

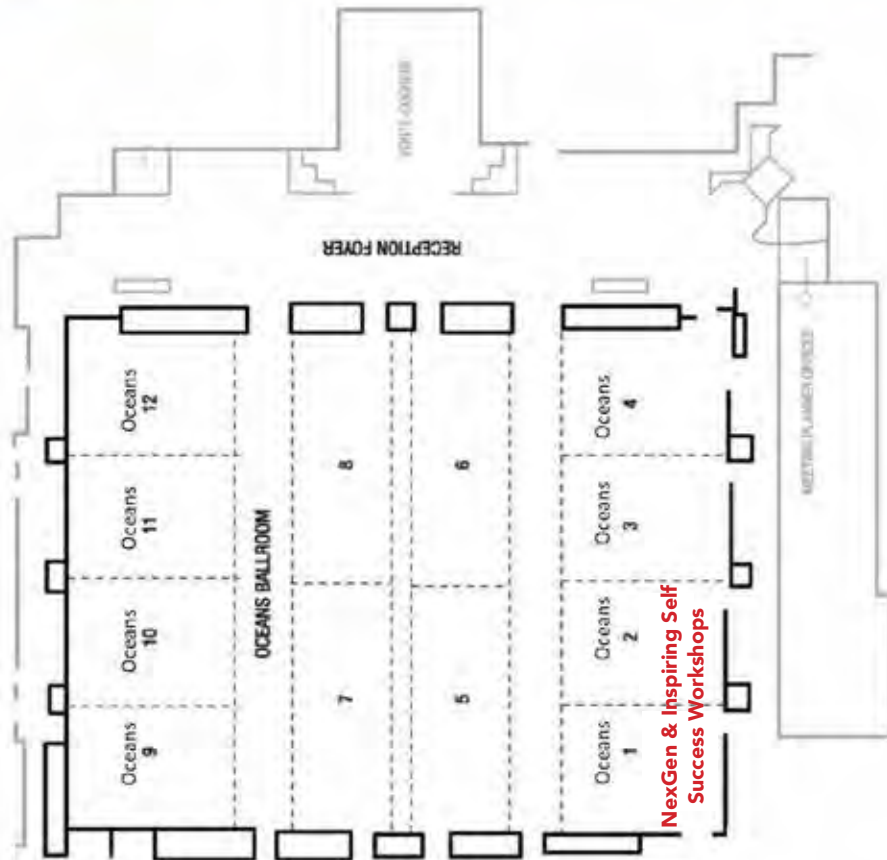
Florida State Foster Adoptive
Parent Association

