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Building Strong Families Together!

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RECENT TRAININGS AND SPEAKING EVENTS

I. Keynotes and Trainings

Keynotes

February 2022- Baltimore City DSS 2022 Child Welfare Conference: “Safe, Engaged, Ready”- Staff Conference

Keynote: Effective Family Engagement: Key Strategies to Promote Families Working Together

November 2021- MD Child Welfare Academy Resource Parent Conference (Virtual)

Keynote Speaker: Teaming with Uncertainty: Working Together During Difficult Times

February 2020 CYFD Placement Summit, Albuquerque, NM

Keynote Speaker: Engaging Foster Parents to Support Bio-Families

November 2019- 5th Annual Post Adoption Conference: Connect, Expect, Reflect: Bringing Adoptive Families Together, Catawba County, NC

Keynote Speaker: Self Care: Put on Your Oxygen Mask

October 2019- Loudoun County Youth Forum, Loudoun County, VA

Keynote Speaker: Building Resiliency

October 2019- MD Resource Parent Conference -Baltimore, Maryland

Keynote Speaker: Effective Teaming: Bridging the Gap to Help Youth in Foster Care

July 2019- New Mexico Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM

Keynote Speaker: "One Team, One Fight, and Victory for All": Effectively Making Changes in Foster Care

May 2019- Wake County 2019 Foster, Kinship & Adoptive Parent Forum Raliegh, NC

Keynote Speaker: Self-Care While Caring for Others

Permanency

December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisor Training Virtual

Trainer: Being a Permanency-Driven Organization

May 2021 Prince George CSA Retreat 2021- Virtual

Trainer: "Social Workers are Essential" In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

May 2021 VDSS Foster Care Month Lunch and Learn

Webinar Presenter: Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents

April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices Virtual- Workshop Presenter: Unpacking the "NO" of Permanency for Older Adolescents- An Overview

March 2021 First Home Care - Social Work Appreciation Month -Virtual

Trainer: "Social Workers are Essential" In Helping Children & Youth Achieve Permanency!

March 2021- Plummer Youth Promise/South Carolina Child Welfare Court System- Virtual

Trainer: Expedited Permanency Meetings-Legal Orientation

December 2019- "Teens R 4 Me" Conference: Beyond the Moment, Stone Mountain, GA

Workshop Presenter: The Importance of Connections

May 2018- Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families 23rd Annual Conference Groton, Connecticut

Presenter: Unpacking the "No" Of Permanency for Older Youth in Foster

January 2018- Children's Law Institute, Albuquerque, NM

Featured Presenter: Unpacking the "No" Of Permanency for Older Youth in Foster Care

Reunification

June 2021- Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast "Reunification

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-64/>

March 2021 Reunification Month Webinar- Virtual

Presenter: All In for Reunification 2021- [All In For Reunification 2021 - YouTube](#)

June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Coffee with Caregivers- Virtual

Presenter: National Reunification Month-Celebrating Reunification

[Coffee with Caregivers // Special Guest Chauncey Strong // Episode Nine - YouTube](#)

Kinship Care

February 2022- Connecticut Department of Social-7 Hours Staff Training Virtual
Training: The Unique Dynamics of Kinship Care and Permanency

September 2021- GA-National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series- Virtual
Workshop Presenter: *Setting Family Boundaries – A Conversation for Kin Caregivers*

September 2021- GA-National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series- Virtual
Workshop Presenter: *The Importance of Self-Care When Serving as a Kinship Caregiver*

September 2020- National Kinship Care Month Webinar Series: Virtual
Workshop Presenter: The Importance of Self-Care When Serving as a Kinship Caregiver

September 2019- Georgia Kinship Summit 2019: Stone Mountain, GA
Workshop Presenter: Self-Care Matters: Putting on Your Oxygen Mask

Adoption

November 2021- Barker's 2021 Virtual Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference
Moderator: Openness in Adoption – Exploring the Importance of Birth Family Connections

November 2021-- Virginia Department of Social Services 2021 Adoption Month Event
Workshop Presenter: Every Conversation Matters: Unpacking the “No” of Teen Adoption

May 2021 VA Regional Post Adoption Consortium Services Program-- Adoptee Expert Series (Virtual) Workshop Trainer: Why We Search: An Adoptee's Journey

May 2021 Newport News DHS- Staff Training (Virtual)
Trainer: Unpacking the “No” of Older Youth Adoption

November 2020- Barker's 2020 Virtual Annual Adoption & Foster Care Conference
Moderator: Search and Reunion Stories: How Birth and Adoptive Families Can Support Important Connections

November 2019- C.A.S.E. Strengthening Your Family Webinars Series/3rd Annual Virginia Adoption Conference, Charlottesville VA
Webinar/Workshop Presenter: Unpacking The "No" of Adoption

November 2019- 5th Annual Post Adoption Conference: Connect, Expect, Reflect: Bringing Adoptive Families Together, Catawba County, NC
Workshop Presenter: Why We Search: An Adoptee's Journey

