

2021 Children Come First Workshop Descriptions

Monday, November 15

Keynote – 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., Africa West

Healing Neen – A Firsthand Story of Hope and Transformation

Tonier Cain

Tonier works tirelessly to raise awareness about trauma-informed care around the world. She has trained providers in all fifty states. Tonier is an advocate and educator, speaking all over the world on trauma, addiction, incarceration, homelessness, substance abuse and mental health. Her work has been used as a model in other countries for the establishment of their trauma-informed care protocols. Tonier will share her personal story of hope and transformation.

Session A – 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

1. Decision Making Simplified

Howard Mulloy, BSW, Founder of By Your Side Services, LLC

Room: Africa 10

Turning 18? Know or love someone who is? It's time to make decisions. Decisions need to be made by both the person turning 18 and by those who support them. Decision-making can be difficult, but the process can be simplified. Consent forms, supported decision making, representative payee, powers of attorney, guardianship... Which is right for you? Come and learn more about the different options available and how to make the decision that works best for you.

2. The Brain Architecture Game

Amber McElvey, MS, CSW, Grant County Social Services; Hilary Sahr, Services Support Specialist, Grant County

Room: Africa 50

Join us in an exciting game highlighting the powerful role of relationships on early brain development. The Brain Architecture Game is a fun learning experience that helps participants build an understanding of brain development—what promotes it, what derails it, and what the consequences are to society.

3. Changing the Face of Juvenile Corrections: The Continuum of Corrections- and Police-involved Care of Special Needs Youth

Michael Witkovsky, MD, MS, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Wisconsin Family Ties Board Member; Brett Ritz, RN, Unit Manager - Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center

Room: Africa 30

In this presentation, we will review some of the changes being made with psychiatric services for justice-involved youth. We will take a look at the points of vulnerability for families and youth, such as calling 911, and what happens when youth are adjudicated delinquent. Mr. Brett Ritz, unit manager of MJTC, will join me to discuss these issues from our perspective and to review some of the key issues in the research literature and in the service statistics within Wisconsin. We welcome hearing the stories from families and youth who have gone through these systems. My hope is that we can bring these stories to those who are moving forward with changes in the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

4. Paving the Way for Multiple Systems of Support

Carmen Klenner, MS, LPC, SAC-IT, School Counselor, Kewaskum School District and Hartford Counseling; Ashley Brugger, NCSP, School Psychologist, Cedarburg School District

Room: Africa 60

Creating a smooth pathway to break the stigma of mental health needs and bridge the gap between connecting families, schools, and the larger community is no small feat. This presentation will briefly cover how to identify where there may be a need for intervention, how to go about connecting to the larger community, and the ins-and-outs of getting all stakeholders who are working with the child onboard to develop an integrated system of support, best tailored to the child's needs.

5. Dare to See the Unseen Child

Deborah-Jean Smith, Family Support Worker, Parent Educator, Director of Ruby Shines LLC; Sarah Winterhoff

Room: Africa 70

In this presentation, participants will be motivated, equipped, and activated to being the change they wish to see in their communities. Participants will learn how to look past behaviors to see the individual child. We will brainstorm ways that you and your community can see and support the "unseen child."

6. Radical Common Sense: Fund Diversion, BLM and Reparations as Transformational Social Policy

Ron Watson, MA, PhD, Professor of Political Science and Health & Society at Beloit College

Room: Africa 90

Join us to learn about why certain social policies and issues are considered controversial. We'll consider the positive social implications of such policies; and discuss alternative, but viable, solutions to the dilemmas posed by these policies.

Extended training – 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Lunch will be in the room)

Trauma-Informed Care 101 (Part 1)

Amy Jo Timm, LCSW, Owner of Kismet Advocacy; Anna Chacon, BSW

Room: Africa 20

After this training, participants will have a deeper understanding of trauma, including understanding the science behind trauma, how to recognize coping skills that align with trauma profiles, and how to view others through a trauma-informed lens.

