

2017 ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA
PERMANENCY CONFERENCE



June 28 – 30, 2017 • Kalahari Resorts & Conventions
Pocono Manor, PA

REGISTRATION MATERIALS ENCLOSED

Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services,
Office of Children, Youth and Families, Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network,
and Independent Living Services

Conference at a Glance

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

12:00 p.m.
Conference Registration Begins

1:00 p.m.
Child / Teen Care Begins

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Conference Opening
Welcome and Keynote Address
SWAN Advisory Committee Award

3:15 – 4:45 p.m.
Workshop Session 1

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.
Break / Networking Time

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Pre-Banquet Reception for Honorees

6:00 p.m.
Recognition Banquet

8:30 p.m.
Child / Teen Care Ends

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 a.m.
Conference Registration Begins

8:30 a.m.
Child / Teen Care Begins

9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Institute Session 1

OR

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Workshop Session 2

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Workshop Session 3

12:15 – 2:00 p.m.
Lunch (On Your Own)

2:00 – 5:15 p.m.
Institute Session 2

OR

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Workshop Session 4

3:45 – 5:15 p.m.
Workshop Session 5

5:30 p.m.
Child / Teen Care Ends

6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Family Fun Night

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

8:00 a.m.
Conference Registration Begins
Child / Teen Care Begins

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Workshop Session 6

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Hotel Checkout Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Conference Closing and Keynote Address

12:00 p.m.
Adjourn

12:30 p.m.
Child / Teen Care Ends



General Information



Purpose

The 25th Annual Pennsylvania Permanency Conference, **25 Years Strong**, focuses on ways families and professionals from all aspects of the child welfare system can support one another and work together to achieve permanent connections for all children and youth.

The conference serves as a forum to train participants who will prepare children and families for their journey through the child welfare system towards permanency. The conference is designed to educate and support current and prospective foster and adoptive families, kinship care providers, permanent legal custodians, attorneys, child welfare professionals and others with a vested interest in permanency for children. The conference is a focal point for networking and sharing information to increase the knowledge base on the issues for children and youth in special needs adoptions and permanency.

Audience

The conference is designed for current and prospective foster and adoptive families as well as families providing other permanency options such as kinship care or permanent legal custodianship, attorneys, mental health professionals, independent living professionals, public and private agency professionals and the children on behalf of whom they work.

Session Descriptions

Each conference session is described in this brochure. The session categories and target audiences for the workshops and institutes are listed below.

Session Categories:

- Foundational
- Traditional
- Innovative

Target Audiences are:

- Families
- Advocates
- Permanency Professionals
- Child Welfare Workers
- Legal Professionals
- Independent Living Professionals

Continuing Education Credits, Continuing Legal Education Credits and Certificates of Training

Approval is pending for continuing education credits for social workers through the University of Pittsburgh and continuing legal education credits through the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board. Certificates of training will be available.

Hotel Information

Accommodations

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is located at 250 Kalahari Blvd., Pocono Manor, PA 18349. Hotel reservations must be made directly by calling 877-525-2427.

Special rates have been arranged for conference participants. Mention the code "2017 Permanency Conference" to receive the flat rate of \$159/night (plus applicable taxes). This discounted rate only applies to the Kalahari's "Desert Room". This room comfortably sleeps four and includes up to four waterpark admission wristbands.

Additional occupants (up to two per room) will be charged \$25/person/night (plus applicable taxes).

This cost includes a waterpark admission wristband. Check-in time at the Kalahari is at 4:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Accessibility

The Kalahari is a large resort, so attendees should be prepared for a lot of walking (including long hallways). Hotel areas and attractions are handicapped accessible. Scooters can be rented in advance by contacting the Kalahari.

Registration Information

Conference Registration

To register for the conference, please complete the registration form included in this brochure or register online at www.diakon-swan.org. **The last day for Early Bird Registration is May 12, 2017.** Any registrations postmarked after that date will receive the regular registration rate. Preregistered attendees will receive a name badge, banquet and Family Fun Night dinner tickets, a program and other materials at the registration area. Confirmation emails will be sent to those who register by May 12, 2017. **The last day to register is June 2, 2017. Walk-in registration is accepted on-site dependent on availability and is not guaranteed.**

Conference registration will be held:

Wednesday, June 28	12:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, June 29	8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Friday, June 30	8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellations received after May 12, 2017, will be assessed a \$25 processing fee.

Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled because of unforeseen circumstances. Schedule changes and cancellations will be posted at the registration area and noted in the program distributed at the conference.

