8th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference: Engaging Families, Connecting Communities, Achieving Successful Outcomes

November 7-9, 2012 ~ Austin, Texas

Click this Link to Register: http://www.tjjd.texas.gov/regionaltraining/programsinfo.aspx?id=NdM5yEmEwMTk2ZTk2Yi00ZTpyLyWJNGMnGRlNzs0ODIvYT8k

The Strengthening Youth and Families Conference is an annual event sponsored by a collaboration of youth-serving partners, including Prairie View A&M University's Juvenile Crime Prevention Center, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments, and the State Volunteer Resource Council for Texas Youth.

This conference will offer workshops related to the prevention of high-risk problem behaviors for youth, early intervention for youth who have just begun to engage in indicators of those high-risk behaviors, and treatment for those youth who become trapped in those behaviors. Workshops will be geared to a multi-disciplinary audience of youth-serving professionals, volunteers, and family members.

Registration Fee

EARLY-BIRD FEE - $175 (Payment must be postmarked on or before October 5, 2012)
Regular Fee - $200.00 (Payment must be postmarked between October 6 and October 26, 2012)
Late and On-Site Fee - $225.00 (Payment postmarked after October 26, 2012 and received on-site)

Purchase Vouchers are accepted. Please use Tax ID # 74-2457377 when submitting your form, according to the registration deadlines above.

Registrations are only accepted online, no paper registrations can be accepted. A copy of your registration confirmation form must accompany your payment in order to receive proper credit.

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PLEASE NOTE: Registration checks should be made payable to the STATE VOLUNTEER RESOURCE COUNCIL and mailed to the attention of Tammy Holland, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, P.O. Box 12757, Austin, Texas 78711.

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Conference Hotel

All conference activities will be located at the Omni Austin Southpark Hotel in Austin, TX. A special room block has been reserved for participants of this conference. The special hotel room rates are as follows, and do not include applicable state and local taxes:

Single - $85.00
Double - $115.00

OMNI AUSTIN SOUTH PARK HOTEL
4140 Governors Row
Austin, Texas 78744

The Cut-Off Date for accepting reservations into this room block is Wednesday, October 17, 2012. Reservation requests received after 5:00 PM local time at the Hotel on the Cut-Off Date will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis. Please call 512-448-2222 to make your room reservation (be sure to ask for the 8th Annual Strengthening Youth and Families Conference group rate) or click on the following online reservation system link: http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/AustinSouthpark/MeetingFacilities/TexasJuvenileJusticeDepartment11.aspx

Targeted Audience
Individuals who wish to attain new and practical skills to work successfully with youth who have behavioral health needs and who are involved, or at risk of involvement, in the juvenile justice system should attend.

Agenda

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012

9:00 - 5:00 Pre-Conference Meeting
Special Needs Diversionary Program Training
Led by: Steve Spencer, contact for questions at 512-424-6699

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Pre-Conference Sessions**

8:30 - 11:30 (3 Hours Professional Ethics Training)
**Here Today, Gone Tomorrow
(Limited to 50 participants, Management Hours)
Presented by: Anthony Welebob, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
An interactive workshop that explores the dynamics of ethical principles.

8:30 - 12:30
**Understanding Adolescence: Seeing Youth Through a Developmental Lens
(Limited to 30 participants)
Presented by: Rachel Samsel, Department of State Health Services

** Please Note: There is an additional $50 registration fee required for each of these pre-conference sessions.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012

CONFERENCE BEGINS

1:30 - 3:00 OPENING GENERAL SESSION
Featuring:
JoAnn Burbridge, Associate Director, Prairie View A&M University, Center for Juvenile Crime and Delinquency Prevention
Mike Griffiths, Executive Director, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Keynote: Karl Dennis, Former Executive Director of Kaleidoscope, Inc., a non-profit community-based childcare agency in Chicago. One of the country’s leading experts and pioneers of community-based care for the hardest to serve children and families, including WrapAround services and long-term intensive family preservation services.