Session B – 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

7. PATCH for Providers: Learning How to Better Serve Adolescents...from THEIR Perspective!

Erica Koepsel, PATCH Site Coordinator, and Teen Educators of Madison PATCH

Room: Africa 10

This one-of-a-kind experience offers healthcare professionals the opportunity to engage with today's youth in a new way. Trained Teen Educators share their accurate and authentic insights into the concerns, preferences, and realities that impact the healthcare experiences of today's youth.

8. Mental Health Referral Pathway via a Community Navigation Website

Hollie White, MSW, Project Coordinator for Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program Racine; Co-author - Kaija L. Zusevics, MPH, PhD, CHES, Associate Researcher, Center for Urban Population Health – UW-Milwaukee

Room: Africa 50

Attendees will learn about how, through a grant from the Medical College of WI, Racine was able to implement a referral pathway system to connect citizens to medication management and psychotherapy in a fast and effective way.

9. Financial Planning for Special Needs Families

Carrie Waters Schmidt, MS, CFP, AWMA, ADPA, Certified Financial Planner

Room: Africa 30

In this workshop, we will specifically be discussing the 529ABLE and Special Needs Trusts. Attendees will learn how best to invest for their loved ones with special needs as a way to enhance their standard of living without limiting government benefits.

10. Storytelling for Change – a Parent Panel

Andrea Turtenwald, MA, Family Relations Coordinator, Office of Children’s Mental Health; Parent Panel

Room: Africa 60 (Virtual)

As parents who have lived experience navigating the children’s mental health system, we recognize our stories need to be told to decision makers and system leaders. In this panel, parent leaders of the Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health will share some of their lived experiences and provide insight on how to share stories for change.

11. In the Interest of Joseph York – A Youth Justice Case Worker and a Youth in the System Share Their Journey

Jason Halbach, Youth Justice Caseworker for Brown County Human Services; Joseph York, Youth

Room: Africa 70

In this session, we will provide an overview of Joey’s experiences and perspective in the Youth Justice system, his out-of-home placements, and involvement with Coordinated Services Teams (CST) and Wisconsin Family Ties. We will discuss the family dynamic and the effects on reunification.

12. Bringing Functional Behavioral Assessments and Positive Behavioral Support Plans To The 21st Century!

Connie Persike, MS, CCC-SLP, Founder of CP Consulting

Room: Africa 80

Many experts are working tirelessly to shift the behavioral paradigm away from the traditional behavioral approach and toward what current relational and neuroscience research has taught us. When we know better, we do better! Let’s take that information and use it to redesign tools we use frequently in schools today - functional behavioral assessments and positive behavioral intervention plans. If you are struggling with these processes, if they don’t align with your current philosophy and belief system, then this workshop is for you! Participants will get a glimpse into how to make these common processes more trauma sensitive and aligned with current research.

Session C – 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

13. Access to Print for Learners with an IEP

Antoinette Chambers, M.Ed., Training Director, Wisconsin Family Ties; David Edyburn, PhD, Senior Research Scientist and Professor Emeritus – UW-Milwaukee

Room: Africa 10

This presentation will share key components of the WCASS (Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services) Guide on providing students with disabilities access to grade level curriculum - the outcome of a statewide collaborative project. The presentation will spotlight the legal obligation, examples of resources, and the mental health connection when this fundamental need is not met.

14. How to Survive Yourself: One Story of Depression, Suicide and Self-Harm

Tim Markle, MA, Forgiveness Factor

Room: Africa 50

"I am not going to live to 25." The deaths of two friends by suicide when I was 19 years old changed my life. In looking back, the shame I felt at their deaths joined the growing shame already in my life. Fueled by shame, and aided by addictions, self-harm and hopelessness grew. But here I am--30 years later. Somehow I beat my own predictions. My worst enemy was me, but I am still here.

15. Consequences – Are Yours Reasonable, Respectful, and Related?

Polly Imme, Disability and Family Services Coordinator for the St. Croix Tribal Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education teacher

Room: Africa 30

We need to ask ourselves if we are using punishment or consequences to deal with challenging behaviors, and then determine if our reaction to the behavior is creating an environment of control or if we are focusing on teaching children to accept responsibility and learn from their decisions.

