

F.A.S.T. FLORIDA'S FOSTER ALLEGATION SUPPORT TEAM

Letter from our President: Lynda Thompson

Greetings everyone! I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' for all that you do for our children in care. May is the time when we celebrate National Foster Care Month. It takes a community working together to provide care for the children in our foster care system. We recognize the hard work and dedication that is needed from our advocates, volunteers, foster parents, kinship caregivers and others who work tirelessly to provide support and loving homes for children while they await reunification or their forever home.

Thank you again for all you do!

2023 Summer Education Conference

REGISTER NOW TO JOIN IS IN ORLANDO!

BE THE **workshop schedule** DIFFERENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

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

- From Trauma to Choice: Shifting Your Mindset from WHY to WHAT! • David Kinison / Speak Up For Kids and GAL, 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 • Alisha Hinton / Lisha Lou and Lynda Phanard-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 Perkovich / 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 Werden / 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 YDU • Shamele Akua Jenkins / Miami Dade County FAPA
- TBRI for Dads • Stephen Zedler / The Pearl Project
- Power of Connection: Creating Authentic Relationships with Parents • Olivia Quinn-Harris and Ann Lindsey-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 Pollack and Tamra Cajo / The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Effectively Utilizing the Benefits, Services and Supports of Independent Living • Margie Dotson and 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 Jeanne Byrd / The Pearl Project
- Life After Foster Care – Flourishing • Amanda Cruce / Florida FAPA
- CROWDed: 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 Caleen LaCosta
- TBRI for Teens • Jeanne 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

Register Now



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.

NEXGEN

JOIN US DURING 2023 FLORIDA FAPA SUMMER
CONFERENCE
AGES 13+



REGISTER AT FLORIDAFAPA.ORG

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Past President: Amanda Cruce

Legislative Update

The 2023 state legislative session ended on Friday, May 5th. The state has once again funded the \$200/child per month childcare stipend for kids under 5. We know this program has been implemented differently across the state, and we continue to share feedback with legislative staff to make the program better. If you are not receiving a stipend and believe you should be, or only started receiving it recently, please email our lobbyist, Sara Clements, at sclements@mwcllc.com with your county, circuit, and CBC so that we can share that. Look out for a full report

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE!



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