LCTF

Child Abuse Prevention Conference
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

VIRTUAL EVENT


VISIT LCTF.ORG
Greetings Friends,

On behalf of the State of Louisiana, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Virtual Child Abuse Prevention Conference hosted by the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund.

As you can imagine, children and families remain a top priority within this administration. In this time of widespread change, we are acutely aware of the need for ongoing growth—for ourselves, our organizations, and our communities. The choices we make and actions we take today inform how we all will flourish in the days and years to come. To advance our collective learning, conferences such as this, play a vital role in addressing critical issues facing child and family serving systems and provide a strategic way that we can all work to bring change that protects our most important asset.... our children.

It is my hope that you have a wonderful day of to learning and collaborating. Further, I hope that you will be inspired to take home tools that help you strengthen and provide ongoing resources for our families.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor
Thank you for joining us online for the first LCTF Louisiana Child Abuse Prevention Conference. In this time of widespread change, we are acutely aware of the need for building resiliency within our families and our communities. This also includes the community of individuals who are working to transform child welfare and building prevention strategies to strengthen the family, protect our children and promote safe and stable environments. The conference will feature dynamic and inspiring experts and speakers including Internationally renowned speaker and founder of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, Dr. Terry Cross, in addition to the Honorable Ernestine Gray, who served more than 35 years as a Juvenile Court Judge in Orleans Parish. Also speaking is Dr. Dana Hunter, who serves as the Executive Director of Louisiana’s newly formed Office of Human Trafficking. She will lend her expertise and insight to our participants on what we can do to protect our children. We hope that you will join us in encouraging others to connect, as we work to build a better and brighter future for our most important asset….. our children.

Katina Semien Smothers, JD
Dear Community Partners,

Welcome to the 1st Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference hosted by the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund! We are excited that you have decided to join us as we work to educate, inform and inspire our communities about the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund continues to be instrumental in seeking to address prevention efforts in the State of Louisiana and to promote the safety and well-being of Louisiana families. Through our strong partnerships and collaborations, important support is provided to community-based child abuse prevention efforts which are essential in the fight to prevent child maltreatment and promote overall well-being. We believe that our work is essential in aiding to significantly help prevent child abuse and neglect within the State and further to help increase better outcomes to protect the children of Louisiana from abuse and neglect, strengthen Louisiana families, and educate the public about children’s safety.

It is my hope that you will delve into the sessions today with an open heart and mind regarding suggested strategies for preventing abuse within our society and that you will take the information you learn and share it with our broader community. Our children are depending on you!

Sincerely,

Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker, Esq
Welcome & Opening Keynote

Welcome

- Katina Semien Smothers, JD - Executive Director
  *Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund*
- Governor John Bel Edwards
- Secretary Marketa Walters
  *Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services*
- Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell - Deputy Chief of Staff
  *Office of Community Programs*
- Dr. Melanie Washington - Executive Director
  *Louisiana Children’s Cabinet*
- Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD - Board Chairman
  *Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund*

9:00am-10:00am

Resiliency Building: Creating Communities that Help Families Thrive

- Dr. Jerry Milner, Public Knowledge
- David Kelly, JD, Public Knowledge

The role that poverty plays in child welfare decision-making is a topic that has yet to be meaningfully confronted and addressed. Poverty is a risk factor for neglect, but poverty does not equate to neglect. The presence of poverty alone does not mean a child is unsafe, unloved, or that a parent lacks the capacity to care for his or her child. Poverty can make it more challenging for parents to meet certain of their children's needs. We must be resoundingly clear that a child should never be removed from his or her family due to poverty alone. We must also be very clear that poverty is disproportionately present in communities of color and that this fact carries direct implications for child welfare.
101 It Happens to Us Too: Child Abuse in the LGBTQIA Community and Barriers to Safety

- Dylan Waguespack, True Colors United

LGBTQIA+ youth are more likely to suffer from consistent harassment and abuse in foster care, juvenile justice settings and homeless shelters. These incidents are particularly pervasive with transgender youth, whose very identities are rejected in state care, and who, when bullied and abused, are often criminalized for acting in their own self-defense. This workshop will discuss what advocates can do to protect this vulnerable population.

102 We Are the System: Working together to promote equity in Child Welfare Prevention Services

- Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, JD, Board Chair, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund, Acadiana Legal Service Corp.

Working collaboratively to address disparities and promote race equity disproportionality in child welfare system is impacted not just by what happens to families in child welfare systems, but also by what happens to them before they reach child welfare. Many of the families served are touched by multiple child and family serving systems, many of which face their own challenges with race and bias. This discussion will focus on working collectively to build equity across child and family serving organizations.
Drug abuse continues to be a major problem plaguing society today. Vaping among high school students grew an astounding 900% since 2011, and teens as young as 12 or 13 are now more likely to vape than smoke. The numbers are alarming and a cause for concern. The newest study released in 2018, the National Youth Tobacco Survey, shows an estimated 1.5 million more students used an e-cig in 2018 than in 2017. Vaping devices are just new ways to disguise drug use as one can vape any and every drug out there. Opiate addiction is taking over the nation and the statistics are alarming. One person every 19 minutes dies of a prescription drug overdose. Designer Fentanyl’s are flooding the street via the internet and can be delivered straight to anyone’s door. Marijuana use is increasing across the nation as perception of harm decreases. As more states look to legalize marijuana, or allow it for medicinal use, more problems are occurring. Marijuana on the street is extremely potent, edibles and concentrates are becoming very popular as are ways to disguising its use. This session will cover new trends in substance abuse: Vaping, Alcohol, OTC products, what the impact of legalization of Marijuana really means, the Opioid epidemic.
201 Beneath the Surface: Trust Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI)

- Bobbye Matthews, Crossroads NOLA

Attend this session to understand the importance of TBRI being an evidenced based, trauma informed, holistic intervention and to learn more about how certain risk factors alter the developmental trajectory of the brain and how those alternations manifest in day-to-day life. Attendees will be encouraged to have hope because the brain is plastic and by applying the three principles of TBRI (Connecting, Empowering, Correcting) you can work to bring healing to children.