March 2019- The Barker Foundation 25th Annual FC & Adoption Conference Rockville, MD
Workshop Presenter: Navigating the Complexity of Birth Family Relationships

Families Working Together

February 2022- Frederick County DSS- Foster Parent Training- Virtual

Trainer: Promoting Partnership: Families Working Together- Comfort Calls and Icebreakers

January 2022 Richmond City Depart. of Social Services- Foster Parent Virtual Training

Trainer: Families Working Together-Icebreakers: What to Expect

November 2021 Richmond City Department of Social Services- Staff Virtual Training

Trainer: Using Icebreakers to Bridge The Gap of Family Engagement

September 2021--- 2021 Kempe International Virtual Conference:

Workshop Presenter: Bridging the Gap: Foster Parents- Birth Parents Building Connections

September 2021- 2021 Wisconsin Parents Supporting Parents Summit - Virtual

Workshop Presenter: Icebreaker Meetings

September 2021- Wisconsin Conference on Child Welfare and the Courts: A New Way Forward- Virtual Staff Training

Workshop Presenter: Bridging the Gap: Foster Parents - Birth Parents Building Connections

June 2021 Maryland Social Services Administration- Virtual Webinar

Webinar Trainer: Promoting Partnerships between the Family of Origin and Resource Parents

December 2020-Mission West Virginia -Foster Parent Virtual Training

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

November 2020 New Mexico CYFD Train the Trainers -Virtual Training

Trainer: Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families

June 2020- National Foster Parent Association- Virtual Panel

Panelist: Family to Family Discussion- Bridging The Gap

<https://www.nfpai.org/courses/family-panel>

April 2020 New Mexico CYFD Placement Summit -Virtual Training

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

February 2020- New Mexico CYFD Placement Summit -Virtual Training

Trainer: Bridging The Gap: Birth and Foster Families Working Together

Youth and Alumni Engagement

January 2022- Georgia Youth Advisory Board GPAC- Youth Training- Virtual Workshop: Strategic Sharing

December 2021 First Home Care - Social Worker Training

Trainer: A Youth Welfare Approach: Practical Ways to Engage Youth In Foster Care

April 2021 Wisconsin DCF - 2021 Youth Services Conference: Amplifying Youth Voices- Virtual Workshop Presenter: Understanding the Culture of Foster Care and Family Privilege-An Overview

November 2020- 4th Annual Virginia Adoption Conference- Virtual Panel

Moderator: Youth/Young Adult Panel "Engage Youth: Listen and Learn"

July 2020 Georgia Division of Family and Children Services YAB-Virtual Facilitation

Facilitator: Youth Advisory Board Focus Group

September 2020- Maryland Independent Living Coordinator-Virtual Training

Trainer: Strategic Sharing- Telling Your Story Effectively

November 2019-Youth Voices: Engaging Children and Youth in Achieving Permanency, 3rd Annual Virginia Adoption Conference, Charlottesville VA

Panel Organizer: Young Adult Adoption Panel

July 2019 Maryland Department of Human Services State YAB-Columbia, MD

Facilitator: Youth Advisory Board Focus Group

July 2019- New Mexico Independent Living Youth Conference- Taos, NM

Workshop Presenter: Strategic Sharing: Telling Your Story to Effectively Advocate for Change

June 2019- FCN Foundation- Global Ambassador Convening- Windsor MD

Workshop Presenter: Effective Collaborations and Partnerships Development

May 2019- 8th Annual CSA Conference "*Resiliency: Achieving the Possible*,"- Roanoke, VA

Panel Moderator: Youth Voice: Building Resiliency through Advocacy

May 2019- Elizabeth City State University- Social Work Program Elizabeth City, NC

Workshop Presenter: Advocacy Matters: A Focus on Child Welfare

Trauma

January 2021 Shenandoah Valley Social Services Foster Parent Trainer (Virtual)

Trainer: Helping Caregivers Effectively Address Trauma

November 2017- Adore Foster Parent Training- Arlington, VA

Trainer: Overview of ARC Reflection – Helping foster and adoptive parents work with children who have experienced trauma

October 2017-AEC Austin Convening- Austin, Texas

Panelist: Promising New Practices in Trauma-Informed Foster Parent Training

April 2017 CSA 6th Annual Conference- Roanoke, VA

Panel Moderator: ARC Reflections: A Trauma-Informed Training for Foster Parents

July 2016 – The ACEs and Community Resilience Summit, Richmond, VA

Keynote: Practice approaches to permanency and building resilience for youth in foster care

March-May 2016- Fairfax County DFS Foster Parent Training- Fairfax County, VA

Trainer: ARC Reflections: A Trauma-Informed Training for Foster Parents

Supervisors and Managers

December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisors Training

Trainer: The Accountability Pathway

December 2021 Richmond City DSS- Managers and Supervisors Training

Trainer: Being a Permanency-Driven Organization

Siblings Connections

April- October 2018- Staff Training, Sandoval County, Hobbs, Albuquerque, Espanola, NM