21st Annual Education Conference

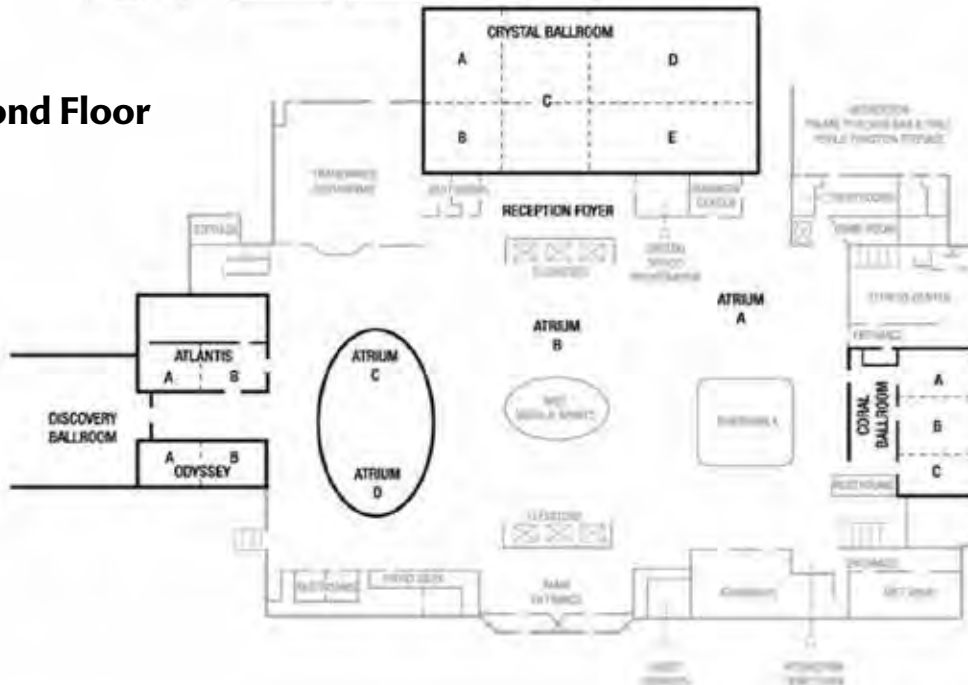


June 16-18, 2017
Renaissance Orlando SeaWorld

Meeting Rooms



Second Floor



Childcare & Tweens program on the Second Floor

Welcome From The President



Welcome!

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association annual educational conference.

This year we are celebrating our many years of building strong families. I am confident that you will soon feel the sense of pride that comes from belonging to a growing association like ours.

It is my hope that you will take advantage of the many classes that are offered during this conference. I am confident you will be able to use this conference as both a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas and as a resource for current developments in the foster and adoptive arenas.

FSFAPA was designed to promote the highest standards for the care of children in the child welfare system, whether they are foster, adoptive or kinship placements. Our members are the very foundation by which these high standards can be achieved; we encourage you to become actively involved.

Over the last few years FSFAPA has built a strong and stable working relationship with the Department of Children & Families and our Community-Based Care lead agencies. We believe this continued partnership is essential as we continue to make improvements for our families and the children in their care.

Should you have any questions or comments, please stop by the registration desk or when you get home, visit the website www.floridafapa.org and contact us.

We look forward to meeting you during the conference!

Respectfully,

Harriett Wynn
President,
Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association

BoardMembers

FSFAPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

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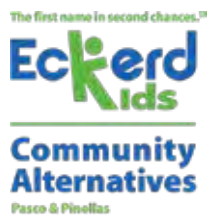
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CBC Keys to Independence

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Sandy Pines

Step Up for Students

Sunshine Health

Talk Sex With Me, PLLC

TLC Association, Inc

The Cocoa Exchange

The Mills Building & Training

Five Points Technology Group

Prevent Child Abuse

Letter From Secretary Carroll



Secretary Carroll is scheduled to speak to the conference after lunch on Saturday

Welcome foster and adoptive parents,

I am honored to welcome you all to the Florida State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (FSFAPA) conference. We share common goals: to see children in the system thrive and to ensure caregivers are provided proper education and assistance to support healthy families.

Because of your selfless acts, so many children are receiving the love and care they deserve. And, because of this, each child has a greater chance of being productive, caring adults. You truly are making a difference, not only in the lives of a child today, but also for their future – for our state’s future.

It is such a blessing to see families come together each year for the FSFAPA conference. Your willingness to take this opportunity to receive training, share experiences, and promote foster parenting and adoption is an inspiration to potential adoptive and foster parents across Florida. It is through your compassion for the vulnerable and dedication to their success that you have become a voice for the future of our children.

As an adoptive parent myself, I can say without a doubt, one of my greatest accomplishments was raising my children. I applaud you for opening your hearts and homes to these children; for many of them, you have been the answer to their prayers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike Carroll
Secretary
Florida Department of Children and Families



KeynoteSpeakers

Ryan North

Ryan and his wife Kayla have six children through birth and foster care adoptions. They began their foster care journey in 2004 and welcomed close to thirty foster children into their home. Although their home is closed to foster care, they continue to support those who are walking this journey.

Ryan is the Executive Director of Tapestry, the Adoption and Foster Care Ministry of Irving Bible Church in Dallas, Texas. Tapestry serves to connect families in community, equip them for the journey, and encourage them along the way. In his capacity as the Executive Director of Tapestry, Ryan leads Empowered to Connect. Ryan and Kayla are Lead Trainers for Empowered to Connect and write about the blessings and challenges of parenting a large family at OneBigHappyHome.com, and contribute to both Empowered to Connect and the Tapestry blogs. You can read his thoughts at TheRyanBlog.com.