202 Targeting Poverty, Not Parents

- Katina Semien Smothers, JD, Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
- Jan Moller, Louisiana Budget Project

Neglect is overwhelming the most common form of child maltreatment in the United States. Too often, though, what is perceived to be child neglect is actually family poverty. This session offers lessons on the importance of addressing social and racial inequities that disproportionately impact poor and minority families in child abuse prevention along with alternative approaches to supporting families.
203 Launching Prevention Forward: Lessons learned from the Pandemic

- Rob Carlisle, Child Advocacy Services
- Julio Galan, Family & Youth
- Verni Howard, Providence House

Over the past two years our systems and structures have been confronted with the need to rapidly adapt to serve vulnerable families despite the challenges of the pandemic. This experience has forced us in the direction of amazing innovations and it has taught us a lot about how our systems need to do better to support, serve and engage youth, families and communities. This session will focus on the lessons learned and innovations implemented that have pushed us to work with and engage families in the middle of a pandemic.

12:20pm-1:20pm  Join CIP Cafe with 1st Lady Donna Edwards (this ends at 1pm, 20 minute break)

1:20pm-2:20pm

Who is Judging? Identifying Racism & Bias in a Prevention Framework

- Dr. Terry Cross, National Indian Child Welfare Association

Understanding the dynamics of difference is essential to ensuring equity and inclusion if a diverse society. Equity and inclusion are central to prevention ethics and values but are difficult to achieve in the real world. This presentation will examine the dynamics of difference as they play out in the context of prevention using Indigenous experience as an example. Research data now indicate that children and youth have better outcomes when they experience several culturally based protective childhood experiences. The presenter will illustrate why culture matters and how to use it to help prevent child maltreatment.
301 Make Your Voice Heard: Becoming an Effective Voice for Kids at the Legislature

- Susan East Nelson, JD, Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Do you want to influence public policy and be an effective advocate to improve children’s health, education, and security? Participants will learn about the legislative process and how to effectively engage and communicate with state legislators.

302 Hiding in Plain Sight: The fight against Human Trafficking in Louisiana

- Dr. Dana Hunter, Governor’s Office on Human Trafficking Prevention

Human Trafficking happens in every corner of the United States. This discussion will being in to focus on what has been learned in the shared lived perspectives on trafficking and how we can all work to prevent this heinous crime from occurring and further how we can work to protect our children!
Preserve the Family: The Unintended Consequences of Family Separation

- Judge Ernestine Gray, JD (retired), Pelican Center for Children and Families

This session will consider the negative outcomes across the lifespan of children - infancy, childhood, and adolescence - and the negative impact on mothers of family separation. What can be done to minimize these negatives for children and their mothers.

3:40pm-4:40pm

The Preventable Epidemic: Prevention Strategies to END Child Abuse & Neglect

- Davondra Brown, M.Ed., MCHES, Louisiana Community Partnerships & Health Equity Leadership

It is critical for everyone to be an active participant in the prevention of child abuse. Cooperation and collaboration are key factors to develop strategies to support families and children. Learn more about effective strategies to end child abuse and neglect.
4:40pm-5:00pm

Closing Remarks

- Katina Semien Smothers, JD
  Executive Director
  Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

The conference has been approved for 6.5 hours of CLE and CEU.

Credits will be filed for CLE within 30 days as required by MCLE guidelines. Please be sure to have shared your Bar Association number if you are requesting CLE credit.

CEU certificates will be shared via email within 30 days as required by the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners.

Assistance with credit hours: sharon@teamdynamicsweb.com.

Thank you for sponsoring our continuing education credits:

- Pelican Center for Children & Families
- Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy

If you have questions about the conference or need assistance, please reach out to Team Dynamics by calling 985-624-3514, our conference coordination team.
Speakers
Listed in order of appearance

Louisiana Governor
John Bel Edwards

Louisiana Children's Trust Fund
Katina Semien Smothers, JD.

Department of Children and Family Services
Marketa G. Walters

Office of Community Programs
Dr. Chaunda Allen Mitchell

Children's Cabinet
Melanie Washington
Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

Public Knowledge

True Colors United

Act on Drugs

Crossroads NOLA

Franchesca Hamilton Acker, JD

David Kelly, MA, JD

Dr. Jerry Milner

Dylan Waguespack

Lynn Reimer

Bobbye Matthews
**LCTF Board of Directors**

| Ms. Franchesca Hamilton-Acker, Chairman  
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Representing the Louisiana Psychological Association |
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Representing the Office of Juvenile Justice |
| Ms. Patti Gates, MSW, LCSW  
Representing the National Association of Social Workers,  
Louisiana Chapter |
| Dr. Rhenda Hodnett  
Representing the Department of Children and Family Services |
| Dr. Dana Hunter  
Representing the Louisiana Children's Cabinet |

| Dr. Alicia Kober  
Representing the Louisiana State Medical Society |
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| Ms. Jacqueline Nash Grant, JD  
Representing the University Community |
| Ms. Ivy Starns  
Representing the Department of Education |
| Honorable Marie B. “M’Elise” Trahan  
Representing the Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges |
| Ms. April Wehrs  
Representing the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives |
Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

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