16. How Culture, Communication, and Creativity Makes Working with Families and Communities Much Better

Don Rosin, Board Member, Wisconsin Family Ties; Tribal Ambassador, DPI-DTAN

Room: Africa 60

What is culture? How do I learn from speaking and listening? How do I use that information to be creative in finding a good solution?

17. Healing Together: Building Resilient, Trauma-informed Communities

Megan Schilt, LPC-NCC, Avenues Counseling, LLC

Room: Africa 70

Through the combined lens of lived and professional experience, Megan Schilt, LPC, discusses the impact of traumatic stress on families with young children and the need for trauma-informed communities. Building resilience in our children and families is discussed by taking a closer look at Infant Early Childhood Family Mental Health.

18. Changing Views During Power Struggles – Thoughts, Techniques, and Education

Ashlee Glowacki, MA, owner of Vitality Youth Services; Board President, Wisconsin Family Ties

Room: Africa 80

This workshop will discuss what a power struggle is between youth and adults of all types in their lives, and how to reframe the approach in these situations. Strategies including (but not limited to) retraining, education, empowering, collaborating with and supporting parents and other adults who work with youth will be explored.

Tuesday, November 16th

Keynote – 8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Africa West

Resiliency Factors: Overcoming Childhood Trauma

Hector Matascastillo

During this keynote presentation, Hector R. Matascastillo, MSW, LICSW, a first-generation immigrant to the United States from Central America, will describe his childhood growing up in Chicago, including adverse childhood experiences he personally survived. The speaker will describe how these experiences contributed to adult experiences in the absence of resiliency factors and will describe how, with appropriate help and reintegration of resiliency factors, a person can thrive once more.

Session D – 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

19. Mindfulness and Neuroscience: Using a Combined Approach to Regulate Emotions and Behavior

Ellie Allen, M.Ed., Parent Coach

Room: Africa 10

Ability to regulate emotions and behavior can be developed through increasing awareness of the brain and the stress response system, and incorporating the use of mindfulness practices. By combining wisdom from neuroscience, psychology, and yoga, this workshop empowers the attendees by providing an understanding of the body, behavior and emotions, and illuminating a path to move from feeling hopeless to feeling hopeful.

20. Learn How to Navigate Special Education for Students with Behavior Challenges

Amy Polsin, CPPS, Wisconsin Family Ties Parent Peer Specialist Program Coordinator; Phyllis Greenberger, Disability Rights Wisconsin Lead Advocacy Specialist

Room: Africa 50

In this session, we will be discussing using positive behavioral intervention strategies to avoid exclusionary discipline methods (such as suspension and expulsion), as well as learning more about using Functional Behavioral Assessments to develop Behavior Intervention Plans. We will also discuss manifestation determination reviews – what they are and when they are required. Finally, we'll answer the questions, "What is Extended School Year (ESY)?" and "What makes a student eligible for ESY?" Join us to learn tips to make navigating special education for students with behavior challenges as painless as possible.

21. Educator Burnout & Compassion Fatigue: Collaboratively Supporting Adult Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Wellbeing in Schools

Kellie Soendergaard, MA, LPC, NCC

Room: Africa 30 (Virtual)

To promote students' social and emotional well-being, it is critical to simultaneously foster a supportive staff community that cultivates the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) competency and well-being of the adults who educate them. This workshop will address educator burnout and compassion fatigue. We will examine how school counselors and various stakeholders can collaboratively support adult SEL. Strategies and resources to build systems and structures to strengthen adult SEL will be provided.

22. Got Your Back – A Modern Approach for Universal Mental Health Support for All Ages

Teri Ellefson, Director of Jacob's SWAG Foundation, Inc.; Joe Monroe, MS, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in School Psychology, Director of Pupil Services, Monroe School District

Room: Africa 60

This presentation will discuss the story of a family and a community that were impacted by suicide, and how they came together to create a universal approach to mental health support. This presentation will share information regarding the functionality and ideas for potential use of a FREE app that will be available to youth in Wisconsin and across the United States. Jacob's SWAG is a foundation that strives to support the emotional needs of children by providing support to schools and community youth programs.

The foundation has a primary focus on suicide prevention/awareness, bullying, mental health, and helping students make good life choices.