Friday Opening Keynote



Why join FSFAPA? FloridaFAPA.org/join

Support Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association to help us support you!

- Annual Education Conference • Quarterly Mini-Conferences Around the State
- FAST Hotline • Network of Officers & RVPs for Day-to-Day Support
- Updates & Support through Social Media • Resource-rich website FloridaFAPA.org
- Quarterly Newsletters • Legislative Advocacy • Support for Local Associations
- Represent Foster & Adoptive Parents at Florida Coalition for Children
- And MORE!



Additional Speakers

Rebekah Lee

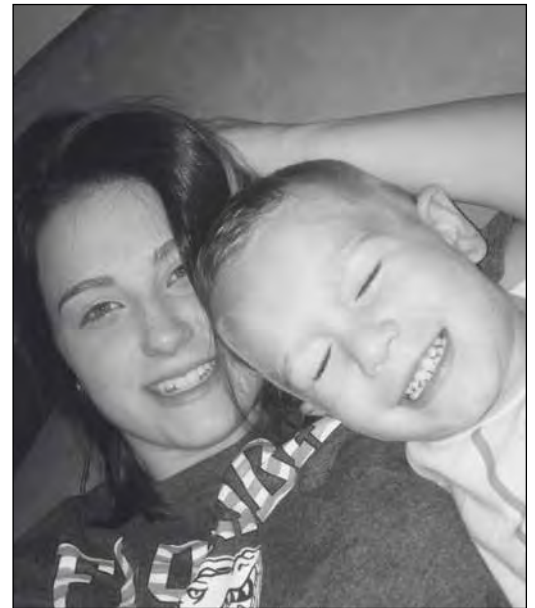
Rebekah Lee is a seventeen year old mother with a drive to beat any stereotype or statistic thrown her way.

Born in Leon County Florida, and raised in Franklin County, Rebekah was born into an abnormal environment. Her story is horrific and traumatizing. She suffers from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and regular flashbacks.

Rebekah has worked tirelessly to overcome any obstacle in her way. From completing high school, obtaining a license, starting college, securing a job, and caring for the most wonderful bond of creation, her blessing of a son.

After 12 years in the Florida foster care system, and nearly a year stuck in the system between graduation and waiting to age out, she is driven to inspire people to help children like herself.

Sunday Breakfast Session



Mike Williams

Mike Williams experienced life in the foster care system and faced significant hardships and obstacles throughout his life.

His birth mother used substances during the entire pregnancy with him, he lived in over 30 homes while in foster care, and he was homeless within the first 3 years of aging out of the system. But, rather than becoming a statistic, he chose to be a light of hope, belief, and inspiration.

Mike is a graduate of Tallahassee Community College and continuing his studies online in Business Management at Daytona State College. Currently, Mike is pursuing his purpose and passion as Founder & CEO of Inspiring Self Success, an organization that focuses on inspiring young people to identify their strengths, educates them on how to overcome personal challenges, and empowers them to make positive life choices.

He also works at Five Points Technology Group as a Product Manager for My JumpVault, a program he helped create, that's being implemented statewide across Florida. My JumpVault provides instant access to health and personal records to youth in foster care, foster parents, & social workers.

Mike Williams is an inspiring young man who has faced several challenges through his years but felt these experiences allowed him to give back and connect others with the right steps to overcome life trauma and still be resilient to succeed.

Sunday Breakfast Session





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the Florida State
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ConferenceSchedule

Schedule at a glance

Friday, June 16, 2017

Registration	11 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Oceans Foyer
Childcare	Noon - 5:30 p.m.	Second Floor
Tweens	12:30-5:30 p.m.	Grouper - Second Floor
NexGen	12:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Coral Ballroom
Training I	1 - 2:15 p.m.	Oceans 3-12
Training II	2:30 - 3:45 p.m.	Oceans 3-12
Opening Keynote	4 - 5 : 15 p.m.	Oceans Ballroom