3:30 - 5:00 Breakout Tracks

Utilizing Youth to Improve Program Recruitment and Retention (Management Hours)
Presented by: Peter Witt, Professor, and Corliss Outley, Associate Professor, Sequor Youth Development Initiative (YDI), a program funded by Texas A&M University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service
This session will define and discuss youth voice and specific ways to create, foster, and support safe spaces within a public and not-for-profit agency or organization, and guidelines for incorporating youth voice into program recruitment and retention strategies.

WrapAround Services and Long-Term Intensive Family Preservation Services
Presented by: Karl and Kathy Dennis
Former Executive Director of Kaleidoscope, Inc., a non-profit community-based childcare agency in Chicago. One of the country’s leading experts and pioneers of community-based care for the hardest to serve children and families, including WrapAround services and long-term intensive family preservation services.

Kids-N-K9s
Presented by: Donna Wasielewski, Director of Kids-N-K9s Program at Williamson County Juvenile Services
This session will focus on the purpose and benefits of utilizing canines with at-risk youth, and information about how the program started and logistical considerations to creating a similar program.

**Question, Persuade and Refer: Ask a Question, Save a Life**  
Presented by: Anthony Welebob, Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
Learn myths and facts about youth suicide and get experience in the life-saving skills of QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer).

5:30 - 7:30 Networking Reception & Silent Auction - Exhibit Hall

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

8:15 - 9:45 Breakout Tracks

**Compassion Fatigue**  
Presented by: Sandra Eames, Professor, Austin Community College  
An engaging conversation regarding compassion fatigue and how burnout may influence inappropriate boundary behavior among professionals.

**Increasing Collaboration When Working with Families**  
Presented by: Jack Nowicki, LCSW  
Learn about current research about client involvement, client perception of alliance with worker, and increasing rapport, learn strategies and best practices to increase parent involvement.

**Gangs: The Inside Story**  
Presented by: George "Rocky" Vasquez, Director of All Things Possible Ministry and former Gang Member  
Learn the indicators for gang involvement, techniques for working with gang-involved youth, and their families, and ways in which you can help prevent a youth from becoming involved in gang activity.

**Mediating and Mentoring Away Reentry Problems**  
Presented by: Dr. Susan Armoni, Executive Director PaxUnited, Inc., and Robert Gonzales  
Learn how to conduct pre-release juvenile offender/victim mediations, the ways in which mediation sessions can improve the flow of communication between offenders and their families and the benefits of post-release mentoring.

10:15 - 11:45 Breakout Tracks

**The Mentoring Relationship**  
Presented by: Greg Hill, TJJD Mentor, and Art Smith, TJJD Mentor & Former Incarcerated Youth  
Discuss the benefits of mentoring for at-risk youth and youth in the juvenile justice system. Explore best practices and receive helpful tips on what works best, from the perspectives of two current mentors and a formerly incarcerated youth.

**Trauma-Informed Care: Does it fit with Positive Youth Development**  
Presented by: Jack Nowicki, LCSW  
Learn about trauma-informed care and practice, and the “Stress-Trauma Continuum.”

**Building Cultural Competence in Youth and Family Serving Systems**  
Presented by: Larry D. Brown, Jr., Wraparound Supervisor, Harris County JP Court  
Learn how to implement practical strategies to enhance cultural and linguistic competence in systems of care. The resources and information provided will go beyond the basics to advance the elimination of disparities in mentor health, child welfare, juvenile justice, and related systems.

**PeaceRox Aggression Replacement Training**  
Presented by: Adrian Moore, Executive Director, and Shana Fox, Youth Advisor, Council on At-Risk Youth  
This workshop will discuss techniques and methodologies for achieving delinquency prevention by conducting Aggression Replacement Training with high risk youth referred by school authorities.
12:00 - 1:30 LUNCHEON GENERAL SESSION (Box Lunch Provided)
**Keynote:** Joyce James, Associate Deputy Executive Commissioner of the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities, Presents “Courageous Conversations About Race”

1:45 - 3:15 Breakout Tracks

**LGBTQ Youths: Myths, Struggles and Strategies**
Presented by: Jennifer Rockett, Research Scientist and Psychologist
This workshop focuses on the special population of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning youths. Explore myths and guidelines for working with this population, current research and psycho-social struggles, resources and strategies, information and case law that impacts how you work with LGBTQ youths.