Conference Questions

If you have questions about registration, child care, accessibility, directions or other logistical considerations, please contact:

Beth Duzey, Conference Coordinator, Diakon/FDR

Phone: 717-558-1227

Toll Free: 888-793-2512

Email: bduzey@diakon-swan.org



Conference Opening



Constance Krebs Iannetta

Constance Iannetta (née Krebs) spent six years in the dependency system before aging out at eighteen years old.

An active advocate on child welfare and mental health issues for more than 10 years, Constance has provided testimony for foster care legislation. She co-founded the Pennsylvania Chapter of Foster Care Alumni of America (FCAA), is a founding member of the Bucks County Youth Advisory Board, has served on the Philadelphia Blue Ribbon Commission on Children's Behavioral Health, and is a youth partner for Montgomery County's Bridges Systems of Care Leadership Team. Her work has been recognized with awards from the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, the Golden Heart Group and the Pennsylvania Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN).



Constance attended The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College prior to earning a business degree from Gwynedd Mercy University. She currently works full-time at a foster care agency in the Philadelphia area and is a national director for FCAA, focusing on the nationwide FosterWalks fundraising and awareness campaign and the FCAA Scholars program. She resides in Montgomery County with her husband and kinship children.

Conference Opening

Wednesday, June 28, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

From Foster Kid to Foster Strong: Finding Resilience and Permanency Through Self-Care, Mentors and Advocacy

Outcomes for youth in and from foster care are daunting, especially when they age out without permanent connections. As a third-generation, former foster kid who aged out without permanency, Constance has lived the struggles and triumphs from many angles. Join her as she shares her path to permanency, as well as tips on connecting with older youth to promote more positive outcomes as they enter adulthood.

Special Conference Features & Events

Recognition Banquet

Guest Mistress of Ceremonies will be **Cathy A. Utz**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF). For the past 19 years, Ms. Utz has been responsible for providing oversight to numerous special children and youth initiatives and has been instrumental in formulating recommendations for needed policy, regulatory and statutory change to improve and enhance the commonwealth's child welfare system. In addition, she has 11 years of county-level child welfare experience as a caseworker and manager.

Recognition awards will be given during the banquet on Wednesday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m. for:

- Permanency Professional
- Permanency Teamwork
- Independent Living Professional
- Permanent Family
- Permanency Advocate
- Philanthropy
- Youth Advocate

Family Fun Night

On Thursday, June 29, starting at 6:00 p.m., share food and information with other families who support permanency for children! A buffet-style dinner will be served until 7:30 p.m., but stay longer to mingle and network before you explore the Kalahari's many delightful forms of entertainment. **Participants with hotel reservations at the Kalahari receive access to the indoor waterpark. Please refer to page 14 for additional Family Entertainment Center information.** Use the registration form to confirm your participation in the Family Fun Night and to purchase extra meal tickets for guests, friends or children who are not registered for the conference or child/teen care.





Conference Closing



Connie Going

Connie Going is a national adoption advocate and CEO of the Adoption Advocacy Center. In her more than 25 years as a child welfare and adoption specialist, she has worked in prevention and reunification and actively facilitated more than 1,000 adoptions.

In 2012, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute recognized Connie with its National Angels in Adoption® award for her outstanding advocacy efforts. She also received the Irene Sullivan Adoption Advocacy Award in 2014 and the first ever Let It Be Us Adoption Advocate of the Year Award in 2015. In 2016, she received a Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero award and was deemed a Bay News 9 Everyday Hero.

Connie is certified as an adoption expert and an adoption speaker, trainer and educator. In 2013, she brought 15-year-old Davion to a church to speak about his desire to be adopted. The story of his search for a forever family garnered international attention, and the following influx of families interested in adoption became known as “the Davion Effect.” This innovative recruitment experience

resulted in development of an Inquiry/Match system that ensures every inquiry for a child receives a timely response and holds the systems of care accountable for every child available for adoption.

Connie continues to create awareness through her weekly internet radio show, *Like It Is*, which highlights transparency in the child welfare system. She has appeared on *Daytime*, *The View*, *ABC World News With Diane Sawyer*, and *CBS Evening News On the Road With Steve Hartman*, and in *Woman’s World*, *PEOPLE Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Newsweek*.

Not only is Connie a professional in child welfare, but she is an adoptive parent herself. In addition to two biological daughters, Connie, a single parent, also adopted two teenage boys who grew up in foster care: Taylor, whom she watched languish and bounce through foster care when his previous adoptive parents returned him, and most recently Davion, the young boy whose story raised awareness on the need for adoptive parents. As a parent to four young adults, Connie is even more passionate about finding solutions that support and make a difference in the lives of children of trauma and their families. She truly believes that everyone can make an impact.