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Registration	7 a.m. - Noon	Oceans Foyer
Childcare	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Second Floor
Tweens	7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Grouper - Second Floor
Breakfast/ Quarterly Membership Mtg.	7:30 - 9 a.m.	Oceans Main Ballroom
NexGen	8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Coral Ballroom
Training III	9: 15 - 10:30 a.m.	Oceans 3-12
Training IV	10:45 a.m. - Noon	Oceans 3-12
Awards Luncheon	12:15 - 2 p.m.	Oceans Ballroom
Training V	2:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Oceans 3-12
Training VI	3:45 - 5 p.m.	Oceans 3-12

Sunday, June 18, 2017

Childcare	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Second Floor
Tweens	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Grouper - Second Floor
Breakfast (Adults & NexGen)	9 - 11 a.m.	Oceans Ballroom

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Tender Loving Care FAPA & Lori Chapman (Centerpieces)

Lisa Harrington (Photographer)

Charles Parker (Program Layout)

Pierre Sasiain (A/V Technical support)

State Farm (Tween Conference bags)

Miami Dade County FAPA (NexGen Conference bags)

Dale Williams, Trinity Surfaces (Adult conference bags)





NexGen Schedule

Friday, June 16, 2017

Drop off begins	12:30 - 1 p.m.	Coral Ballroom
Introduction, Ice Breakers	1 - 1:45 p.m.	
Heather Rosenberg	2 - 3:30 p.m.	Strategic Sharing: How to Get to Yes!
Alicia Pfhaler	4 - 5:15 p.m.	Empowered to Connect

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Check-In & Breakfast	7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Coral Ballroom
Mike Williams	8:30 - Noon	Inspiring Self Success
Working Lunch	Noon - 1 p.m.	Inspiring Self Success
Mike Williams	1 - 5 p.m.	Inspiring Self Success



Tweens Schedule

Friday, June 16, 2017

Introductions	Noon - 2 p.m.	Ice Breakers
Paper Cup Pyramid Team Challenge	2 - 3:30 p.m.	
Mike Williams	4 - 5 p.m.	

Saturday June 17, 2017

Breakfast	7:30 - 9 a.m.	Activities
Marble racing	9 - 10 a.m.	Individuals sport
Ping Pong Maze	10 - 11 a.m.	Relay teams
Balloon smash	11 a.m. - Noon	Individual play and team
Lunch	Noon - 1 p.m.	Activities
MINUTE TO WIN IT GAMES	1 - 5 p.m.	Individual sport
Clean up	5 - 5:30 p.m.	

Sunday June 18, 2017

Breakfast	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Activities
Candy ball game	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Team activity
Prizes and clean up	10:30 - 11:15 a.m.	

President's Council

Oceans 9

Christopher Johnson, Executive Vice President, Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association,
Orlando Avila, Vice President, Florida State Foster Adoptive Parent Association

Meet local FAPA leaders from around the state and share what is new in your circuit. Discuss strategies and systems that are working in various regions to connect and support parents as well as tools that are working to engage agency and DCF leadership.

Massage Therapy and Its Benefits For Children: An Interactive Experience With Your Child

Oceans 12

Denise Beeman-Sasiain, President, South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, FSFAPA Treasurer

Since massage therapy acts as a stress buster, there is no better way for children to reduce the stress resulting from their trauma than by massage. Practiced regularly, massage can help a child reduce stress, sleep better, and even boost immune system response! As a bonus, it is a powerful tool for bonding and attachment! Spending 5 to 10 minutes daily massaging your child provides significant benefits for all children, but in particular, for children with medical and emotional challenges. Studies show massage promotes marked improvements for children with medical conditions, autism, drug exposure, failure to thrive, reactive attachment disorder, brain injuries and trauma. After an introduction on the benefits of massage, classroom participants will learn proper massage techniques through a live demonstration, while they practice with their child. Since massage techniques may vary depending on the age and the background of each child, this classroom experience will include a 'pass by' during the massage time, to coach parents in meeting the particular needs of their children. Intermittently, participants will hear bullet points in regards to statistical evidence, research studies, and real life examples of how massage has enhanced and accelerated the recovery of Denise's own children on their healing journeys.