Trainer: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

January 2018- Children's Law Institute, Albuquerque, NM

Featured Presenter: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

September 2017- New Mexico Annual Foster Parent Conference, Santa Fe NM

Workshop Presenter: "My Brother's Keeper": The Importance of Sibling Connections

August 2017- Train the Trainers, Albuquerque, NM

Trainer: The Importance of Relationships for Youth in Foster Care

May 2017 AEA Conference, La Vegas, NV

Trainer: Exploring Life in Limbo- Siblings and Birth Family Connections

Family Engagement

January 2020 Georgia/RYSE Chafee Strategic Planning

Trainer: Developing Effective Partnerships

April 2016 - 8th Annual Community Commitment for Change Conference Family Engagement and Empowerment, Winchester, VA

Trainer: Partnering with The Family

February 2016- Albemarle County DSS, Charlottesville, VA

Trainer: Partnering with Families: Effectively Engaging Relatives

Father Engagement

June 2018 Loudoun County DFS-Fatherhood Initiative Loudoun County, VA

Panel Moderator: The Importance of Engaging Fathers

February 2017 Newport News Department of Human Services, Newport News, VA

Trainer: Effective Father Engagement

September 2016 – Albemarle County DSS, Charlottesville, VA

Trainer: Effective Father Engagement

Recruitment

October- December 2019- Diversity in CASA Recruitment-Multiple site Maryland

Presenter: Targeted Recruitment -Recruiting in the Minority Community

May 2019- GA Statewide Adoption Match Meeting: Partnering for Permanency, Atlanta, GA

Workshop Presenter: Engaging Approaches to Child-Specific Recruitment

February 2019- Georgia DFCS- CPA Partnership Meeting – Macon, GA

Trainer: Recruitment and Retention Planning

II. Consulting

- **Currently- Consultant Information Gateway**
 - **Incorporating Lived Experience:** Provide a full assessment and develop a plan to integrate alumni voices (those with lived child welfare experience) into Information Gateway's work and products. **Key Work Elements:** Understand Information Gateway's overall business processes; Interviews and planning sessions with identified leadership, staff, and stakeholders (as appropriate) to identify common goals and intended outcomes; Evaluate and develop a plan to integrate the alumni voice for product development.

- **Currently-Consultant Richmond City DSS**
 - Coaching-Family Engagement: Effectively implement the Virginia Department of Social Services Practice Profiles through coaching and supervision for all programs. The goal is to assist with an organizational culture change regarding improving family engagement using the Virginia Practice Profiles. **Key Elements:** Review and evaluation of the work with the Reunification and Permanency Program, including an action plan for an ongoing focus on supervisor development. Guidance of the initial work with the CPS and In-Home Prevention Services Programs. Delivery of supporting training interventions to include Family Search and Engagement, Icebreaker and Permanency Trainings

- **Currently- Trainer/Consultant Plummer Youth Promise**
 - The Unique Dynamics of Kinship Care and Permanency-CT
 - Achieving Permanence Through Reunification-CT
 - Expedited Permanency Meetings-SC

- **Currently- Consultant Georgia Division of Family & Children Services**
 - **Youth Advisory Board Development-GPAC** Provide Technical Assistants to develop and implement the Georgia Youth Advisory Board (YAB). **Key Elements:** Plan and facilitate initial and ongoing Focus Groups; Review and create documents needed for the YAB; Assist youth with developing Leadership Skills; Facilitate training for youth and workers; Engage community partners as appropriate; Assist with other youth events as needed.

- **Currently- Consultant/Liasion Virginia Department of Social Services**
 - Youth Advisory Board-SPEAKOUT
 - Implementation of Youth Welfare Approach
 - Planning Team for Foster, Adoption and Reunification Month
 - Normalcy Training
 - Youth Exit Survey

- **Currently- Capacity Building Center for States -**
 - MD-Resource Parent Recruitment and Retention
 - MD-Strengthening the Youth Advisory Board
 - NM Improving Sibling Connections and Engaging Relatives
 - Racial Equity Workgroup
 - MO- Developing a Parent Advisory Board- 2019

- **2017-2020- AdoptUSKids**
 - Child Specific Recruitment

- **2017-2019 The Annie E. Casey Foundation**
 - 2018 Extended services for older youth in foster care
 - 2018 Teen Connect Training
 - 2017 Kentucky Kinship Care Practices
- **2018-2019 Wake County Human Services- Wake County, NC**
 - Foster Parents Peer to Peer Support Groups

III. Curriculum Development

- Icebreaker Meetings: A Tool for Building Relationships Between Birth Families and Foster Families
- Sibling and Relative Connections
- Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care
- Placement Stability for Youth in Foster Care
- Unpacking the No of Older Youth Permanency
- Bridging the Gap: Families Working Together

IV. National Projects

- Reunification Month Planning Committee
- Foster Care Month Planning Committee