Conference Closing • Friday, June 30, 2017, 10:30 a.m. *Finding Your Lost Passion for Making Change*

Remember how you felt when you first started in child welfare? Your eyes and heart were fresh, and you just knew you would save the world one day. Fast forward to today... Do you still have that belief? In the midst of everyday work with systems and families, have you held onto that hope? Do you use that inner fire to inspire the children and families you work with?

Listen to Connie’s story of working in the adoption and child welfare system and how she fought to find a family for her sons—and for their voices to be heard. Learn how and why that journey led to her adopting them and creating their unique family. Most of all, reach deep into your own spirit and know that you are good enough to effect change for yourself and others.

Teen Keynote Presentation

There’s No One Else Like You!

(Teen Program Only)

When Taylor and Davion shared their personal and challenging journeys through foster care, little did they know the impact it would have on thousands of others. Learn why your story, no matter who you are, is important and how sharing can help you heal and move forward with purpose and direction. Learn where and how to share and find what works for you. Don’t miss this open dialogue with two teen boys who, after being adopted and returned and spending their lives in foster care, stood up, took charge and made the world listen.



W-WK1 SWAN Helpline and Post-Permanency - What Families Need to Know

Category - Traditional **Audience** - All

This workshop is designed to give resource parents, adoptive parents, and professionals a brief overview of the benefits and resources of the SWAN Helpline with a specific focus on SWAN post-permanency services. Attendees will gain a better understanding of post-permanency services and the role of the SWAN Helpline with its many valuable uses.

Denise Sheffield and **Lea Moyer**, *Diakon/Family Design Resources*, and **Tonya Hottenstein** and **Melissa Buhay**, *Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit*

W-WK2 "Is Your Wife at Home?" - A Resource Dad Support Group

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Families

Foster and adoptive dads usually don't get the credit they deserve. Hey dads, let's hang out, complain, and laugh about how weird our families are.

Jordan Shoenberger, *Three Rivers Adoption Council*

W-WK3 Indian Child Welfare Act, Then and Now - New Regulations

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Legal Professionals, Advocates

Thirty-nine years after the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) was enacted, compliance is still inconsistent, despite severe potential consequences to permanency. New federal regulations for ICWA were enacted and went into effect in December 2016. This workshop will explore the history of ICWA and highlight the important compliance with the new regulations.

Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.

Rachel Meaker and **Mike Wahlen**, *Diakon/Family Design Resources*

W-WK4 Positive Youth and Family Development, an Eco-Systemic Approach

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

This interactive workshop introduces the integrative approach of utilizing positive youth development with a focus on eco-systemic practice. The workshop will give an overview of PYD and eco-systemic theory and offer practical ways to incorporate this into your own practice.

Elizabeth Allen and **Joelle Pitts**, *Valley Youth House*

W-WK5 Achieving Balance: An Adoptive Parent's Journey Through Grief and Loss

Category - Foundational **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

This workshop addresses the complex issues of adoptive parents' grief, loss and guilt over their children's lifetimes. Grief/loss/guilt triggers will be identified, adoptive parents will share their experiences with ongoing grief and loss, and support and resources for parents and workers will be discussed.

Oriana Brennehan and **Dianne Bucolo**, *Pressley Ridge*

W-WK6 Collaboration in the County, CYS and CASA

Category - Innovative **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Legal Professionals, Advocates

Is your county considering starting an advocacy program? Or are you looking to help increase collaboration between the child welfare agency and advocacy program? This presentation will provide some concrete examples of cross-systems collaboration and help develop solutions for dilemmas.

Mandy Zalich, *CASA of Westmoreland, Inc.* and **Shelly Castillo**, *Diakon / Family Design Resources*



Workshop Session 2 • Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

TH-WK1 **Ordinary Magic: Building Resilient Children and Youth**

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates

"With resilience, children can triumph over trauma; without it, trauma (adversity) triumphs." This workshop will look at the importance of resiliency in relation to trauma. It will explore what it is and how parents, professionals and caregivers can enhance resiliency in children through their efforts and actions.

Pam Wagner, *Diakon/Family Design Resources*

TH-WK2 **Innovations in Recruiting Families for Older Youth**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

Recruiting families for older youth is increasingly challenging. What's the solution? Can families be influenced to desire older youth? Explore new recruiting approaches and contribute to the discussion to improve older children's chances for permanency.

