

Letter from our President: Lynda Thompson

Spring is finally upon us! We hope you and your families are enjoying the weather and great activities that Florida provides. Foster Parents can obtain a free Family Annual Pass for the state parks. Please take advantage of this great opportunity.

Licensed Family Foster Homes - Families operating a licensed family foster home are eligible to receive an annual free Family Annual Entrance Pass (*must be licensed by the Florida Department of Children and Families*).

During April every year we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month as we work together to support children and families in need. Those of us on the frontlines work together to support the children under our care. Statistics show that 58% (or 2/3) of the 1.8 million children who received prevention services in 2021 received services such as family preservation, family support or foster care. It is more important than ever that we work together as a team to support our children in care.

Our Association is working hard to provide our Foster Parents and Caregivers a great Conference this year! We have fabulous speakers and a diverse set of trainings to choose from. We look forward to seeing you in June at the Education Conference!

2023 Summer Education Conference

REGISTER NOW TO JOIN IS IN ORLANDO!

BE THE DIFFERENCE

workshop schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

Workshop #1: 3:00 to 4:30 pm

- From Trauma to Choices: Shifting Your Mindset from WHY to WHAT! • David Kinsman / Speak Up For Kids and GAIL, Palm Beach County
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Implications on Development, Behavior and Learning • Tamra Cajo / The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Knot Your Average Parent • Alissa Hinton / Lisha Lau and Lynda Phinard-Davenport
- Transitioning from Foster Care to Young Adulthood • Selena Garrison / Florida Youth Experiences Study
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Staffing and Placement Transitions • Courtney Smith, Valerie Proctor and Vanessa Snoddy / Florida DCF
- Promoting Healing and Understanding in Adoption and Foster Care: Seven Core Issues for Permanency • Graham Parkovich / Sunshine Health
- Just Keep Swimming • Barb Clark / North American Council on Adoptable Children
- Medical Foster Care • Joni Hollis / Children's Medical Services Medical Foster Care Program

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023

Workshop #2: 9:00 to 10:15 am

- Advocating for Your Student • Jenn Weiden / The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Navigating Your Way Through School Choice Options in Florida • Amy Allman / Step Up For Students
- Time & Personal Care Management for YOU • Shamele Akua Jenkins / Miami Dade County FAPA
- TBRI for Adults • Stephen Zedler / The Pearl Project
- Power of Connection: Creating Authentic Relationships with Parents • Olivia Quinn-Harris and Ann Lindsay-Mowery / Embrace Families
- Dependency Courtroom Process and Testimony • Jonathan Growick / Children's Legal Service, Florida DCF
- Dealing with Problematic/Dangerous Behaviors to Keep Everyone Safe • Kristal Pollock and Tamra Cajo / The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Effectively Utilizing the Benefits, Services and Supports of Independent Living • Margie Dotsen & Yulanda Baldwin / Communities Connected for Kids

Workshop #3: 10:30 to 11:45 am

- Dependency Courtroom Process and Testimony • Jonathan Growick / Children's Legal Service, Florida DCF
- Regulation Rescue — How to Stay Calm When Your Kids Are Not • Terri DeMarco and Jeane Byrd / The Pearl Project
- Life After Foster Care • Flourishing • Amanda Cruce / Florida FAPA
- CROWNet: Cultivating Resilience, Optimism, Wellness and Normalcy through Hair Care • Gloria Fobbs / Centene Corporation/Sunshine Health
- Trauma & Developmental Disabilities • Dr. Kristin Hoffman and Chelsea Hernandez / All Star Children's Foundation
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Staffing and Placement Transitions • Courtney Smith, Valerie Proctor and Vanessa Snoddy / Florida DCF
- How TBRI and ABA Can Help Caregivers Understand Behavior • Dillon Anderson and Jeremy Whyte / Family Initiative
- The Big 3: Lying, Stealing & Raging • Barb Clark / North American Council on Adoptable Children

Workshop #4: 2:30 to 4:00 pm

- A Conversation with Caregivers: Needs and Supports for Caregivers of Transitioning out of Foster Care • Hyunji Lee and Amanda Cruce
- Building Relationships between Foster Parents and Bio Parents • Bianca Ila and Jennifer Perez / Foster Parents, Citrus FRC
- How to Operate A FAPA With Little Or No Money • Shamele Akua Jenkins / Miami Dade County FAPA
- Equipping Caregivers to Navigate Investigations & Referrals: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly! • Jamie Averett / Youth Law Center and Coleen LaCasse
- TBRI for Teens • Jeane Byrd / The Pearl Project
- Reunification 101: A Guide for Foster Parents • Christy Fisher and Shelly Rose / Embrace Families-Strong Foundation
- Medical Foster Care • Joni Hollis / Children's Medical Services Medical Foster Care Program

F.A.S.T.

FLORIDA'S
FOSTER
ALLEGATION
SUPPORT TEAM

Support is available to
foster, adoptive, and
relative caregivers.

1-800-FAST-119
FAST@FloridaFAPA.org

POINTERS FOR DEALING WITH AN ALLEGATION

- CALL F.A.S.T. HOTLINE FOR SUPPORT! FAST IS TO PREPARE YOU IF & WHEN AN ALLEGATION IS FILED ON YOU. IT'S OKAY TO STOP AND BREATHE.
- KEEP A COMPLETE WRITTEN JOURNAL OF ALL DATES, TIMES, EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
- BE A PARTNER AND INSIST ON HAVING FULL INPUT INTO THE INVESTIGATIONS.
- REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM DCF OR THE CBC IN EXPLAINING TO CHILDREN WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WHY.
- MAINTAIN YOUR SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM WHEN COOPERATING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
SUPPORT IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY

Limited Sponsor & Vendor
Opportunities are still available.

Email Michele at
Michele@FloridaFAPA.org for
more details, today!

Don't miss out!
Be sure to book your
hotel room at the
Signia by Hilton
Orlando Bonnet Creek
by Saturday, May 13!

NEXGEN

JOIN US DURING 2023 FLORIDA FAPA SUMMER
CONFERENCE

AGES 13+



REGISTER AT FLORIDAFAPA.ORG

BE THE
DIFFERENCE

OUR FLORIDA FAPA BOARD

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President: Lynda Thompson

Internal Vice President: Michele Connizzo

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At-Large Board Members

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Webmaster: Charles Parker

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Join or Renew Your Membership to Florida FAPA

Every licensed foster parent, relative, non-relative and adoptive caregiver in the state of Florida is automatically entitled to the benefits provided by Florida FAPA. Some of these benefits include mini conferences offered each quarter in various parts of the state or online, participation in Children's Week in Tallahassee where we advocate for the families we serve, and an annual educational conference attended by more than 300 foster and adoptive parents!

A dues-paid member is eligible to vote on issues and concerns and to participate in the election process. It also provides support for an agency that is working around the clock for you and your family.

Our Membership year will now run from July 1 through June 30, so be on the lookout for an invoice via email to be able to pay your Membership Dues online or Visit FloridaFapa.org to join as a new member today!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



Florida FAPA
PO Box 261584
Tampa, FL 33685

Phone: 1-866-913-0977

E-mail: info@floridafapa.org

www.floridafapa.org



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

