The Complexity of Residential Interventions

Innovations to Meet the Needs of Children and Families

April 13-17, 2015
Savannah, Georgia
Beautiful, Old, Historic Savannah. If you take a moment you can certainly conjure up an image of this beautiful city...ancient oak trees with strings of moss draped on their branches, quaint squares filled with moments in history (and movies!), ghost tours, mint juleps, horse drawn wagons, pecans and pralines. It's all waiting for you, just steps outside of our hotel, located in the heart of the historic district. The easy tempo of this town is the ideal contrast to discussing the complexity of the work we do. The children and families we serve, the neuroscience behind our treatment models, the funding streams, the ways we measure outcomes...it’s a safe bet that intricacies of it all will continue to challenge us, so it’s important to take the time with your colleagues to soak up innovative ideas and to reenergize yourself with our transformational work.

AACRC’s commitment to keeping our eyes on the horizon is evident through the carefully selected program presented to you in Savannah. Two pre-conferences give you time to dive deep into topics of great interest. The first is presented by Dr. Larry Brendtro, who gave an inspiring keynote address at our 2014 conference. Dr. Brendtro will be looking at Evidence Based Principles, using key information to support the provision of residential services. Our second preconference hones in on the crisis surrounding commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and how residential providers can provide carefully designed supports and services that can help these youth establish their pathways to recovery. Dr. Yolanda Graham and 6 remarkable clinicians will share their experiences and successes in recent years.

Wednesday’s keynote presentation will focus on the significant issues being presented across the country by youth of high acuity. The reduction of residential intervention capacity in most areas has resulted in emergency rooms becoming the default intervention, and youth often languish for days awaiting placement, if they are not sent home from the ER. Those who do access residential interventions are highly dysregulated and challenging to our capacities. Bryan Samuels will lead us through an overview of the applicable brain research that helps us understand what these young people need, followed by experienced professionals sharing results of research of thousands of youth in Illinois. A panel of youth, family members, and providers will respond. Thursday takes us away for a moment as we look at the use of residential treatment down under...yes, in Australia. This country’s plan to eliminate the use of group care has been the source of much discussion. We will hear from Dr. Frank Ainsworth with an analysis of the results thus far of this policy, followed by other international colleagues about their work in their countries. Can we find commonalities that may help us to be knowledgeable and innovative back at our home base?

Friday will come much too quickly, but we are certain that everyone will stay to the very end, as we will be hearing from Dr. Robert Anda, Co-Principal Investigator and Co-Founder of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. The revelations from the ACEs Study solidly identify traumatic events in childhood as an underlying cause of medical, social, and public health problems in adulthood, bringing the importance of the work YOU are doing full circle and into the spotlight.

Residential interventions ARE complex, and we know you are stepping up to promote and espouse innovation and best practices in everything you do.
Special thanks to the program committee and the board of directors for their hard work and dedication to ensuring the success of this conference.

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Evidence-Based Principles for Residential Treatment

In the face of strident criticisms about residential care, professionals and policy leaders must have valid information about the demonstrated strengths of this important treatment resource for challenging children and youth. Further, it is essential to understand specific evidence-based principles that apply to our field in order to achieve positive outcomes.

Part I. Fielding Criticisms. The workshop will deconstruct common criticisms used to target the efficacy of residential treatment such as: Is residential treatment overused, ineffective, or even iatrogenic? Should it be replaced by outpatient, inpatient, or in-home care? Who is best served in residential settings?

Part II. Embracing Consilience-Based Evidence. A growing body of research shows that the narrow pursuit of evidence-based practices ignores the complexity of delivering what works in powerful learning and treatment environments. Participants will examine research grounded principles that meet the highest standard of evidence, namely consilience. Consilience involves integrating biological and social science research with practice expertise and culturally responsive values to identify essential universal truths. Presenters draw from their contributions in the new book, Deep Brain Learning: Evidence-Based Principles for Transforming Youth (2015) which provides the framework to empower our most vulnerable youth to heal and thrive.

Presenters: Larry K. Brendtro, PhD, is past president of Starr Commonwealth and currently dean of the Starr Global Learning Network, Albion, Michigan. He has broad experience as a child and adolescent psychologist, university professor, and author of numerous books in this field.

Robert Foltz, PsyD, is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. With nearly 20 years of experience in residential treatment, Dr. Foltz now teaches courses on Evidence Based Treatments, Ethics, Pediatric Psychopharmacology, and Psychopathology. He is also involved in research related to residential treatment and the experience of youth within this system of care.

Pre-conference attendance requires an additional registration fee.
A great deal of focus has been placed nationally on the identification of children and adolescents who have been commercially sexually exploited. Despite growing awareness of the prevalence of childhood sexual exploitation, little has been published in terms of treatment and risk reduction. This presentation will provide clinicians/providers with an in-depth discussion on treatment challenges and promising, evidence based models in working with this population. Preliminary data will be presented on the treatment of girls and adolescents in a community based group home and an intensive, psychiatric, residential treatment setting. We will review co-morbid psychiatric diagnoses, treatment, relapse prevention, and improving outcome post-discharge.

Presenter: Yolanda P. Graham, MD. Dr. Graham serves as Devereux Georgia’s Medical Director. Dr. Graham is Board certified in general psychiatry and child & adolescent psychiatry. Dr. Graham has received national recognition for her knowledge in treating sexually exploited children. Sought out as an expert in her field, she worked with the Georgia Governor’s Office to develop a statewide response to address the needs of child sex trafficking victims.