23. The Power of Relationship – Creating Regulation and Safety through Play

Jenna Mao – LPC, BC-DMT; Jen Bluske - OTR

Room: Africa 90

Come play with us! Learn strategies to create joy, support regulation, and enhance relational safety. Using the concepts of regulations, sensory processing, movement and attachment, we will discuss simple strategies that can fit into daily life!

24. Adam's Story – A Mom Presents Her Son's Life, Addiction, and Death and Her Journey through Grief

Linda Kroll

Room: Africa 70

I lost my 24-year-old son to suicide after a 10-year battle with alcohol and marijuana. I took him to the doctor a few months before he died, and the doctor put him on meds for anxiety and depression. This doctor was an internist and admitted to me after Adam died that doctors do not get much training in mental health issues when they are in med school. The meds and the chemicals just made things worse, and then the worst happened. For 20 years I have been traveling all over telling "Adam's Story", as many as 77 times in one year, ten times in one week, and multiple times in one day. People have come up to me and told me I saved their life with the story. I present his life, his addiction, his death, and my journey through grief.

Extended training – 10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Lunch will be in the room)

Trauma-Informed Care 101 (Part 2)

Amy Jo Timm, LCSW, Owner of Kismet Advocacy; Anna Chacon, BSW

Room: Africa 20

After this training, participants will have a deeper understanding of trauma, including understanding the science behind trauma, how to recognize coping skills that align with trauma profiles, and how to view others through a trauma-informed lens.

Keynote – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Africa West

Looking Beyond Behaviors to Support Children's Social and Emotional Development

Mona Delahooke

Dr. Delahooke will describe behaviors as the tip of the iceberg, important signals that we should address by seeking to understand a child's individual differences in the overarching context of relational safety. You will hear about a new approach to solving children's developmental and behavioral challenges, focusing on building a child's foundation for emotional and behavioral control and moving beyond outdated paradigms that focus on compliance and surface behaviors. Dr. Delahooke will provide tools and techniques to reduce behavioral challenges and promote psychological resilience and satisfying, secure relationships, as described in her best-selling book, *Beyond Behaviors: Using Brain Science and Compassion to Understand and Solve Children's Behavioral Challenges*.

Session E – 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

25. Connecting with Children – A Trauma-informed Approach

Ashley Schoof, PsyD, Senior Clinical Director and Director of the STRONG Child & Adolescent Day Treatment Program – Christian Family Solutions

Room: Africa 10

Children communicate their needs to us through their behavior. The learner will be able to describe common trauma-related presenting behaviors and understand ways to connect with children at various ages. Trauma-informed approaches will be explored. The impact of COVID-19 on children, related to mental health, will also be explored. The participant will walk away from the presentation with a greater understanding of how trauma presents in a child and what to do next.

26. Embodying Self Care & Mental Health Hygiene: Be the Change by Being Authentically U

Connor A. Tiggerus, MSCMHC, LPC, SAC

Room: Africa 50

Many children and youth (and adults) inhabit environments that are struggling to support them and their mental health needs. By embodying self-care and authentically advocating for mental-health hygiene, we can be the change and light the path for others, which they must walk themselves.

27. In the Interest of Joseph York – A Youth Justice Case Worker and a Youth in the System Share Their Journey

Jason Halbach, Youth Justice Case Worker, Brown County Human Services; Joseph York

Room: Africa 30

We will provide an overview of Joey's experiences and perspective in the Youth Justice system, his out-of-home placements, and involvement with Coordinated Services Teams (CST) and Wisconsin Family Ties. We will discuss the family dynamic and the effects on reunification.

28. Traumatized Children and Education

Rachel Fruin, LPC, CSAC, Holy Family Memorial Behavioral Health

Room: Africa 80

Learn how to identify and work with children who have been traumatized, to aid overall functioning. This workshop is aimed at giving participants strategies which can be used immediately. Strategies that are not labor-intensive and do not require many supplies. In this session, we will utilize a mixture of teaching and practicum of new behaviors - focused on educators and parents with children who have attention issues, defiant behaviors, and trauma.