Marian Kolcun and **Anita Miller**, *Diakon Adoption and Foster Care* and **Karen Knodel**, *Bethanna*

TH-WK3 **You Are NOT Alone!! Support Systems and Support Groups**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

Feel like you're out there on the road alone? Fear not! Help is out there— you just need to know where to look and what to look for. Learn how identifying support systems will help jumpstart your batteries to get you back on your passionate journey to help children, families and yourself.

Russ McCurdy, *Project STAR/The Children's Institute* and **Karleen Vogt**, *Family Pathways*

Workshop Session 3 • Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

TH-WK4 **From Springboard to Splash, FGDM Supports Permanency Efforts**

Category - Traditional **Audience** - All

Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is an effective practice for supporting permanency efforts. The chances for maintaining family plans is substantially enhanced when bridging the gap between implementation and monitoring is emphasized. This workshop will assist participants in understanding how to use FGDM to achieve and sustain permanency.

Michael McClure and **David Vector**, *University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center*

TH-WK5 **Speaking Out: Empowering Youth Voices**

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

The thought of public speaking can fill even professionals with dread and anxiety. So how must a youth feel when they are asked to present themselves? This workshop will address methods for effective, successful youth presentations.

Nic Landon, *Family Pathways* and **Bethany Leas**, *Project STAR/The Children's Institute*

TH-WK6 **Independent Living: Recommendations from Former Foster Youth**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Legal Professionals

This presentation will focus on how to create more accessible and successful independent living programs based on research and recommendations from former foster youth. Highlighted areas include design, accessibility, implementation and accountability.

Nico'Lee Rohac, *Three Rivers Adoption Council*



TH-IN1	<p>A Developmental Model for Parenting Insecure and Traumatized Children: Guided Relational Opportunities for Wholeness (G.R.O.W.) <i>Category - Traditional Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates</i> This session will present a model of how insecurely attached children may develop a capacity for trust and self-regulation with the help of trauma-informed parenting practices and healthy life challenges. Caren Rosser-Morris, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services</i></p>
TH-IN2	<p>Overview of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children <i>Category - Foundational Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Legal Professionals, Advocates</i> The workshop will highlight key points pertaining to the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC), including requesting foster or adoptive placement, closing placements in other states, and what is required when completing a request and supervising a placement from another state. Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval. Wendy Lautsbaugh, <i>Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families</i></p>
TH-IN3	<p>Building and Sustaining Father Engagement <i>Category - Foundational Audience - All</i> Fathers play a critical role in the development and growth of their children. For child welfare professionals to seek greater involvement of fathers in their children's lives, they must know the resources available to locate the father and then be able to facilitate the father's engagement. Kurt Miller, <i>University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center</i></p>
TH-IN4	<p>Supporting Your Youth's Successful Transition to Adulthood <i>Category - Foundational Audience - All</i> This workshop will provide resource parents with a history of independent living (IL) services in child welfare. Participants will cover the purpose of the Pennsylvania IL Program, IL eligibility and the six service areas of IL. Kathleen Donson, <i>University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center</i></p>
TH-IN5	<p>Meeting the Educational Needs of Children in Care <i>Category - Innovative Audience - All</i> Participants will develop their knowledge of state and federal education law and learn comprehensive strategies that meet the diverse educational needs of children in care and achieve the best outcomes. Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval. Alyssa Cowan, <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i></p>
TH-IN6	<p>LGBTQ 101 <i>Category - Traditional Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals</i> This training is designed to give audience members a brief overview of the issues that members of the LGBTQ community face, as well as provide basic tools to help improve their lives. Andrew Granick, <i>Trehab</i></p>
TH-IN7	<p>Using Empathy to Inspire Supportive Relationships <i>Category - Innovative Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals</i> Concurrent planning sets up the expectation that resource parents will support birth families so children will have better experiences in out-of-home care. This workshop will look at ways to use empathy to encourage a working relationship between resource and birth parents that inspires partnering and co-parenting. Georgiann Unger and Deb Thomas, <i>Diakon/Family Design Resources</i></p>
TH-IN8	<p>THE TALK: Sexuality Education From Preschool to High School <i>Category - Foundational Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates</i> This experiential workshop allows participants to engage in real-time sex education classes designed for four age groups: preschoolers, elementary students, middle school students and high school students. M. Cynthia Loftus-Vergari and Megan Velo-Zorzi, <i>Loftus-Vergari and Associates, Inc.</i></p>

Workshop Session 4 • Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TH-WK7 **Addiction and Its Impact on Family and Friends: Knowledge and Skills to Cope**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - All

Addiction issues are having a profound effect on families, systems and society, yet so many of us know so little about how to manage ourselves and the individual with the addiction. Attend this workshop to learn the foundations of addiction and clear tips and techniques to manage yourself and others to assure safety, permanency and well-being for the child.