**Juvenile Immigration Process**
Presented by: Warren Kaufmann, Assistant Chief Counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement
This workshop will explore the complicated process of working with undocumented youth in the United States, determinations and referrals/placements that must be made when these juveniles are involved in the system, and the immigration court proceedings and how youth may seek relief in the immigration court or an administrative agency to remain in the U.S.

**Partnering to Improve Outcomes for Youth and Families Involved in the Justice Courts**
Presented by: Larry D. Brown, Jr., Wraparound Supervisor, Harris County JP Court
This workshop will focus on the use of wraparound principles to engage youth involved in the Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts, their families, and partners, to produce positive outcomes. Explore methods in which the JP Court Wraparound Program addresses the needs of families.

**Motivational Interviewing**
Presented by: Andy Fazzio, Fazzio Consulting, Inc. and formerly with Oregon Youth Authority
An introduction to the motivational interviewing model that can be used in all aspects of communication with families, peers, teachers, and correctional professions. Learn about risk factors that lead to criminal behaviors and attitudes and protective factors that keep youth out of the juvenile justice system.

3:45 - 5:15 Breakout Tracks

**Teaming with Your Teen**
Presented by: Cossette Bowles, M.A., L.P.C., L.M.F.T., Executive Director, and Roslin Johnson, Project Coordinator for Adolescents, Anthem Strong Families
This fast-paced and energetic workshop will teach basic skills and best practices to increasing emotional empathy and positive bonding between parents and adolescents, and is based upon the approach used by Anthem Strong Families as they partnered with Dallas County Teen Drug Court.

**Work with Me, Not Against Me: Family Engagement**
Presented by: Mary Garrity, Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and Michelle Bias, Family Member
Explore family dynamics that may be causing defiance and lack of buy-in from parents: learn how to advocate for the family and lessen the stressors to gain cooperation. Hear a personal story of one family’s experience with the system.

**Emotional Intelligence: The Holy Grail of Personal Change and Success**
Presented by: Joe Serio, President, Joe Serio Enterprises
This session presents the four basic pillars of emotional intelligence and demonstrates how it is the critical avenue through which to affect change in an individual, family, or organization.

**Current Trends & Issues of Non-Suicidal Self Injury**
Presented by: Dr. Lori Robinson, Texas Juvenile Justice Department
Overview of issues, current research, prevalence rates, and intervention strategies related to non-suicidal self-injury.

5:30 - 7:30 State Volunteer Resource Council Business Meeting
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2012

8:15 - 10:00 Breakout Tracks

**Dangers of the Internet/Social Networking**
Presented by: Larry Baker, FBI Special Agent
Explore the current dangers of the Internet and social networking, and recent trends in Internet-related crimes against children. Recent FBI cases in San Antonio will be discussed to put this data into perspective.

**The Unseen Cultural Barriers**
Presented by: Gregory Baines, Executive Direct of Just Do it Now, Inc., and Stavon Williams, Program Director at Yes WE Can Program
Personal experiences of the presenters are share to help others recognize the underlying cultural realities that must be acknowledged for children to prosper.

**Effective Strategies for Engaging Youth**
Presented by: Jeni Brazeal, Public Health Educator, City of Austin, Health and Human Services Department
Learn strategies for connecting with youth people and moving from the idea of viewing youth as recipients to viewing them as resources and assets in our community. Topics covered will include relationship building, treating young people as resources, and the importance of play.

**The Triple P-Positive Parenting Program System of Interventions: An Overview** (Management Hours)
Presented by: Dr. Cheri Shapiro and Kat Green, Triple P Training Consultants
This workshop will provide an overview of the conceptual and scientific foundations for Triple P, an evidence-based, multi-level system of parenting and family support interventions designed to improve the competence and confidence of parents at a population level.

10:30 - 12:00 CLOSING GENERAL SESSION
**Keynote: Mark Steward**, Former Director of the Missouri Division of Youth Services, Presents “Juvenile Justice System Solutions for Texas: Things to Consider” (Management Hours)

Questions? Contact Tammy Holland at 512-424-6090 or John Kinsey at 512-424-6702