonnie Mikelson

Introduction to Strength Based Family Support Supervision
Auditorium Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Susan Robbins

Diverse Families with Substance Abuse: Using Best Practices to Build on
Family Strengths (2 Parts)
Buffalo Bayou Room Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00 & 3:30 – 5:00

Susan Rogers

Conscience Development & Discipline
White Oak Bayou Room Wednesday 1:30 – 3:00
Self-Soothing
White Oak Bayou Room Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00
Lying and Stealing
White Oak Bayou Room Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

John Ronnau

Finding and Using the Strength in Families
Buffalo Bayou Room Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Robert Sanborn

Human Trafficking and Families
N622 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Pam Schaffer

The Ten Principles of Wraparound
Auditorium Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Barbara Sewell

The Ten Principles of Wraparound
Auditorium Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00
Moving Families off of the Island and into the Village
N1099 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Kathryn Sibley

Supervision Tune-Up
N621 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Jeanne Stamp

The Foster Care – Homeless Connection: A Struggle for Stability
N602 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Cherry Steinwender

Transracial Families Created Through Adoption
N611 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Kenneth Thompson

The Missing Link: Fathers in the Welfare System
N620 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Venus Tsui

Voice from Male Victims and Survivors of Partner Abuse: Ways to Strength
Couple Relationships
N621 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Leigh Van Horn

Using Literacy to Build Community Between Families, Teachers, and Schools
N622 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Matthew Vetter

My Family My Life My Support: A Transitioning Youth Perspective
N621 Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Corrine Waljarvi

Supporting Families after a Death

N620 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00

Tina M. Willauer

K-Start: Transforming the System and Achieving Results for Families

Houston Bayou Room Tuesday 3:30 – 5:00

Betsy Wisner

Spirituality and Diversity: Promoting Family & Community Strength

N602 Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00

Mindfulness Meditation: Adapting an Ancient Wisdom Tradition to Enhance Contemporary Family

N602 Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

Ray Worsham

Round II Results: Implications for Family Centered Practice

N611 Wednesday 8:30 – 10:00