29. Bringing Functional Behavioral Assessments and Positive Behavioral Support Plans To The 21st Century!

Connie Persike, MS, CCC-SLP, Founder of CP Consulting

Room: Africa 90 (Virtual, Repeated from Day 1)

Many experts are working tirelessly to shift the behavioral paradigm away from the traditional behavioral approach and toward what current relational and neuroscience research has taught us. When we know better, we do better! Let's take that information and use it to redesign tools we use frequently in schools today - functional behavioral assessments and positive behavioral intervention plans. If you are struggling with these processes, if they don't align with your current philosophy and belief system, then this workshop is for you! Participants will get a glimpse into how to make these common processes more trauma sensitive and aligned with current research.

30. Better Words from Adults Equal Better Outcomes for Children: Tools for Parents, Teachers and Coaches

Wendy Schaetz, MS-CCC, SLP, BCH, Lasting Effects Hypnosis & Coaching

Room: Africa 70

Your word choices have a tremendous impact on children's short and long term behavior and outcomes. This presentation demonstrates that what you say and how you say it matters! Learn word and language patterns that get best results in behavior, learning, self-esteem, confidence, sleep, eating habits, sports, and more!

Session F – 3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

31. From “Misbehaving” to Learning

Katie Berg, MA Ed., Supporting Neurodiverse Students Statewide Coordinator, Supporting Neurodiverse Students Professional Learning System

Room: Africa 10

Using root cause analysis, participants will be able to understand that behavior is an output of a skill deficit or an inefficient action system to be able to react/produce the desired output. Participants will be walked through moving from reaction to meeting a student where they are at, through the lens of how the brain works. From “stopping” behavior to understanding what they are telling us and what areas we can support.

32. Anxiety & Autism – I Need Help!

Hunter Markle, Youth with Lived Experience; Tim Markle, MA in Counseling, Director of the Southern Regional Center, CYSHCN (Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs) at Waisman Center

Room: Africa 50

“After high school, I got a job and thought everything was going okay. But my anxiety, my autism and my depression brought me to a point that I really just wanted to die. I want to share how I got help and what I do today to make sure I don't go back to that place. My dad will share how he coped with my wanting to die.”

33. Support the Supporters: Meeting the Changing Needs of County CCS & CLTS Program Specialists During the Pandemic

Robyn F. Hardt Schultz, PhD, Director of Research and Evaluation, Wisconsin Family Ties

Room: Africa 60

The pandemic influenced the needs of parents and children with mental health challenges. A mixed methods study examined the perspectives of 280 Wisconsin Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) and Children's Long-term Support (CLTS) Waiver staff regarding changes in needs as well as the county's capacity to meet those needs. County staff then outlined strategies and activities to assist with satisfying shifting demands. The research focused on the pandemic timeframe, though a number of findings are relevant post-pandemic.

34. The High Cost of Poverty

Tracey Chugg, Child Welfare Social Worker, Green County; Kelly Damron, Social Worker, Green County

Room: Africa 80

Families living in poverty face a number of barriers that many of us may never think about. Learn how these barriers present themselves, how families in poverty respond, and what we, as service providers, can do to overcome them. Coming from a place of lived experience, it is important for service providers to understand the many barriers that poverty can present and to not confuse those with being uncooperative or being resistant to services. Developing an understanding of the barriers will allow the providers to engage in appropriate and effective planning to ensure a family's ability to engage in services and minimize what can often be a condescending and insensitive lack of understanding.

35. Estate Planning When Your Child has Special Needs

Dera L. Johnson-Tracy, J.D., Horn & Johnsen, SC

Room: Africa 90

When planning for families with children who have special needs, strategic estate planning is essential, including the creation of a trust to protect the child's government benefits and to ensure the child with special needs has the resources available to maintain the standard of living to which he or she is accustomed.

36. Wraparound: What is it and what does it have to do with CCS & CLTS?

Antoinette Chambers, M.Ed., Training Director, Wisconsin Family Ties

Room: Africa 70

Learn about the ten principles of wraparound, as identified by the National Wraparound initiative. Understand how wraparound fits in with Wisconsin's various service programs, such as CCS (Comprehensive Community Services) and CST (Coordinated Services Teams). Learn about what teaming looks like when it's done well, and what you might do if your team isn't functioning as you'd like it to be.