

Transforming the Care of Children and Youth in Rhode Island
“A Conference on National Trends in Policy, Practice & Outcomes”

AM 1 (ONLY) Title: **Safe and Effective Reduction of Congregate Care**

Speaker: Bryan Samuels, Executive Director of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Description: Changing expectations are causing the demand for congregate care to decline. Therefore, it is important to create necessary care facilities for those children who normally thrive in group and residential care. In order to recreate this home-like care, it is important to understand the population of youth, the available strategies and the diverse patterns of congregate care placement today. The participants will gain insight into understanding these key concepts and will have a focus on population characteristics and utilization trends.

****Workshop Is NOT offered in the afternoon**

AM 2 Title: **What is it like to grow up in Foster Care?**

PM 2

Speakers: The New England Youth Coalition (NEYC) professional staff from DCYF in Rhode Island, Foster Forward and NEYC

Description: The New England Youth Coalition (NEYC), comprised of current and alumni foster youth from all six New England States will present on the importance of giving children and youth normal and healthy experiences while in care. Critical milestones such as a driver's license or a summer job, are necessary positive milestones that are critical to helping young people become successful adults. What must we do to change policy affecting young people in care in Rhode Island and New England? Professional staff from DCYF in Rhode Island, Foster Forward and the NEYC will also present on State and Federal initiatives in ensuring that youth have a voice in policy and practice.

AM 3 Title: **Improving Decision Making for Children and Families. Transformational**

PM 3 **Collaborative Outcomes Management and the CANS in Rhode Island**

Speaker: John Lyons, Ph.D. Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall

Description: Creating effective residential care for the youth of Rhode Island is vital. The workshop will explore the concepts and advantages of Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management and the significance of CANS as a strategy. The participants will understand the importance of a shared vision and communication when going through a period of transformation.

AM 4 **Title: National Trends on What Happens to Youth as They Age out of Foster Care –**
PM 4 **How Does This Inform Transforming the System of Care in Rhode Island?**

Speaker: Mark Courtney, Ph.D. Professor

Description: Young adults who age out of foster care tend to face difficulties they cannot overcome alone. They are neither employed nor in school and sometimes end up in the criminal justice system. Those participating in the workshop will learn about the adversities these young adults face and how the state of Rhode Island can use this information when transforming its foster care system.

AM 5 **Title: Concepts and Data about Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion**
PM 5

Speaker: Jamia McDonald, Chief Strategy Officer for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services & Christopher Behan, Engagement Manager of Annie E. Casey Foundation Child Welfare Strategy Group

Description: Overrepresentation of children of color in child welfare and juvenile systems is an issue nationwide, and Rhode Island is not an exception. Compared to the general population in the state, a disproportionate percentage of African American and Hispanic children enter DCYF care. There is disparity at many decision points, as well, including placement in congregate care, aging out and reentry. Participants will establish a basic understanding of race, equity and inclusion concepts and will examine both national and Rhode Island data.

AM 6 **Title: Stay Home, Go Home, Find Home: Why Permanence Matters in Rhode Island**
PM 6

Speaker: Mary LeBeau, MSW, LICSW and Lori Ryan, M.A., LSW

Description: The workshop will introduce national and local perspectives on legal permanence as a birthright. A recent Annie E. Casey Foundation analysis of permanency outcomes in Rhode Island will be presented. An interactive panel discussion of youth and professionals will underscore the urgency of permanency for youth and highlight opportunities for strategic use of therapeutic placement to improve outcomes locally.

AM 7 **Title: Kids Insight and Private Provider Quality Improvement**

PM 7

Speaker: Dara Menashi, Ph.D. President, Kids Insight

Description: Kids Insight President, Dara Menashi will discuss the Treatment Outcome Package (TOP), a new way of measuring well-being in child welfare that helps private providers deliver the right services to the right children — and rewards them for success.

AM 8 **Title: Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Practice: The Supercommunity Journey**

PM 8

Speaker: Jennifer Hossler, MSW, Social Worker at the Chadwick Center for Children and Families at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego and Sarah Kelly-Palmer, LICSW Family Service of Rhode Island

Description: What does it take to become a trauma-informed system and how do you know when you get there? Is it possible to ever really "get there?" If so, how do you keep things moving forward to ensure lasting system and culture change? The Chadwick Center for Children & Families has been digging deep into 5 child welfare jurisdictions across the country over the past 3 years to explore these questions, along with many others. This presentation will highlight the process of selecting these 5 communities for participation in the Chadwick Trauma Informed Systems Project - Dissemination and Implementation (CTIDP-DI), in addition to describing the process by which each of the communities were assessed to determine the needs of their child welfare systems, and their cross system partners. The essential elements of a trauma-informed system will be reviewed, in addition to providing concrete strategies for assessing the readiness of a system to change. Common themes across all 5 Supercommunities will be reviewed. Representatives from the Rhode Island Supercommunity will be involved in this presentation to share their systems' experience in this transformational process, including promising TI practices, resources utilized, challenges to implementation, and strategies for overcoming them. The concepts of cross system collaboration and trauma screening/assessment will be discussed at length. Trauma screening tool(s) being implemented in all 5 communities will be reviewed, and screening data from Rhode Island will be shared. This presentation will also explore the role of consultation, training, technical assistance, and other resources made available to these Supercommunities as they attempt to create true culture change within their jurisdictions. Many resources from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network were utilized throughout this project and will be reviewed, including the Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit and the Resource Parent Curriculum, just to name a few. This presentation will demonstrate ways in which a child welfare system may utilize research,



practice, and policy to create a more trauma informed community. Lastly, evaluation efforts of the project and any available data will be shared. The session will engage participants through a moderated discussion related to screening challenges and the screening tools presented. A small group activity will be conducted to allow participants to dig deep into the essential elements so they can be integrated into practice.