

On the Cutting Edge of Child & Youth Care Education and Professional Development

Frank Eckles

When are CYCs most open to adopting new ideas?

What does a training environment need to provide to encourage personal transformation?

The National Trainer Summit was held at Lifeworks in Austin September 29th through Oct 2nd. The second, third, and forth days of the event were dedicated to training for trainers in the newly released Youth Thrive: Protective and Promotive Factors for Healthy Development and Well-being. This training was co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP), the owners of the curriculum.

Research conducted by CSSP has identified a set of key competencies that have been shown to help young people increase protective and promotive factors while reducing risk factors. Research shows that these supports help young people move beyond trauma and the impact of poorly resourced environments to become more resilient and engaged in addressing their developmental needs.

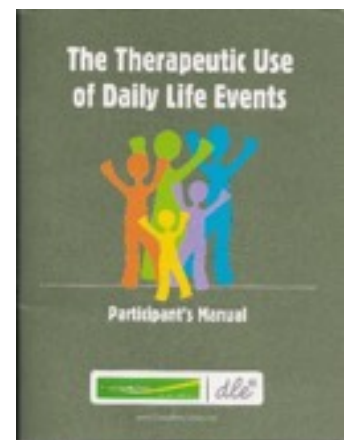
The three-day workshop presented the key components of the newly developed Youth Thrive Framework including how the brain develops, the impact of trauma on adolescent development, the importance of social connections, promoting cognitive & social-emotional competence, concrete supports in times of need, and increasing youth resilience. At the end of the event, 16 new trainers were authorized. This included trainers for the Bolster Collaborative, Youth Catalytics, Lifeworks, Protean Institute, Casa Pacifica and Hathaway-Sycamores Children and Family Services, Heritage Ranch, Phillips Programs, Central Texas Youth Services Bureau, National Safe Place Network, Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC), and Harris County CPS.





Hector Sapien, Senior Trainer, opened the Academy's National Trainer Summit in Austin exploring these questions. These were key interests of the group of Academy trainers gathered from across the US to learn more about 'Being on the cutting edge of CYC Education and Professional Development', the theme of the event. Hector demonstrated how Mesirow's concepts of Transformational Learning can be used to set the stage for learning and personal change. The Academy has adopted this model over the past two years to help instructors better facilitate learning for its hundreds of students working in residential, after-school, educational, and youth development settings.

James Freeman, Training Director for Casa Pacifica in Camarillo California, overviewed the newly launched Daily Life Events training. Ever wonder how to make the most of those important moments of connection and purpose that occur with young people in the natural flow of daily events? This training helps practitioners recognize these opportunities and respond in developmentally supportive ways. For many CYCs struggling with the transition to relational care, this training provides important insights into how to strengthen connections with young people and form more genuine relationships.



Frank Eckles, Academy Executive Director, took the group through the revisions to the very successful Child and Youth Care: Basic Course. Over 1200 students have completed the course taught by 60+ instructors in a wide variety of residential, community-based, after school, and education settings. It is designed to help entering CYC professionals understand fundamental concepts in professionalism, ethics, relationship formation, communication, brain-based guidance, and developmental approaches. The outcome measure for the course is the Entry level certification exam. Students who pass the exam can then apply for CYC certification. Frank and Ray Hoskins revised the 40 hour course to reduce the live class time to 30 hours and add on-



2015 Youth Thrive Trainers

line modules. The new blended course is called Child and Youth Care: Foundations. It is expected to reduce training costs while maintaining the impact of the course.

Ray Hoskins, the Academy's On-Line Education Coordinator, reported that national statistics show that 25% of training is now done on-line; 48% continues to be instructor led classroom courses. Follow up studies on learning and retention are showing that well-designed on-line learning, blended with classroom experiences to hone skills are showing powerful results. The Academy has launched a collaboration with Cypherworx, a national learning management system provider, which will allow practitioners and programs to access the technical expertise needed to create effective courses. Cypherworx recently was awarded the 2015 Brandon Hall Group Excellence Award for Learning for their work on the Roberta Newman After School Training Series.

Dinner at the Salt Lick



Overall, the four day summit was packed with cutting-edge information that the participants will be sharing with literally hundreds of CYC practitioners when they return to their programs. Couple that with the evening visits to Threadgill's Restaurant, bat watching at the Congress street bridge, bar-b-que at the Salt Lick, and dancing at the Broken Spoke, and you end up with an event that will be well remembered.

For more information,
visit the Academy's [website](#).