Life in the "FAST" Lane - the Foster Allegation Support Team

Oceans 4

Coleen LaCosta, F.A.S.T Coordinator for Florida State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

An interactive workshop for foster parents and other caregivers to have the opportunity to hear the investigation process, communicate what is happening in their area, and work together to get the correct policy and procedures practiced. Workshop promotes partnership teamwork and QPI approaches. Existing supports will be shared.

Grief and Loss: The Impact on Caregivers and their Families

Oceans 11

Carol Edwards, LCSW, Professional Development Coordinator for Big Bend

During this interactive session, participants will explore grief and loss specific to child welfare. Our focus will be on the grief and loss caregivers and their families experience as a result of providing excellent care to children. From the loss of privacy and family routines to the loss of children that are moved, caregivers and their families are impacted by grief and loss and rarely have an opportunity to address it. By engaging in open dialogue, caregivers will learn about coping strategies and actions they can utilize to heal.

Co- Parenting in Kinship Families with Birth Parents

Oceans 3

Larry Cooper, MSW, LCSW, Dir. of Kinship Services, Chief of Intervention and Preventative Services, Children's Home Network
Susan Haynes, MSW, LCSW

Grandparents and relatives are raising many of the most vulnerable at-risk children in Florida and around the U.S. In growing numbers, these Kinship caregivers are asked to protect children and make incredible sacrifices.

This presentation will offer an overview of the successes and challenges for Kinship Caregivers and in one of the areas that impact children in their care, Co-Parenting with Birth Parents. This engaging workshop will discuss and demonstrate the importance of Co-Parenting and successful strategies for families. This workshop is designed for grandparents, foster parents and child welfare professional.

An Introduction To The Legislative Process

Oceans 9

Sherrri Croom, Policy Director, Go Foster!

An example-filled overview of the basic legislative process in Florida with an understanding that policy change doesn't always follow a direct path from bill introduction to Governor's signature. This workshop serves as a preliminary and context to the remaining advocacy presentations through the conference.

Post Adoption Supports and Florida's Reunion Registry

Oceans 10

Valerie J Proctor, Adoption Policy & Program Specialist, Office of Child Welfare/DCF

This workshop will provide an overview of Florida's Post Adoption Program, requirements outlined in Florida Administrative Code for Post Adoption Support as well as the new Post Communication Program. It will also provide more details regarding Florida's Reunion Registry to include what the registry consists of, the application process, and additional services.

Challenging Behaviors

Oceans 12

Anjali Van Drie, M.A., MSW, BCBA

Through this presentation, foster and adoptive parents will learn to identify and define behavior to help improve the behaviors of the children in your home. The presentation will work with attendees to understand why behaviors occur and give suggestions and tools to improve relationships in the home.

Our System of Care

Oceans 4

Gordy Pyper, MS, Director of Intake/Placement/Utilization Management of Big Bend, Adoptive Parent

This workshop will provide an outline of our system of care and address the sometimes competing angles of various agencies that serve kids in care and how to manage the genuine interest in achieving the best outcome for a child despite potential differences regarding HOW to achieve that outcome. The system can be overwhelming and confusing. Gain a perspective on the big picture while understanding individual roles.

Talking to Children and Teens about Sex

Oceans 11

Tara Spears, LMFT, LMCH, Certified Sex Therapist

Provides caregivers with information to assist in identifying their own values regarding sex and sexuality and how those are communicated to the children in their care. Caregivers are additionally provided with information on age-appropriate child sexual development, resources on how to create sexual safety and suggestions for how to have this conversation in a natural and comfortable manner. Attendees will also see a live demonstration of a parent-child having a conversation about sex.

Money Habitudes

Oceans 3

Dr. Martie Gillen, Assistant Professor, University of Florida

Although it's fun and feels like a game, Money Habitudes tackles serious business: helping people talk about money, understand financial psychology and explain their money personality type. Parents will learn more about their own money habits and attitudes and can use the information to teach personal finance independent living skills to youth. This session will use Money Habitudes to help you learn more about your personal money habits and attitudes. Resources for teaching personal finance independent living skills to youth will be shared. Dr. Gillen is an Assistant Professor at the University of Florida in the department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences. Her area of expertise is personal finance. She is also a foster parent.

FridaySessions

Opening Keynote

Friday 4 - 5:15 p.m.

When Two Worlds Collide

Oceans Ballroom

Ryan North, Executive Director of Tapestry, Empowered to Connect

The greatest times of conflict in relationships often arise when one person's history intersects with another person's history. Parenting is no different. Some of the toughest moments in parenting occur when our child's history and beliefs collide with our history, motivations, and expectations. This session will help participants to understand the impacts of hard places on our children and how compassion and empathy should be the appropriate responses to their expressed needs. At the same time, we will walk attendees through how their own histories and experiences inform how they respond to their children. Our individual histories (us and our kids) inform where we are, but does not have to determine where our story as a family develops together.

SaturdaySessions

BREAKFAST GENERAL SESSION

Saturday 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Quarterly Membership Meeting (during breakfast)

Oceans Ballroom

Harriet Wynn, President of FSFAPA

Join us as we provide updates regarding regional activities from across the state, share FSFAPAs efforts in the 2017 legislative session, and close nominations for certain roles on the Board of Directors.

**Please visit the Sponsors
& Exhibitors that have joined us.
Their support helps make
this event possible.**



A Voice Heard - Program and Legislative Goals

Oceans 9

Alan Abramowitz, Executive Director, Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

The presentation will look at Guardian ad Litem and its relationship to caregivers, including a GAL version of the “Quality Parenting Initiative”. We will discuss laws passed during the 2017 legislative session and their impact on caregivers. We will also review the GAL programs goals for future legislative sessions and address how those objectives will expedite permanency and improve outcomes for children. There will be an opportunity to give feedback on priorities of foster and adoptive parents.

Adoption Medicaid

Oceans 10

Chissy Curtis, Director of Clinical Services, Community Partnership for Children

Selena Burden, MSW, Adoption Services Consultant, Community Based Care Integrated Health

This session reviews the adoption Medicaid process, from pre-adoption application to post-adoption service delivery. It helps answers questions such as, “who applies for adoption Medicaid?” to “how do I change my child’s Medicaid plan?” This session also provides an overview of the Sunshine Child Welfare Specialty plan.

Fetal Alcohol

Oceans 12

Kathryn Shea, President & CEO, The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are the leading cause of intellectual disabilities and it is estimated that 70% of the children in foster care have been prenatally exposed to alcohol. This workshop will focus on interventions that can help children with FASD regulate their emotions and behavior so they can reach their greatest potential. Tips for self-care of caregivers will also be discussed.

Florida’s Early Childhood Court Approach: Improving Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers in Out-of-Home Care

Oceans 4

Carrie Toy, Florida Early Childhood Court Statewide Community Coordinator

Leigh Merritt, Senior Court Analyst II, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Office of Court Improvement

This workshop will provide an overview of the national ZERO TO THREE Safe Babies Court Teams project and how court teams are implementing this approach across the state of Florida. This workshop will highlight the importance of the role the out-of-home caregiver plays in the success of the project and how the approach reduces time to permanency and improves relationships across the child welfare system. The workshop will also provide an explanation of the national evaluation five demonstration sites in Florida are participating in.

Trust Based Relational Intervention

Oceans 11

Ryan North, Executive Director of Tapestry, Empowered to Connect

Learn the foundational principles of Trust Based Relational Intervention (risk factors, impact of trauma, the role fear plays). Leave this session filled with compassion and equipped with practical tools for the journey.

Advocating for the Underdog

Oceans 9

Steven Schale

When yesterday's victories don't help; from winning the state for a President to securing growlers for local brewers. Lessons learned from advocating for the minority position and helping the "little guys" in a legislature with supermajorities against you.

Adoption Assistance & Benefits

Oceans 10

Valerie J Proctor, Adoption Policy & Program Specialist, Office of Child Welfare/DCF

Information regarding adoption benefits offered to families who adopt through the child welfare system and will discuss potential benefits offered to families who adopt through a private agency or attorney.