The STRIVE RESPECT Group Curriculum was developed by STRIVE, LLC specifically for the treatment of sexually exploited children under Dr. Graham’s direction. Dr. Graham also developed the clinical program for Angela’s House, the first safe house for sexually exploited girls in the southeastern region.

Moderator: Dr. Franki Reddick-Gibson. Dr. Reddick-Gibson is an author, lecturer, motivator, advocate, and wellness coach. She currently serves as the Director of Clinical Services/Chief Clinical Officer for Mingus Mountain Academy, a residential treatment facility for girls, located in Prescott Valley, AZ. Dr. Reddick-Gibson has developed and implemented “Empowerment Over Exploitation” a survivor and trauma-informed prevention/intervention program designed for those at risk for, victimized by, and survivors of sexual exploitation/human trafficking.

11:30-12:30 Lunch Break

Plenary Sessions 12:30-5pm
The following presentations will flow through the afternoon, each touching on emerging topics. This open forum encourages the greatest learning potential and open dialogue. Enjoy.
JuST Response; Protective System Responses for Juvenile Sex Trafficking Victims
Explore the intersection of Shared Hope International’s research on services for juvenile sex trafficking victims with its analysis of state statutory protective responses with a broad audience interested in understanding the variety of approaches to establishing a state protective system response through statutes, protocols and services, with an emphasis on protective and service provision models that exemplify elements of a holistic, multi-agency approach.
Presenter: Eliza Reock, Director of Programs, Shared Hope International

Prevention/Early Intervention of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
This workshop will showcase youthSpark’s early intervention/prevention model (in partnership with the Fulton Co. Juvenile Court) and how they reach girls earlier on the abuse continuum to deter them from victimization or guide them into a higher level of care.
Presenter: Jennifer Swain, Interim Executive Director, youthSpark, Inc.

Commmerical Sexual Exploitation of Children: Identification, Clinical Implications, and Treatment Options
It is estimated that approximately 100,000 to 300,000 children are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation each year. This is an issue that is occurring in our own back yard! This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, clinical implications, the effects of developmental trauma and treatment options.
Presenter: Dr. Barbara Hernandez, Psy.D, LMFT, LPCC, Vice President of Community Services, Crittenton Services for Children and Families

The Invaluable Component of Serving CSEC Youth: Well Trained and Committed Staff
Building a holistic treatment program for CSEC youth is a challenging endeavor due to the intensity and complexity of their needs. Of great importance is training staff to be a unified group that can manage a wide variety of behaviors, emotions, personalities, high needs and safety issues. Self-care and stress management to decrease burnout is also required to stabilize the foundation of your program.
Presenters: Robyn Pruitt, LCSW, LCPAA, LCCA, Executive Director, Freedom Place, a Program of Arrow Child & Family Ministries; Emily Waters, LMSW, MPA, Development Director, Freedom Place

So You Want to Open a CSEC Residential Program?
Developing a CSEC program presents enormous challenges which can sometimes seem insurmountable. From the local and state regulatory restrictions, the financial struggles, and finally trying to inform the various community agencies of your vision. This presentation will discuss creating a CSEC program from the ground up!
Presenter: Annie Corbett, M.B.A., Founder and CEO, Corbett Group Homes, Inc. and The R.I.S.E. Programs, Inc.

Gateways Four Phase Model of Treatment
Gateways has a four phase model of treatment, with each youth receiving a bracelet signifying change and reminding them of the positive progress they have made. The girls work on their readiness, recognizing the trauma they have experienced, rebuilding self-esteem, and reconnecting to community and family. Hear our successes with this innovative programming.
Presenters: Janmarie Brown, Program Director, Gateways, JCCANY; Joanna Kibel, Director of Social Work Practice, JCCANY

Visit www.aacrc-dc.org for conference updates and to register.
Increasingly, young people with significant mental health challenges are finding themselves in emergency rooms following significant dysregulations, due to insufficient community or residential capacity to address their needs. This plenary will address the issues and needs of young people of high acuity, and their families. It will review the applicable research as well as data regarding interventions with a large cohort of young people. Youth and family members will discuss their lived experience in emergency rooms. A panel of youth, family members, and providers will discuss their lived experience and will look at effective and evidence supported approaches.

Presenters: Bryan Samuels, MPP, Executive Director, Chapin Hall. Before coming to Chapin Hall, Samuels was the commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and he has spent his career building the capacity of child welfare systems to produce positive outcomes for children; Michael W. Naylor, MD, Associate Professor in Psychiatry, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine. Dr. Naylor is the Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Director of the Behavioral Health and Welfare Program, a program formed by contract between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and UIC to address the mental health needs of the most severely disturbed state wards.

Moderator: Robert Lieberman, MA, CEO, Kairos
Attitudes, Perceptions and the Utilization of Evidence-Based Practices in Residential Care
This Issues Lunch will review and discuss the data collected in the 2012 Survey of AACRC members on their use of Evidence Based Practices, types adopted, barriers, fidelity, and attitudes regarding their use. Agencies will be able to learn what practices everyone is currently using, and success they are having.
Moderators: Neal Sternberg, MSCJA, Sternberg Consulting, AACRC Research Committee Chair; Sigrid James, Ph.D., University of Kassel and Loma Linda University; Ronald Thompson, Ph.D., Boys Town