June Fisher, *Dynamic Training Solution*

TH-WK8 **Utilizing FGDM to Enhance Youth Transition Plans For Adolescents**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - All

This workshop highlights best practices for utilizing Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) to enhance youth transition planning for adolescents. FGDM used as a youth-transition conference helps foster a lasting support network and plan for adolescents preparing to phase out of the child welfare system.

Amy Carr and **Jaelyn Conklin**, *Justice Works Youth Care* and **Colleen Cox**, *University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center*

TH-WK9 **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Adoptive Families**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - All

This workshop discusses the importance of information about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) for adoptive and prospective adoptive parents. The workshop will discuss FASD basics, the need to promote resilience for the child and family, and the benefits of a system of care approach.

Dr. Gordon Hodas, *Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services* and **Dianna Brocius**, *Pennsylvania System of Care Partnership*

Workshop Session 5 • Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

TH-WK10 **Who Am I, Am I Who They Say I Am: A Boy, Girl or Other?**

Category - Innovative **Audience** - All

Male or female are the only two options that most of us learned, but is that all there is? Can I be something other than male or female? If so, what will others think of me? How will I manage in the world? Have you even met anyone like me before?

June Fisher, *Dynamic Training Solution*

TH-WK11 **Understanding Attachment**

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals

This presentation will provide the audience with an understanding of attachment behaviors, attachment theory, and what happens when attachment goes wrong. There also will be an in-depth discussion on the truths and myths about reactive attachment disorder.

Ryan Cucunato, *Family Pathways*

TH-WK12 **Motivating Families for Post-Permanency Services**

Category - Traditional **Audience** - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates

Many families who are referred for post-permanency services do not fully participate in them. This presentation will use data-based evidence to explore why this is the case, and a panel of post-permanency experts will discuss how to engage families.

Mike Kovacevic, **Denise Sheffield** and **Satoko Marquet**, *Diakon/Family Design Resources* and **Tonya Hottenstein**, *Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit*



Institute 2 • Thursday, June 29, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

- TH-IN9 Understanding Adoption Assistance**
Category - Foundational Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals
It can be difficult to obtain information about adoption assistance for children with special needs in Pennsylvania. This course provides essential information concerning adoption assistance, including what it is, who is eligible, how to negotiate rates and much more.
Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.
Alicia Tyler and Tara Hines, Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families
- TH-IN10 Fostering Older Youth - the Teenage Experience**
Category - Foundational Audience - All
Participants will understand why older foster youth need resource parents who are willing to be lifelong resources and supports for them. They will also learn the skills necessary to assist youth in transitioning into a resource home.
Barbara Huggins and Meghan O'Hare, University of Pittsburgh, The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
- TH-IN11 The Crucial Piece of Family Prep: Sibling Training**
Category - Innovative Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals
Family preparation that is thorough and well done is crucial to the success of any placement, but often preparation of the children in the family is overlooked. Join us to learn several new techniques to prepare the children in the resource family for their new journey too!
Bethany Leas, Project STAR/The Children's Institute, Erika Schmitt, The Children's Home of Pittsburgh, Heather DiBenedetto, Adoption Connection, PA and Mary Margaret Healy, Family Hope Connection
- TH-IN12 Hot Topics in Child Welfare, 2017**
Category - Traditional Audience - All
A discussion of current issues in child welfare law with experienced attorneys who handle child welfare and termination of parental rights cases—from the perspectives of children, parents and agencies. We'll focus on hot topics such as recent court decisions and legislative changes.
Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.
Ilene Dubin, Diakon/Family Design Resources, Kathleen Creamer, Community Legal Services, Jennifer Gelet, Defender Association of Philadelphia and Marisa McClellan, Dauphin County Solicitor
- TH-IN13 Ethical Dilemmas in Child Welfare**
Category - Traditional Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates
This workshop will help participants work through ethical dilemmas in child welfare. We will use the NASW Code of Ethics along with an ethical decision making framework to frame the discussion about ethical dilemmas and the importance of the process when facing these decisions.
Laurie Friedman, Temple University and Jennifer Frank, Millersville University
- TH-IN14 Housing for Older Foster Youth: What's the Deal?**
Category - Innovative Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals
This presentation will highlight the importance of stable housing for older youth and explore the need for supports, different programming options for counties, funding streams and utilization for Chafee and non-Chafee youth, youth needs when securing housing, and what it means to have a successful program.
Amanda Knaub, Adams County Children and Youth Services
- TH-IN15 Understanding Youth and Expanding Their Voice**
Category - Innovative Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates
This workshop is a continuation of the Acknowledging & Understanding Youth Perspectives Training. Following new video excerpts with youth, participants will be led in a discussion pertaining to the perspectives our youth in care have and how we, as workers and families, think and react to the youth.
Karleen Vogt, Family Pathways and Melanie Rehrig, Diakon Adoption and Foster Care
- TH-IN16 Trauma Disrupted Competencies: Six Avenues to Healing**
Category - Traditional Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates
Learn specifically how trauma is linked to maladaptive behaviors and new ways to intervene. Identifying the six Trauma Disrupted Competencies will help parents and professionals see the children differently and rethink and change their interactions and interventions.
Jeff Merkert and Faye Hall, Jewish Family Service