Fostering Teens: The Good, the Bad, The Reward

Oceans 12

Melissa Smallwood, Foster Parent, Licensed through 4Kids of Treasure Coast, BA in Psychology

Fostering teenagers is intimidating to many current and potential foster parents. This workshop will focus on why foster parents needn't be scared off by teens and why teens need and deserve committed families before they launch into adulthood. This workshop will focus on how to successfully foster teens including teaching independent living skills, advocating for educational opportunities, making teens feel welcome and like part of the family, setting realistic rules/expectations and navigating challenges including running away, LGBTQ placements, discipline, successfully partnering with DCM and Independent living workers to ensure success in adulthood, and more.

The New Investigative Process

Oceans 4

David Brown, MSW, QPI Coordinator Florida

This workshop will provide effective strategies and approaches to supporting you in your efforts to advocate and communicate with the department of Children and Families, CBC entities. We will review agency communication protocols and provide concrete tools for families to utilize for more productively presenting information and questions to the partner s you work with every day. We will also unpack discussions and content from the most recent statewide work group tasked with improving investigative practices when an allegation involves a foster parent.

The Real Deal: Helping Foster/Adoptive Parents Understand the Child Welfare System from the Inside Out

Oceans 11

Carol Edwards, LSCW, Professional Development Coordinator for Big Bend

During this session we will explore what foster parents "really" need to know about child welfare and how decisions are made. Foster parents are asked to champion the needs of children and the system, that in spite of obvious strengths, there are tremendous challenges. We'll explore what mutual respect and partnership needs to look like and the actions the child welfare system can take to support caregivers. We will engage in "real talk" during this session to empower caregivers to keep advocating for change!

Regain your Peace of Mind and Your Time to do What You Want to Do

Oceans 3

Shamele Jenkins, President, Miami Dade County Foster Adoptive Parent Association

This workshop will teach each parent how to assess their lives and create a new life track so that they can be more on target with their parenting, their work, their home, and still have time for personal enrichment and all the little things that makes us happy. Parents will learn how to recognize happiness and capture more of it in their daily living as well as to accomplish their daily goals. This workshop will include stress management, time management, tai chi and laughter!

Saturday Sessions

LUNCH GENERAL SESSION

Saturday, 12:15 - 2 p.m.

Awards Luncheon Keynote Speaker Secretary Mike Carroll

Oceans Ballroom

TRAINING V WORKSHOPS

Saturday 2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Advocacy at Step Up For Students

Oceans 9

Catherine Durkin Robinson, Executive Director, Florida Parent Network

This presentation will discuss how parents can best advocate for their children, bringing about meaningful policy change and programs that put kids first. Catherine Durkin Robinson is a former public school teacher and columnist for The Tampa Tribune and Creative Loafing. She's been a Democratic activist for 25 years and helped to start grassroots movements in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, and Maine for Students First. For the last four years she has organized parents for Step Up For Students and Florida Voices for Choices. She continues to organize parents for the school choice movement as Executive Director of Florida Parent Network.

Filling the Toolbox: Practical Strategies for Connecting with and Managing Behaviors of Children Impacted by Trauma

Oceans 10

Loryn Smith, Owner/CEO, Finally Home Christian Adoption Services

This session will review the impact of trauma on the brain and common behaviors seen in the children we serve. The session will then focus on specific interventions for a variety of problematic behaviors. Lying, Stealing, Aggression, Defiance, Destruction, and Disrespect will all discussed.

Trauma Informed Interventions for Trauma Reminders

Oceans 12

Graham Perkovich, B.S., Child Welfare, Trainer II, Sunshine Health, Training & Education Department

This workshop will review the definition of trauma reminders, the associated reactions, and techniques for addressing these challenging behaviors. Participants will leave the workshop with tools to help uncover the thoughts and feelings driving behaviors, help children develop self-regulation skills, and implement a community support approach. Group activities will be conducted.

After completing this training participants will be able to: Define trauma reminder, Describe how thoughts and feelings influence behaviors and Identify two trauma-informed interventions to address trauma reminder reaction.

Protective Factors in Motion

Oceans 4

Chris Lolley, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Florida/Ounce of Prevention

This is an activity based learning lab focused on the 6 Protective Factors and how they are applied through relationships and interactions. Mr. Lolley has a BS in Psychology and 25 + years of experience in child welfare programs including protective investigations, foster care and adoption, training, and supervision across all program areas as well as project management at the local, regional and statewide levels.