Peer Delivered Services in Residential, are You READY?
Curious how Peer Delivered Services fit within the residential community setting? Interested in learning how to adapt practices and interventions to meet the needs of youth and their families with this service model? A panel of peer leaders will lead a discussion to help you on your journey to family and youth driven care from the inside out!
Moderators: Jammie Farish, Training & Development Director, Youth M.O.V.E. Oregon, Regional Director, Clackamas County; Raquel Montes, Transition Facilitator/Sr. Youth Advocate, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families; Trish Cocoros, Co-Executive Director, Youth Development Institute; Gayle Wiler, Director of Peer to Peer Support, Hathaway-Sycamores

Public Policy Dialogue: Challenges and Trends
Join us this year for an informative discussion about the latest public policy issues impacting our work to improve the lives of young people and families. Dr. Gary Blau from SAMHSA is expected to be with us to provide an overview of federal initiatives. He will be joined by Bryan Samuels, former Commissioner at ACYF, now of Chapin Hall, along with our public policy committee chair. Attendees will join the discussion to identify current policy developments impacting service delivery in their states and communities. Always a lively conversation!
Moderators: Robert Lieberman, CEO, Kairos, AACRC Public Policy Committee Chair; Dr. Gary Blau, Chief, Child Adolescent and Family Branch, SAMHSA; Bryan Samuels, MPP, Executive Director, Chapin Hall

Using Knowledge and Understanding to Serve LGBTQ-Identified Youth
As societal openness and acceptance improves, providers are beginning to serve more and more openly LGBTQ-identified youth, often recognizing that they lack staff expertise and systemic training in issues related to appropriately serving this population. This issues lunch will feature experiences providing services to LGBTQ youth in residential treatment, discussion of barriers and challenges, and investigation of opportunities to collaborate in order to improve services to this population.
Moderator: Mira C. Krishnan, Ph.D., Director, The Center for Autism, Board Certified Neuropsychologist, Hope Network Behavioral Health Services

Everything You Wanted to Know About Succession Planning but Were Afraid to Ask
The good, the bad, and the ugly regarding succession planning will
be explored during this issues lunch, ultimately looking at how prepared your organization is for future leadership shifts. Attendees will be invited to share their personal experience with succession planning and hear innovative ideas from colleagues. Moderators: William Powers, MHA, MPA, CEO, Bonnie Brae; Okpara Rice, Executive Director, Tanager Place, AACRC Board President

Psychotropic Medications-
The Explosion in Their Use and What You Need to Do About it in Your RTCs

Using AACRC’s position paper on the rational use of psychotropic medications in residential care as a guide, this Issues Lunch will explore patterns of medication use in residential care. Discussion will include how and what to monitor as a part of your QI processes, the meaning of taking meds for the youth and families you serve and what is known and not known about the efficacy and safety of these medications for youth. Come prepared for a stimulating conversation!

Moderators: Robert Foltz, Psy.D., Associate Professor, Child & Adolescent Track, Department of Clinical Psychology, Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Christopher Bellonci, M.D., Associate Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine, Attending Psychiatrist, Tufts Medical Center

1:45 - 3:15 pm WORKSHOP SESSION A

The Characteristics of Relational Care

Building on the conference theme of “relational interactions” and “transformational milieu work”, this session will explore twenty-five characteristics of relational care. Join in to learn how our ways of being, interpreting, and doing can reinvigorate your own personal approach and organizational culture in engaging young people and their families.

Presenter: James Freeman, MA, CYC-P, Training Director, Casa Pacifica Centers for Children & Families

The Misidentification of Trauma Symptoms as Bipolar Disorder in Youth: The Importance of Trauma Informed Treatment in Residential Care

Effective treatment requires an accurate diagnosis. Results from the ASET study reveal that dysregulated behaviors in youth
are often inaccurately identified as mood or behavior disorders. In fact, these youth are often extraordinarily trauma-exposed and require considerably different methods of care. Discussion will include implications for identification of trauma and treatment planning. 

Presenter: Hillary Doyle Fitzsimmons, M.A., The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Starr Commonwealth

Outcomes, Benchmarks, and Strengths - Tools to Improve Services

This workshop examines the use of program data and benchmarks to design and deliver effective services for youth in residential treatment, with particular focus on using strengths-based assessment tools. The presentation will include a state association’s project development and one agency’s use of various assessment tools and outcomes data.

Presenters: Cathleen Graham, MSW, LCSW, Executive Director, Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy; Randall Rider, LSW, LMFT, President & CEO, Crossroad Child & Family Services

The Transformative Effects of Implementing a Principle-Based Treatment Model on a Diverse Children’s Service Agency

This training is about one agency’s journey through the implementation of a principle-based treatment model and the evolution of thought and practice that resulted. It contains both a subjective and objective look at how the agency has changed in the four years since implementation.

Presenters: William Martin, Executive Director, Waterford Country School; Sharon Butcher, Director of Education/Principal, Waterford Country School

Transformation We Live By: Improving Outcomes for Children By Leading Our Own Residential Transformation

Transformation We Live By provides tools and resources to assist providers of residential treatment in moving towards a balanced child-and family-centered, evidence-informed model approach. Workshop participants will hear from peer leaders on this transformation journey about their experience and how they are working towards changes in cultures, practices and policies in their organizations and communities.

Presenters: Laura Pinsoneault, Director of Evaluation and Research Services, Alliance For Strong Families and Communities; Tom Woll, Facilitator, Strategic Change Initiative

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) in Theory and Practice

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is the standardized assessment approach with the most widespread use in residential treatment in the US. It is the only theoretically driven approach to outcomes management currently in existence. This session will describe the theory-Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) and provide examples for its use in residential treatment.

Presenter: John S. Lyons, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
A Call to Action: AACRC’s New LGBTQ Policy Statement and Strategies for Responding to It
Based on the release of AACRC’s 12th position paper, “Providing Competent Care to Youth with Diverse Gender Identities/Expressions and Sexual Orientations”, this session will equip participants with information and strategies to implement culturally and linguistically competent policies and practices for LGBTQ12-S children/youth and their families.
Presenters: Douglas Glick, LCSW, C-SOTP, Director of the Child & Family Healing Center, UMFS; Mira C. Krishnan, PhD, Director, The Center for Autism, Hope Network; Jeffrey Poirier, Ph.D., Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research

Using Cross-National Resources to Build Evidence-Based Practices in Contemporary U.S. Residential Treatment: What’s the Connection?
This presentation will: (1) briefly explore the major concerns with therapeutic residential care viewed in cross-national perspective; (2) identify six key pathways for future research in selected areas and (3) challenge AACRC to take a leadership role in supporting an international summit conference on therapeutic residential care.

Ranch Ehrlo Society’s Innovative Family Treatment Program
The presentation will provide a detailed description of Ranch Ehrlo Society’s residential Family Treatment Program (FTP). Discussion of the data collected through the use of the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) database will review the outcomes of treatment pertaining to: family inclusion in youths’ residential treatment programming; and families participating in the FTP experiencing chronic child welfare involvement.
Presenters: Patti Petrucka, MSW, RSW, Director of Family Treatment Programs, Ranch Ehrlo Society; Linda Meyer M.Ed, Registered Psychologist Vice-President Clinical Services and Research, Ranch Ehrlo Society

Virtual Residential: Integrating Community and Residential Interventions
This workshop describes an innovative partnership between a multi-service children’s mental health organization and a community mental health program to deliver intensive psychiatric residential services in home and community settings, linked as needed for individual youth with a unique crisis respite treatment foster home as well as a high end residential unit.
Presenters: Robert Lieberman, M.A., LPC, CEO Kairos Northwest;
Impact of Family-Driven Feedback on Family Engagement, Functioning and Therapeutic Alliance
Measuring relationships between family engagement/functioning and TA (therapeutic alliance) improve organizational efforts to improve youth outcomes. We highlight a practical intervention used to measure improvement of the alliance between families and family workers. Attendees receive practical tools used to share family-driven feedback and concrete strategies for improving the alliance with individual families.

Presenters: Michael Valenti, Ph.D., Research Coordinator, Pressley Ridge; Jennifer R. Peer, Evaluation Coordinator, Pressley Ridge

Social Event 5:30-7 pm
Savannah Riverwalk Soiree
Join us for a Savannah themed social hour on the riverwalk! Local music, food, and beverages will encompass the spirit of the South while we unwind and enjoy the beauty before us.

The event is included with conference registration and guests are welcome (guest fee payable at time of registration).
Thursday, April 16

7 am-5 pm  Registration Open
7:30 am-2:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Open
8:30-11:15 am  Keynote Presentation
11:30 am-12:30 pm  Awards Luncheon
12:30-1:30 pm  Poster Presentation Session
1:45-3:15 pm  Workshop Session C
3:30-5 pm  Workshop Session D
5-5:30 pm  Membership Meeting

8:30 -11:15 am  Keynote

A Dream Come True - No More Residential Care: The Next Episode

In 2005 a colleague and I published an article titled ‘A Dream Come True - No More Residential Care. A Corrective Note.’ This article critically analyzed the Australian efforts to remove residential programs for children and young people with complex needs from the child welfare system, an effort which coincidentally failed. This presentation is about the next episode of this story. It details the emergence in the same system since 2005 of ‘therapeutic residential care’ programs, especially for adolescents. A development that is questionable given a limited workforce and a lack of Australian residential program models. There are messages for the US from this experience.

Presenter: Dr Frank Ainsworth is Senior Principal Research Fellow (Adjunct) at James Cook University, School of Social Work and Human Services, Townsville, Queensland, Australia. Dr. Ainsworth is well known for his writing on child welfare issues, especially residential care services for children and youth.

His first major work was Ainsworth F. and Fulcher L. C. (Eds.) (1981). Group Care for Children. Concept and Issues. London: Tavistock Publications. Since that time he has published (individually and with others) over 100 articles in national and international referred journals.

Panel to follow with voices from residential programs outside the United States as we seek to learn from our international colleagues, including Kelly Shaw, MA (CYS) CYC-P, Professor Child and Youth Care Program NSCC,President Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations and Graham McPheat, Msc, BEd, Dip SW, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, Course Leader MSc Child and Youth Care Studies by Distance Learning.

Moderator: John S. Lyons, Ph.D., Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Positive and Negative Peer Contagion in Residential Care
Presents research showing that children’s behavior is influenced by the good and bad behavior of the children around them, but overall the behavior of all children improved during care.
Presenter: Jonathan C. Huefner, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Boys Town

A Residential Program that Supports Change: Autism Awareness and Fulfilling Needs
This poster will depict Green Chimneys’ continued journey toward creating a safe, workable environment for children diagnosed on the spectrum. It outlines the need for collaboration, education and awareness.
Presenters: Jenna Eckna, LMSW, Social Worker, Green Chimneys; Craig Northrop, LMSW, Social Worker, Green Chimneys

Incorporating Trauma Informed Services into Violence Prevention Training
This presentation describes an overall strategy to service at risk individuals, incorporating the use of behavioral intervention designed to teach individuals how to manage their own behavior.
Presenter: Terri Howard, Senior Director, FEI Behavioral Health

Permanent Product Review to Monitor Implementation Quality of Residential Care
In this study, program permanent products were used to assess implementation. Implementation quality data were used to predict changes in emotional and behavioral symptoms, and incidents of youth misconduct.
Presenters: Thomas J. Gross, Ph.D., Post-Doc Research Associate, The Center Child and Family Well-Being, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Kristin Duppong Hurley, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor, The Center Child and Family Well-Being, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Justin Sullivan, Data Analyst, National Research Institution for Child and Family Studies, Father Flanagan’s Boy’s Home; Ronald Thompson, Ph.D., Senior Director, National Research Institution for Child and Family Studies, Father Flanagan’s Boy’s Home; Mark Van Ryzin, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Oregon Social Learning Center

Dual Clinician Model for EMDR
This presentation focuses on the effective use of EMDR within a residential setting. The history and mechanics of EMDR will be presented: as well as the protocol for the Dual Clinician Model.
Presenter: T.J. Stanfield, Executive Director, Aurora Plains Academy, Clinicare; Dr. Judith Davis, Neuropsychologist and Educator, Clinicare
Scaling-up PBIS: Large Scale Implementation in a National Behavioral Healthcare Organization
This poster describes the process for and outcomes from scaling up an intensified version of an evidence-based prevention framework (School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) in two residential treatment programs.
Presenters: Lisa Thomas, Ph.D., NCSP, Devereux Center for Effective Schools; Amy Waldron, M.Ed., LPC., Devereux GA; Michelle Llorens, MA, BCBA, Devereux FL; Kristy Ritvalsky, MPH, Devereux Center for Effective Schools

Pregnant and Parenting: Building a Transitional Housing Program to Support Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth
This presentation introduces practical strategies to integrate infant-mental health best practices and new research to build a transitional housing program to support 18-21 year old expecting and parenting youth from foster care.
Presenter: Josh LePore, Psy.D., Clinical Supervisor, Casa Pacifica

Special Population Perspectives: The Interplay of Trauma and Communication Needs
Serving children in residential care who have had little or no access to successful means of communication proves to add a complicating layer for providing effective trauma-informed care. See what we are learning.
Presenters: Lori R Milicic, CI and CT, QMHI, Director of Communication Support Services, Pressley Ridge; Tiffany Huntley, MS, NCC, Clinical Coordinator, Pressley Ridge School for the Deaf

Family Finding: Opening the Door for Hope and Healing
Family Finding is a model that focuses on permanency and lifelong connections. The recovery of connections also offers opportunity for recovery of hope and healing in the youth and family.
Presenter: Jerry Callan, LMSW, MPA, Director of Family Finding at Hillside Family of Agencies

The Teaching-Family Model: An Evidence-Based Innovative Intervention for Treatment & Administrative Excellence
The Teaching-Family Model is a unique evidence-based program: It a treatment approach, it is an innovative philosophy promoting a culture of excellence, it is delivery systems measuring progress.
Presenter: Peggy McElgunn, Esq., Executive Director, Teaching-Family Association

The Whole Child: Developing and Implementing a Healthy Lifestyle Program in Residential Treatment
This poster session takes you on a journey of identifying a problem via outcome data using Lewin’s Three Step Change Theory Model that led to multidisciplinary interventions with positive outcomes.
Presenters: Joanne Lewis, PMHCNS BC, Director of Nursing, The Barry Robinson Center; Paula Livernois, RD, Director of Nutrition Services, The Barry Robinson Center

Examining the Good Behavior Game in an Alternative High School Setting for Students who Reside in Residential Care
The Good Behavior Game is an evidenced based intervention that has been widely used in the public school system. This presentation will review a study that was conducted on the use of the good behavior game in a residential school setting.
Presenters: Patricia Hillis-Clark, Psy.D., Clinical Director, Devereux; Claire Phillips, MA, MSW, Pre-Doctoral Intern, Devereux; Robert Wright, Ph.D., Associate Professor Of Psychology, Louisiana State University of Alexandria

Measuring Change: A Data Driven Infrastructure
Presents a strategy for implementing a behavioral data infrastructure across an agency, unifying direct care staff, clinicians, supervisors, and administration for the
unified purpose of creating a data driven culture. Presenter: Dustin Vander Haar, LMFT, Clinical Supervisor, Mental Health Services, El Nido, Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services

Evaluating the Impact of Trauma-Informed Treatments
This poster provides results from a pilot study conducted showing significant improvement in functioning and decrease in trauma symptoms over time for youth participating in SITCAP-ART, an evidence-based trauma therapy. Presenters: Jennifer R. Peer, M.S., Evaluation Coordinator, Pressley Ridge; Douglas Pfeifer, MA, LPC, ALPS, CTS, Clinical Supervisor, Pressley Ridge; Amy Strickler, M.S. Ed, NCC, Evaluation Coordinator, Pressley Ridge

Trauma Informed Care: Using the Sanctuary Model to Manage the 4 Cs
This presentation will follow the four essential Cs of Sanctuary to plot the need for Communication, Community, Culture and Growth, and Change in the journey to being trauma informed, with training as the key element to move from theory to practice. Presenter: Derrick Bam, Vice President of Children’s Services, Sherwood and Myrtle Foster’s Home for Children

1:45 - 3:15 pm WORKSHOP SESSION C

Thriving Amidst Complexities: Creating Therapeutic Experiences and Positive Outcomes for Children and Youth in Residential Care
This session will explore findings from recent research initiatives on therapeutic residential care that help identify elements, structures, processes and dynamics that isolate the active ingredients that make the difference. By understanding these elements, organizations are better able to train, supervise and support staff to provide consistent and quality developmental and therapeutic care. Presenters: Martha J. Holden, M.S., Director, Residential Child Care Project Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research

Cornell University, New York; James P. Anglin, Ph.D., Professor, School of Child and Youth Care University of Victoria, British Columbia

Why Aren’t You Listening to Me?
According to research, 80% of children with emotional issues also have language impairments. This is a discussion-based, interactive workshop where participants will gain a better understanding of language disorders, and learn strategies for making their next interaction with a child a success! Presenter: Denise Luft, LMHC, Social Work Supervisor, Green Chimneys; Bethany Burrows, Psy.D., School Psychologist, Green Chimneys

Can We Serve Transgender Youth without Offending Anyone? One Program’s Efforts to Design a Transgender Policy
Treating transgender youth alongside heterosexual youth is incredibly complex. It requires innovations that may not yet exist. The presenter will share a transparent look at his company’s struggle to create a treatment option for transgender youth within a gender-specific program and a co-ed program, both located in Utah. The presentation will outline the presenter’s decisions, step-by-step, as he confronts cultural biases, new and arcane state policies, as well as referral source and parental concerns. The presentation will

Visit www.aacrdc.org for conference updates and to register.
use video, a uniquely artistic visual format (Prezi) and actual policy, procedure and gender law. Presenter: Dustin Tibbitts, LMFT, President & Chief Clinical Officer, InnerChange

Advocating for High Quality Residential Care as a Critical Component in Community-Based Services for At-Risk Children
The presentation will highlight research and practice-based evidence that can be used to advocate for the provision of quality residential care with local, state, and national audiences.

Presenters: Dr. Jerry Davis, Ph.D., Vice President of National Advocacy and Public Policy, Boys Town; Dr. Ron Thompson, Ph.D., Senior Director, Boys Town National Research Institute; Dr. Jon Huefner, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Boys Town National Research Institute

Reducing Restraints with Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Residential Treatment
This presentation provides a view of one agency’s focus on youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and developmental disabilities relative to restraint frequency. The process of agency awareness and response to data indicating that youth with ASD experienced restraints at a greater proportion than non-ASD youth in their care will be discussed.

A formalized Restraint Reduction Team process and subsequent iterations of interventions targeting decreased restraints will be shared.

Presenters: Linda S. Butler, Ph.D., LCSW, Director of Research, Spurwink Services; Ellen Francis, B.A., Research Associate/Data Analyst, Spurwink Services; Debra Bunce, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Supervision, Spurwink Services

Art, Music & Dogs: Transformational Milieu Through Innovative Therapies and Community Partnerships
Discover the implementation of three innovative therapies in the residential setting using creative structured curriculums, community partnerships, and cost effective strategies. Embedding music therapy into your “trendy” music program; using the Art Therapy Technique of Breathlines to facilitate expression where there were no words; and creating an Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) curriculum that meets billing approval, can transform the residential milieu. CCYA Youth participate with therapy dogs.

Participants receive an AAT Curriculum Kit.

Presenters: Kimberley A. Borna, J.D. CEO, The Center for Children & Young Adults; Ashley Tricquet, Clinical Director, Northside Psychological Services; John Kennebrew, LAPC, NCCY, RCYCP, Northside Psychological Services & Showcase Group; Mallory Even, MT-BC, NICU-MT, Director, Metro Music Therapy; Sam Shanine, MT-BC, Assistant Director, Metro Music Therapy; Youth from CCYA and Therapy Dogs: Teddy and Cody

The CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare: Framing the Work
The CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare (National Blueprint) serves as the foundation and framework for achieving the vision that all children will grow up safely, in loving families, with everything they need to flourish—and with connections to their culture, ethnicity, race and language. Consistent with such transformation efforts as the Building Bridges Initiative, the National Blueprint provides the framework necessary for the transformation of residential interventions so that all children and youth succeed and flourish.

Presenter: Christine James-Brown, President and CEO, Child Welfare League of America

REGISTER NOW: Early bird rate ends March 20th, 2015
Developing Positive of Identities through Competency Planning - A Trauma-Informed Approach to Mastery and Resilience

This workshop explores how residential programs can foster competency, one of the core domains of the Attachment, Regulation and Competency (ARC) framework, by building developmental capacities, positive self-identity and decision making skills. Following presentation of the research base for ARC, examples of competency work and logistical considerations will be discussed.

Presenters: Stacey Forrest, M.Ed., Director, Susan Wayne Center of Excellence; Sean M. Rose, M.Ed., Director of Governmental Relations, Affairs and Development, JRI’s Connecticut division; Joseph Spinazzola, Ph.D. Vice President of Behavioral Health & Trauma Services, JRI; Hilary B. Hodgdon, Ph.D., Associate Director of Research, The Trauma Center, JRI

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Action: How Implementing ACE Informed Practice Can Transform Residential Programming and Culture

This workshop will illustrate how and why ACEs are relevant to residential care. Speakers will discuss challenges associated with becoming an “ACEs informed” organization; incorporating ACEs into training, practice, and programming, and demonstrate how growing ACE awareness among all staff can positively impact the milieu, interdisciplinary collaboration, and transform agency culture.

Crisis Stabilization and Residential Treatment: Creating a Continuum of Care Model in Partnership with Community Agencies and Private Insurance

Edgewood Center in San Francisco has been providing campus based residential treatment for over 25 years. In order to best meet community needs and remain a fiscally viable residential facility, the agency has expanded the services to include intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization, crisis residential and crisis stabilization. A primary focus of the discussion will be to describe the most recent addition to Edgewood’s continuum of care, a 23 hour crisis stabilization unit.

Presenters: Jill Anderson, Psy.D., Behavioral Health Director-Crisis, Triage and Assessment Center, Edgewood Center for Children and Families; David A. Young, PhD, MPH, Executive Director of San Francisco Region, Edgewood Center for Children and Families; Lisa Vassiliadis, BS, Team Leader Counselor, Edgewood Center for Children and Families; James F. Mensing, J.D., Ph.D., Executive Director, Edgewood Institute,
Edgewood Center for Children and Families

Youth Care Workers as First Responders: Making Decisions When Time is Short and the Stakes are High
This presentation equates the decision-making tactics of youth care workers to those of first responders. Integrating research and practice on the complexity of clinical decision-making in crisis intervention, we suggest conceptualizing workers as first responders and developing training and supervision practices that account for the unique demands of crisis intervention.

Presenters: Yvonne Smith, Ph.D., LCSW, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Syracuse University; Pete Myers, Psy.D., Co-Executive Director, Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School

Threshold Concepts in Child and Youth Care
This paper will introduce threshold concept theory and present findings from a small-scale, international study that explores relevant threshold concepts for residential practitioners who work with children and young people. Implications for the development of training and curricula will be discussed, as well as necessary supports for students/practitioners to successfully achieve related learning.

Presenter: Graham McPheat, MSc, BEd, Dip SW, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, Course Leader MSc Child and Youth Care Studies by Distance Learning

.5-5:30pm AACRC Membership Meeting
Please join us for AACRC’s Annual Membership Meeting. You will hear committee updates, ballot results, and our plans for 2015 and beyond. Everyone is welcome, and this is a great opportunity for members and non-members alike to learn more about YOUR AACRC.

Enjoy your free evening in Savannah.
Book a ghost tour, wander through the many beautiful squares, have a delicious meal... you’ve earned it!
In the early 1990’s, Dr. Anda began a collaboration with Dr. Vincent Felitti at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego to investigate child abuse as an underlying cause of medical, social, and public health problems. This effort lead to a large-scale study funded by the CDC to track the effects of childhood trauma on health throughout the lifespan. They called it the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE Study). Rob played a principal role in the design of the study, and serves as its co-principal investigator and co-founder.

Presenter: Robert Anda, MD, MS, Co-Prinicipal Investigator and Co-Founder, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Dr. Robert (Rob) Anda graduated from Rush Medical College in 1979 and received his board certification in internal medicine in 1982. In 1984 he completed a fellowship in preventive medicine at the University of Wisconsin, received a Master’s Degree in epidemiology, and was accepted into the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. He conducted research in disease surveillance, behavioral health, mental health and disease, cardiovascular disease, psychosocial origins of health-risk behaviors, and childhood determinants of health.

Stay in touch with exciting announcements about our time together in Savannah by liking us on Facebook!
NOT A MEMBER OF AACRC YET?
What A Great Time To Change That!

All new agency members will receive one complimentary conference registration for our 2015 annual conference, along with these amazing member benefits throughout the year:

- Complimentary webinars for all agency member staff. Upcoming topics:
  - Deep Brain Learning: Trauma, Resilience, Transformation 12/4/14
  - Authentic Engagement: A Pathway to Stronger Well-Being and Developmental Outcomes 1/16/15
  - Youth Guided and Family Driven Care in Residential 3/20/15
  - NASW CEUs will be offered for webinars, which will also be complimentary for our members
- Subscription to AACRC’s professional Journal, Residential Treatment for Children and Youth
- Discounted conference attendance for all agency members
- Ability to serve on AACRC’s many committees, including public policy, program, and research
- Complimentary job postings on our website
- Connection with over 120 fellow agencies through discussion groups, email blasts, regional meetings and much more

For more information, contact Kari Sisson, Executive Director, at ksisson@aacrc-dc.org or 414-359-6529.
Register online at www.aacrc-dc.org! (Please check all that apply.)

This form along with your payment must be received by March 20th, 2015 to be listed in the final program.

All exhibitors and sponsors must complete the session registration form for every attendee.

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☐ $5,000 Georgia Peach Sponsor Includes 5 full conference registrations and exclusive sponsorship of the Social Event, President’s Welcome, or Awards Luncheon.

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☐ $1200 for all other exhibitors. Includes 1 full conference registration.

☐ $195 fee: fee for a second exhibitor’s food expenses. Does not include conference registration.

☐ $450 Literature Inclusion in Registration Packet

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☐ $700 Inside Front or Back Cover

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* Exhibitor MUST complete a conference registration form.
REGISTER NOW: Early bird rate ends March 20th, 2015

Check all the Extra Fees that apply:

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTES:
Evidence-Based Principles for Residential Treatment
Monday, April 13th, 1-5 pm & Tuesday, April 14, 8:30 am-12 pm
___ AACRC Members $125 ___ Non-Members $175

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC): Building Capacity and Expertise in Your Program, in Your Organization, in Your Community
Tuesday, 14th, 8:30 am -5 pm
___ AACRC Members $125 ___ Non-Members $175

AACRC MEMBERS (E $535, R $635)
___ $535 full conference (includes Welcome Reception, Issues Lunch, & Awards Luncheon)

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MEMBERS (E $610, R $710)
___ $610 full conference (includes Welcome Reception, Issues Lunch, & Awards Luncheon)

NON-MEMBERS (E $685, R $785)
___ $685 full conference (includes Welcome Reception, Issues Lunch, & Awards Luncheon)

SOCIAL EVENT: SAVANNAH RIVERWALK
___ Guest: $35 Guest ________________________________

PRESIDENT’S WELCOME (Included in conference registration)
___ Guest: $35

AWARDS LUNCHEON (Included in conference registration)
___ Guest: $45

CEUs are offered through the National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
___ Participant cost to receive CEUs is $40

Any registrations received after the early bird cut-off of, March 20th, 2015 will incur the $100 fee increase, indicated after the R, for full registration. Please register early!