Workshop Session 6 • Friday, June 30, 2017 • 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

- F-WK1** **What Parent Attorneys and GALs want Resource Parents to Know**
Category - Traditional Audience - Families
Resource families often feel removed from the child welfare legal process and the legal advocates within the process. A former parent attorney and former guardian ad litem will address common issues and concerns from resource parents and answer questions from the audience.
Continuing Legal Education credits are pending approval.
Rachel Meaker and Lauren Peters, Diakon/Family Design Resources and Panel
- F-WK2** **Tools for Planning for Post-Secondary Education: Free Resources**
Category - Traditional, Innovative Audience - All
Help your student plan for their future using free resources available to you from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) and your state agency, from researching careers to making smart, affordable decisions.
Linda Pacewicz and Marla Kane, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
- F-WK3** **Healing Narratives: Importance of Preserving a Child's Story**
Category - Foundational Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates
An in-depth look into the healing powers of preserving a child's story: From a clinical and family-focused perspective, the presenters will demonstrate the significance of child preparation and therapeutic practices, from a child hearing to celebrating and honoring their story.
Nichole Kazarick and Nico'Lee Rohac, Three Rivers Adoption Council
- F-WK4** **Mirror, Mirror: Where Parenting Originated**
Category - Foundational Audience - Families
We all grew up with fairy tales. They have influenced our expectations in parenting as well as our parenting philosophies. How has this impacted our care for foster children, and how do we find our "happily ever after"?
Colleen Slebodnik and Annette Gross, Wesley Spectrum
- F-WK5** **Trauma-Informed Approaches to Supporting Latino and African American Families through the Permanency Process**
Category - Foundational Audience - Child Welfare Workers, Permanency Professionals, Independent Living Professionals, Advocates
This workshop will review core concepts of trauma and resiliency through a culturally specific lens, using a blend of lecture, group activities and case scenarios.
Julie Avalos and Jessica Bishop, Concilio
- F-WK6** **The Rhythm of Yoga**
Category - Innovative Audience - All
This presentation will provide participants with the opportunity to experience various forms of rhythm in a therapeutic setting (e.g., breath work, movement and music). Additionally, there will be a facilitated discussion regarding the empowering benefits of these forms of rhythm.
Edward Stancombe and Beth Rettig, Therapeutic Yoga Program, LLC and Nic Landon, Family Pathways
- F-WK7** **Understanding Adolescent Development – Why It's Always Tough to Be a Teenager**
Category - Foundational Audience - Families, Child Welfare Workers, Legal Professionals
This workshop will describe normal adolescent development and focus on some major issues adolescents commonly experience in each domain of their development.
Mary Niemiec, Adelphoi Village



Conference Registration Form



To register for the conference, please register online at www.diakon-swan.org or complete this form. Please note the dates for Early Bird and Regular Registrations. Preregistered persons will receive a name badge, banquet and Family Fun Night dinner tickets, a program and other materials at the registration area. Confirmation emails will be sent to those who register by May 12, 2017. For questions about completing the form, please email iwertz@diakon-swan.org. **The last day to register is June 2, 2017. Walk-in registration is dependent on availability and is not guaranteed.**

****Please type or print clearly. Please complete one form per person.**

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name	Professional Title
Agency Affiliation		Department	Email
Address (agency participants use company address)		City	State
Daytime Phone		Evening Phone	Cellphone

Please check all that apply: I am a Child Welfare Worker Advocate Legal Professional Permanency Professional Family Independent Living Professional Other _____

Special Needs: We want each participant to have the most enjoyable and accessible experience possible. Please let us know your special need in advance. Specify needs: _____
Specify dietary restrictions: _____

Workshop Session Selection: To help us determine space requirements, please mark your preferred sessions in the appropriate spaces. Any session may be cancelled or rescheduled because of unforeseen circumstances. Schedule changes or cancellations will be posted at the registration area and noted in the final program that will be distributed at the conference.