How to work together to achieve what is in the best interest of the child

Oceans 11

Kelly Swartz, Director of Legal Services, Guardian Ad Litem Program

Kristen Solomon, Southern Regional Director, Guardian Ad Litem Program

The Guardian ad Litem Program will discuss the role of the Guardian ad Litem, critical aspects of the dependency case and how caregivers play a vital role the process. Working together on behalf of the children we each serve makes a huge difference in outcomes for children and families.

How to run a successful FAPA with little or no money

Oceans 3

Shamele Jenkins, President, Miami Dade County Foster Adoptive Parent Association

Learn how to incorporate, build a board of directors, create membership and hold them. Learn how to create and recruit for workshop presenters, give always, and fundraisers. We'll also discuss strategies for fundraising.

Strategic Storytelling: How Improving the Narrative Improves the Outcome

Oceans 9

Heather Rosenberg, DCF Children's Ombudsman, Past-President Tallahassee Area Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Individual stories told effectively can illustrate the fact that children and youth who have faced serious challenges through trauma, abuse, neglect and abandonment have needs that must be met. Sometimes our important messages get lost though because we, as advocates, don't make our stories easily digestible. This workshop will teach families how to tell their stories so that they will be heard; with a clear and concise message that allows decision makers the opportunity to buy in to the asks we make.

Adoption Intervention and Best Interest Factors

Oceans 10

Valerie J Proctor, Adoption Policy & Program Specialist, Office of Child Welfare/DCF

Florida Statue was amended in July of 2016 to include factors that the court must consider in determining whether the best interest of a child are served by transferring custody to a prospective adoptive parent(s) chosen by the parent or an adoption entity. This workshop will discuss the changes to statue and Administrative Code regarding interventions for the purpose of adoption and the Best Interest Factors that should be considered. Finally, this workshop will provide an overview of adoption assistance benefits for interventions.

Human Trafficking

Oceans 12

Ann Pimentel-Kerr, Project Coordinator, Children's Advocacy at the Howard Phillips Center for Children and Families

Learn about labor trafficking, sex trafficking, victim & trafficker/pimp identification and explore case scenarios.

All Pro Dad: Helping Recruit Foster & Adoptive Families

Oceans 4

Jonathon Morgan, Marketing Manager, Family First

All Pro Dad, a national non-profit based in Tampa, has partnered with the Department of Children and Families, the Florida Coalition for Children, and the Community Based Care agencies across the state to recruit foster and adoptive families. Come hear how we're doing it and how families already involved in fostering and/or adoption can get involved.

Walking the Walk: Self-Care in the face of Compassion Fatigue and Vicarious Trauma

Oceans 11

Carrie Toy, Florida Early Childhood Court Statewide Community Coordinator

Leigh Merritt, Senior Court Analyst II, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Office of Court Improvement

Compassion fatigue is characterized by deep emotional and physical exhaustion and by a shift in helping professionals sense of hope and optimism about the future and the value of their work. The level of compassion fatigue a helper experiences can ebb and flow, and even very healthy individuals with optimal life/work balance and self-care strategies can experience a higher than normal level of compassion fatigue when they are overloaded, are working with a lot of traumatic content, or dealing with children who are chronically in crisis. This is an interactive workshop, incorporating a combination of solo, small group, and whole group activities. Past participants of this popular training have reported feeling inspired to make meaningful changes in their personal and professional lives in addition to learning practical strategies for identifying and dealing with the costs of caring

My Jump Vault

Oceans 3

Thomas Fair, Foster Care Youth Alumnus, Product Manager, Five Points Technology Group

This workshop will introduce participants to the My JumpVault experience and describe the value of maintaining a child's records electronically. The session will start by informing participants about the general functionality, take a peek inside a youth's vault, and see how the system flows. You will see the many uploads available to youth, caregivers and case managers, such as: birth certificates, driver's license, Medicaid cards, report cards, immunization records, physical records, resumes, IL skills and many more.



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