PRECONFERENCE AMOUNT DUE: $ __________________ (from green section above)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: $ __________________
Register online at www.aacrc-dc.org or return this form to:
AACRC, 11700 W. Lake Park Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53224.
Phone (877) 33AACRC; Fax (877) 36AACRC, or ksisson@aacrc-dc.org.

(Please print name(s) as you would like it to appear on name badge)

Name ____________________________________________________________
Title ____________________________________________________________
Spouse/Guest Name _______________________________________________
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First time conference attendee □ Yes □ No

Special Needs
□ Special Dietary Requests □ Wheelchair accessibility □ Other

PAYMENT INFORMATION

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All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing and are subject to a $50 processing fee. Cancellations received after March 20th, 2015 will not be refunded. Notice of written cancellation must be directed to:
Kari Sisson, Executive Director, AACRC, ksisson@aacrc-dc.org or fax: (877) 36AACRC.

THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING FOR AACRC’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE!
We look forward to having you with us. You will receive a confirmation letter with your session choices via email as well as in your registration packet at the event.
Please check all sessions you plan to attend.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015

President’s Welcome Reception, 5:30 - 7 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

Continental Breakfast, 7:30 - 8:30 am

Keynote: Addressing the Acute Care Challenges Faced by Young People and their Families, 8:30 am - 12 pm

Issues Lunches, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Attitudes, Perceptions and the Utilization of Evidence-Based Practices in Residential Care
Peer Delivered Services in Residential, are You READY?
Public Policy Dialogue: Challenges and Trends
Using Knowledge and Understanding to Serve LGBTQ-Identified Youth
Everything You Wanted to Know About Succession Planning but Were Afraid to Ask
Psychotropic Medications: The Explosion in Their Use and What You Need To Do About it in Your RTCs
Weaving Cultural Competence into Our Daily Work: What You Need to Know

Workshop Session A, 1:45 - 3:15 pm

The Characteristics of Relational Care
The Misidentification of Trauma Symptoms as Bipolar Disorder in Youth: The Importance of Trauma Informed Treatment in Residential Care
Outcomes, Benchmarks, and Strengths - Tools to Improve Services
The Transformative Effects of Implementing a Principle-Based Treatment Model on a Diverse Children’s Service Agency
Transformation We Live By: Improving Outcome for Children By Leading Our Own Residential Transformation
The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) in Theory and Practice

Workshop Session B, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

A Call to Action: AACRC’s New LGBTQ Policy Statement and Strategies for Responding to It
Using Cross-National Resources to Build Evidence-Based Practices in Contemporary U.S. Residential Treatment: What’s the Connection?
Ranch Ehrlo Society’s Innovative Family Treatment Program
Weekend Training for Parents by Parents: Unique Strategy for Family Engagement
Virtual Residential: Integrating Community and Residential Interventions
Impact of Family-Driven Feedback on Family Engagement, Functioning and Therapeutic Alliance
ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION REGISTRATION

Please check all sessions you plan to attend.

SOCIAL EVENT REGISTRATION, Savannah Riverwalk Soiree 5:30-7 pm
— Yes, I will attend the social event
— No, I will not be attending the social event

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015
— Keynote Presentation, 8:30-11:15 am
— Awards Luncheon, 11:30 - 12:30 pm
— Poster Session, 12:30-1:30 pm

Workshop Session C, 1:45 - 3:15 pm
— Thriving Amidst Complexities: Creating Therapeutic Experiences and Positive Outcomes for Children and Youth in Residential Care
— Why Aren’t You Listening to Me?
— Can We Serve Transgender Youth without Offending Anyone? One Program’s Efforts to Design a Transgender Policy
— Advocating for High Quality Residential Care as a Critical Component in Community-Based Services for At-Risk Children
— Reducing Restraints with Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Residential Treatment
— Art, Music & Dogs: Transformational Milieu Through Innovative Therapies and Community Partnerships
— The CWLA National Blueprint for Excellence in Child Welfare: Framing the Work

Workshop Session D, 3:30 - 5 pm
— Developing Positive of Identities through Competency Planning - A Trauma-Informed Approach to Mastery and Resilience
— Replacing Point and Levels Systems with Motivational Interviewing in Residential Treatment
— Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Action: How Implementing ACE Informed Practice Can Transform Residential Programming and Culture
— Crisis Stabilization and Residential Treatment: Creating a Continuum of Care Model in Partnership with Community Agencies and Private Insurance
— Youth Care Workers as First Responders: Making Decisions When Time is Short and the Stakes are High
— Threshold Concepts in Child and Youth Care
— AACRC General Membership Meeting, 5 - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015
— Plenary Presentation, 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

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AACRC conference attendees are offered a room rate of $173/night and our reservation cut-off date is 3/11/15. Our room block has sold out quickly the past several years. Please plan ahead!

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The Complexity of Residential Interventions

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