Wednesday, June 28 (Choose one)

Workshop 1 • 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

W-WK1 W-WK2 W-WK3 W-WK4 W-WK5 W-WK6

Thursday, June 29 Morning (Choose two workshops — one from Workshop 2 AND one from Workshop 3 — OR one Institute)

Workshop 2 • 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

TH-WK1 TH-WK2 TH-WK3

AND

Workshop 3 • 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

TH-WK4 TH-WK5 TH-WK6

OR

Institute 1 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

TH-IN1 TH-IN2 TH-IN3 TH-IN4 TH-IN5 TH-IN6 TH-IN7 TH-IN8

Thursday, June 29 Afternoon (Choose two workshops — one from Workshop 4 AND one from Workshop 5 — OR one Institute)

Workshop 4 • 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

TH-WK7 TH-WK8 TH-WK9

AND

Workshop 5 • 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

TH-WK10 TH-WK11 TH-WK12

OR

Institute 2 • 2:00 – 5:15 p.m.

TH-IN9 TH-IN10 TH-IN11 TH-IN12 TH-IN13 TH-IN14 TH-IN15 TH-IN16

Friday, June 30 (Choose one)

Workshop 6 • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

F-WK1 F-WK2 F-WK3 F-WK4 F-WK5 F-WK6 F-WK7



Registration Options



Please complete one form per person

OPTION 1: ENTIRE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION JUNE 28, 29, 30 (Includes two continental breakfasts, two afternoon breaks, Recognition Banquet, Family Fun Night dinner, opening and closing keynote general sessions and up to six concurrent workshops)

EARLY BIRD (postmarked on or before May 12, 2017)

- \$180.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$100.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$75.00 – One parent

REGULAR RATE (postmarked after May 12, 2017)

- \$200.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$120.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$95.00 – One parent

Please indicate if you will attend the Wednesday, June 28 banquet:

- Yes – Select your meal: Chicken Beef Vegetarian Special Dietary Meal
- No – I will not attend the Wednesday banquet

Please indicate if you will attend the Family Fun Night Dinner on Thursday, June 29:

- Yes – I will attend
- No – I will not attend

OPTION 2: A LA CARTE REGISTRATION (SELECT ONE)

Wednesday, June 28 ONLY (Includes: opening keynote general session, afternoon break, one workshop and Recognition Banquet)

EARLY BIRD (postmarked on or before May 12, 2017)

- \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$35.00 – One parent

REGULAR RATE (postmarked after May 12, 2017)

- \$120.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$65.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$55.00 – One parent

Please indicate if you will attend the Wednesday, June 28 banquet:

- Yes – Select your meal: Chicken Beef Vegetarian Special Dietary Meal
- No – I will not attend the Wednesday banquet

Thursday, June 29 ONLY (Includes: continental breakfast, afternoon break, Family Fun Night dinner and up to four concurrent workshops)

EARLY BIRD (postmarked on or before May 12, 2017)

- \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$35.00 – One parent

REGULAR RATE (postmarked after May 12, 2017)

- \$120.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$65.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$55.00 – One parent

Please indicate if you will attend the Family Fun Night Dinner on Thursday, June 29:

- Yes – I will attend
- No – I will not attend

Friday, June 30 ONLY (Includes continental breakfast, one workshop and closing keynote general session)

EARLY BIRD (postmarked on or before May 12, 2017)

- \$80.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$25.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$15.00 – One parent

REGULAR RATE (postmarked after May 12, 2017)

- \$100.00 – Agency-affiliated or other professional
- \$45.00 – Parenting couple (two parents from the same family)
- \$25.00 – One parent



Registration Options (continued)



ADD ONS:

CHILD CARE/TEEN CARE (\$50 per child/teen) _____
 (See page 15 for Child/Teen Care Registration Form). Child care/teen program registrations INCLUDE Thursday's Family Fun Night Dinner (in addition to other meals and snacks listed on the Child/Teen Care Registration Form).

ADDITIONAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT DINNER TICKETS (\$20/adult; \$10/child) _____
 Extra Family Fun Night Dinner tickets may be purchased for guests not registered for the conference or child care/teen programs.

ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS (\$20/person) _____
 Extra banquet tickets may be purchased for guests not registered for the conference or child care/teen programs.

Payment Options: Complete **one form per person** and attach check or money order made payable to *Diakon - SWAN, LLC*, or complete credit card information below and mail to **Conferencing, Diakon/FDR, 471 JPL Wick Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111**

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE:	\$ _____
TOTAL CHILD CARE/TEEN REGISTRATIONS:	\$ _____
ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS/FAMILY FUN NIGHT DINNER TICKETS :	\$ _____
<hr/>	
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:	\$ _____

Credit Card Information:

MasterCard Visa Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Verification code (3-4 digits on back of card) _____

Cardholder Name _____

Cardholder Address & Phone Number _____

Authorized Signature _____

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

Special pricing is available for individual groups of 10 or more for the Kalahari's Family Entertainment Center, which features fun games and activities for people of all ages such as miniature golf, miniature bowling, an arcade, and much more. Packages including "game card" passes to attractions and arcade tokens at reduced rates must be pre-purchased at least three days before you arrive. If you are interested in taking advantage of this special group offer for your party, contact Elika Almeida, Waterpark Group Sales Manager, at (570) 580-6025, and mention code FFN2017.



Child/Teen Care Program Information



Child Care and Teen Registration

We are pleased to provide on-site child care, as well as activities for older children. Additional forms and payments are required if you are requesting child care. A Child/Teen Care Registration Form (included below) must be completed for EACH child and teen who is participating in the sponsored activities. **Child/teen care is offered on a first-come basis. The deadline for child/teen care registration is May 12, 2017.** All child/teen care registrations received before May 12, 2017 will receive an informational confirmation packet. Permission forms from this packet must be filled out and brought with you to the conference. **Drop-in care is NOT available.** Children and teens must be preregistered to receive care.

Child Care and Teen Activities

Ages infant through 11: Child care is a supervised program that includes special activities. The rate is \$50 per child for the entire conference.

Ages 12 through 17: Teen care is a supervised program that includes a workshop and other special activities. Teens must be no older than 17 at the time of the conference. The rate is \$50 per youth for the entire conference.

Meals: Daily snacks, Wednesday dinner, Thursday breakfast, lunch, Family Fun Night dinner and Friday breakfast will be provided. Parents whose children are unable to eat table food must provide food (e.g., formula, baby food, bottles, special diets, allergies, etc.).

Activities: Activities will be provided for children and teens. Swimming will be available for children ages 8 to 17.

Medications: Parents are responsible for administering medications to children. **Child care staff will not administer medications.**

No walk-ins will be accepted for either group. Children and teens are required to attend all activities while their parents or caregivers are at the conference.



Child/Teen Care Registration Form

Please complete **one form per child/teen**. Photocopy the form for additional children/teens if necessary.

FEE: \$50 per child or teen includes daily snacks, meals and activities for the duration of the conference.

Parents must provide food for children who are unable to eat table food (e.g., formula, baby food, bottles, special diets, allergies, etc.). Child/teen care staff will **NOT** administer medications.

THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER CHILDREN/TEENS IS MAY 12, 2017.

Child care for children ages infant through 11 years **OR** Teen program for children ages 12–17 years

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Age as of June 28, 2017 _____
First Middle Initial Last

Parent/Guardian Attending Conference _____

Home Phone _____ Cellphone (in the event of an emergency) _____

Email _____

Dates care is needed: Wednesday, June 28 Thursday, June 29 Friday, June 30

Please describe any accommodations your child will need to fully participate in child care activities:

Please list any dietary restrictions your child may have:

Please disclose any medical conditions (failure to disclose this information could result in removal from the child/teen care program):

Please list anything that would be helpful for the child/teen care staff to know about your child (likes, dislikes, fears, allergies, medications, etc.):

For child/teen care registration to be complete:

Complete form. **One per child/teen.** To secure a space for your child, all registrations **must** be accompanied by payment.

Attach payment. **NOTE:** Make check payable to: *Diakon – SWAN, LLC*. Enclose form and payment with your completed conference registration form.

An informational confirmation packet will be forwarded to you if the completed child/teen care registration form(s) and payment are received by May 12, 2017. You will need to complete the forms in the information packet and bring them with you to the conference. No child/teen care registrations will be accepted after May 12, 2017.





pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES